

2020 Kansas Economic Policy Conference



Dr. Lee A. Norman

Lee A. Norman, MD, is the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), appointed by Governor Laura Kelly. KDHE has three divisions, including Health, Environment, and Healthcare Finance, which includes the Medicaid program (KanCare) and the State Employee Health Plan.

Norman received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota, did his residency in family medicine in Texas and his aerospace medicine training in the United States Air Force at Brooks AFB in San Antonio. After serving in the USAF as a family physician, flight surgeon, and combat medicine instructor, he practiced medicine in Seattle for 20 years, also serving as clinical associate professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Dr. Norman has served as a chief medical officer for over 26 years, most recently at the University of Kansas Health System and before that the Swedish Health System in Seattle, beginning in 1991. He currently is clinical assistant professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Norman was on the governing board and Chairman of the Puget Sound Blood and Tissue Transplant Center in Seattle and, more recently, on the governing board of Heart to Heart International, a humanitarian organization based in Lenexa, Kansas. He currently serves on the Defense Health Board, which advises the US Secretary of Defense on health matters, and the oversight board of the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center.

In his military role, Norman is a colonel in the Kansas Army National Guard, stationed at Joint Forces Headquarters in Topeka, Kansas, reporting to the State of Kansas Adjutant General. COL Norman, as the State Surgeon of Kansas, guides medical troop sustainment and training, health services support, force health protection, biosecurity, and serves as advisor and liaison to the Kansas Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He is a bio-threat and pandemic illness advisor to the Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center. In 2018 he returned from a Middle East US Army deployment where he was the 35th Infantry Division Surgeon. In this role he was the senior medical commander over 12,000 US soldiers encompassing three named operations - Freedom Sentinel, Spartan Shield, and Inherent Resolve.

Dr. Norman has two masters degrees, one in health planning and systems analysis from the University of California, Davis School of Medicine, and an executive MBA degree from the University of Washington Graduate School of Business. He has two grown children, two grandsons, and an energetic, one-eyed Australian shepherd, Blue Dog. Dr. Norman is a Midwesterner, born and raised in Iowa. His hobbies and interests include reading, cooking, canning and pickling, technical mountain climbing, and collecting Eskimo art, including native carvings, masks, etchings, and baskets.

