



We sadly share the news that Dr. Paula K. Jaudes has died. She held the post of medical director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services since 1993 and was the first physician in the United States to be named medical director of a state child welfare agency.

All of us working in child welfare have been moved by her energy and her persistent advocacy and work to ensure that Illinois' foster children have access to the health services they need. Her sister, Peggy Oglesby, calls her a "champion for all children" and recalls that she referred to the tens of thousands of DCFS kids over the years as her kids. Dr. Jaudes devoted herself to the health and protection of underserved children through her roles as a hospital administrator, practicing pediatrician and medical researcher, educator and public servant.

She was a board-certified pediatrician and also was professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago. Starting in 1996 Dr. Jaudes served as president and CEO of La Rabida Children's Hospital, a 49-unit, not-for-profit hospital specializing in the treatment of children with lifelong conditions. Earlier, she established and served as section head of the country's first Pediatric Chronic Disease program. Since 2005, she was involved at the national level in policy initiatives on foster care and was on the Executive Committee of the Council of Foster Care, Adoption and Kinship Care of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Jaudes received her MD from Rush Medical College in Chicago, and was chief resident at the University of Chicago Wyler Children's Hospital. She also performed a fellowship in pediatric ambulatory care at the University of Chicago.