



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAR 22 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

I am writing to inform you of plans by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) to restructure its organization. This effort is part of the ReImagine HHS initiative and aims to identify opportunities to improve the Department's efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness in order to best serve the American people. OASH's philosophy is: "*Health for all, Health by all, Health in all*"; and OASH is committed to reforming the Department's public health infrastructure. These changes, proposed by a working group of career staff, will improve the integrity and quality of OASH's programs and increase operational efficiencies by eliminating program redundancies and decreasing program costs.

One of OASH's strengths is its ability to administer community-based and state and national-level public health initiatives and programs, including clinical services (Title X) to individuals throughout the United States of America, territories in the Caribbean and Pacific Jurisdictions, and impacting citizens across the entire globe. Through this reorganization, OASH will continue to build upon this and its many other strengths by increasing programmatic capacity and program integrity, improving the quality of clinical service delivery, and creating efficiencies across offices and the entire organization.

The reorganization has three parts, involving six existing programs.

1. Realign all Title X family planning project staff in the 10 HHS Regional Offices, currently reporting to the OASH Regional Health Administrators to report directly to the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) Headquarters and merge the Office of Adolescent Health (OAH), along with the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program and other adolescent health activities that it currently administers into, and to be managed under, OPA. These actions will result in all Title X family planning service project staff being located in OPA-HQ and being directly supervised by OPA-HQ management and will restore the full scope of activities related to adolescent pregnancy within one office, respectively. This adjustment is in alignment with how HHS manages other programs, such as health centers in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

This realignment will put OPA in an optimal position to manage the Title X program, to assure that consistent guidance and efficient delivery of technical assistance will be provided to its grantees. In addition, by joining and moving the OAH under OPA, there will be additional opportunities to streamline and use federal staff and coordinate research and evaluation resources to more effectively further the objectives of all programs. The proposed realignment supports the promotion of more efficient federal programs, reducing silos, and ensuring the public receives the most out of its government.

2. Move the Office of the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition (PCSFN) under the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP). The reorganization will join ODPHP's scientific and subject matter expertise in physical activity and nutrition with the Office of the PCSFN's public affairs and outreach experience to create a joint office to enhance competencies, reduce duplication, and deliver consistent and reinforcing tools and messages to the public on physical activity and nutrition.

Under the realignment, ODPHP will continue to be led by the Director and will incorporate the leadership of the Executive Director of the PCSFN as a Senior Advisor to ODPHP. The Executive Director of the PCSFN will head the Office of the PCSFN and will be responsible for carrying out section 2 in Executive Order 13824, as amended, serving as a liaison to the Secretary and Advisor to the President on matters and activities pertaining to the PCSFN, and for ensuring oversight related to the use of the National Foundation on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition funds and support for only PCSFN activities. Additionally, ODPHP will be able to leverage its existing resources, specifically its experience managing committees governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), to incorporate the PCSFN under its responsibility.

3. Merge the office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP) and the National Vaccine Program Office (NVPO) into a newly renamed office, the Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP). This effort will provide cross-cutting, science-based, health-promoting advice and recommendations to the ASH on issues pertaining to blood and tissue safety and availability; HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other infectious diseases; and vaccines and immunization. The merger will also allow for the more efficient management of multiple FACA-governed committees currently managed separately by NVPO and OHAIDP.

The Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) will be led by a Deputy Assistant Secretary. Under current operations, the NVPO is led by a Deputy Assistant Secretary. The OIDP will administer and implement all statutory authorities of the National Vaccine Program that are currently carried out by the NVPO. In addition, HIV/AIDS activities, as well as, the identification and management of other allergies and infectious diseases impacting the population at epidemic and disproportionate levels and of national significance, will continue to be addressed under this new Office.

This reorganization will be achieved within OASH's existing resources. The proposed reorganization is not intended to negatively impact staff grades, pay and benefits or promotional opportunities and no SES or GS positions will be created, but OASH reserves the right to exercise management controls to ensure resources are leveraged as effectively as possible. OASH has worked, and will continue to work, with labor unions to ensure HHS and OASH meets all requirements pursuant to its Collective Bargaining Agreement.

I have enclosed the current and proposed OASH organizational charts that notionally reflect the reorganization. I appreciate the Subcommittee's continued interest in and support of OASH's public health activities. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Jennifer Moughalian, Acting Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources, at (202) 690-6961. Copies of this notification letter are being sent to the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Sincerely,

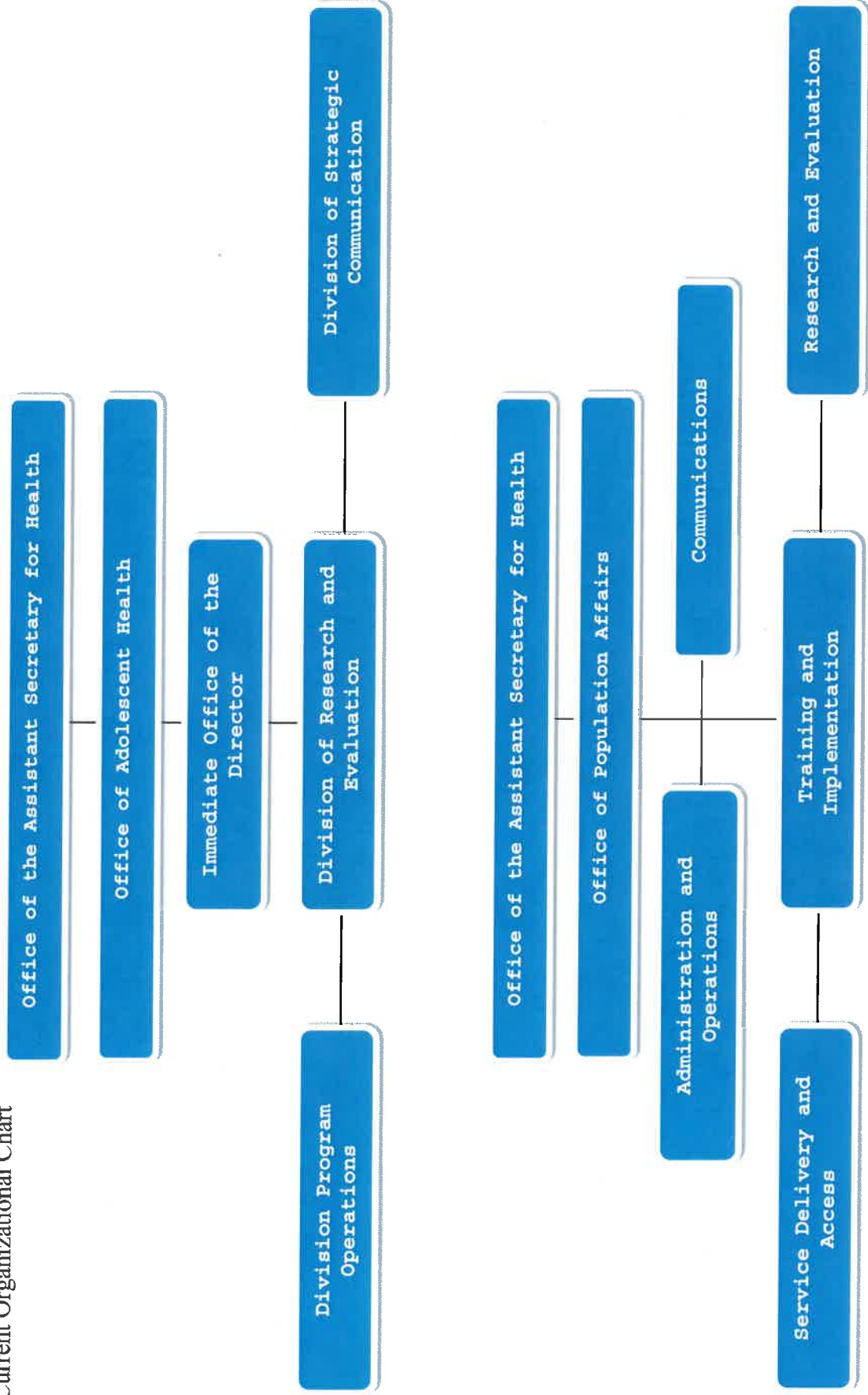


Alex M. Azar II

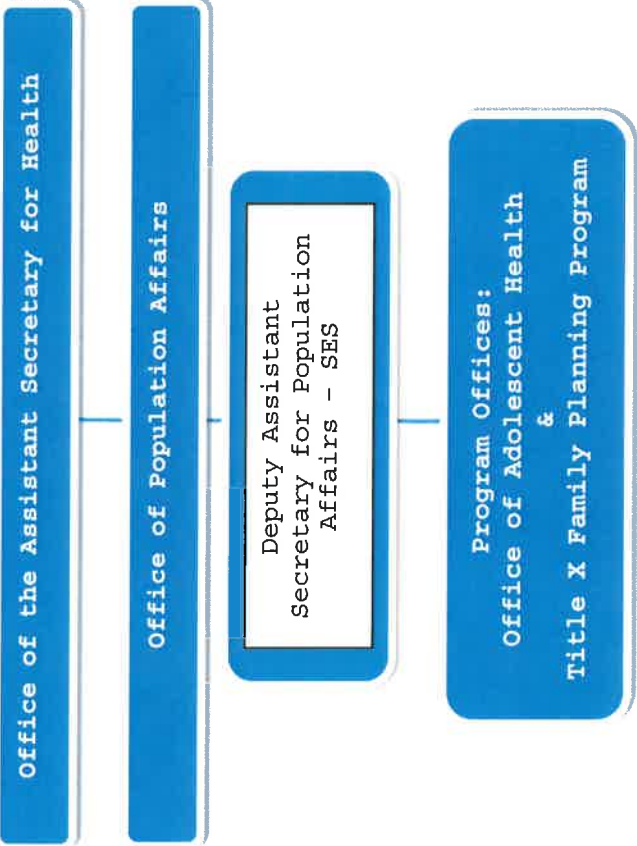
Enclosure

- Current and Proposed Organizational Charts

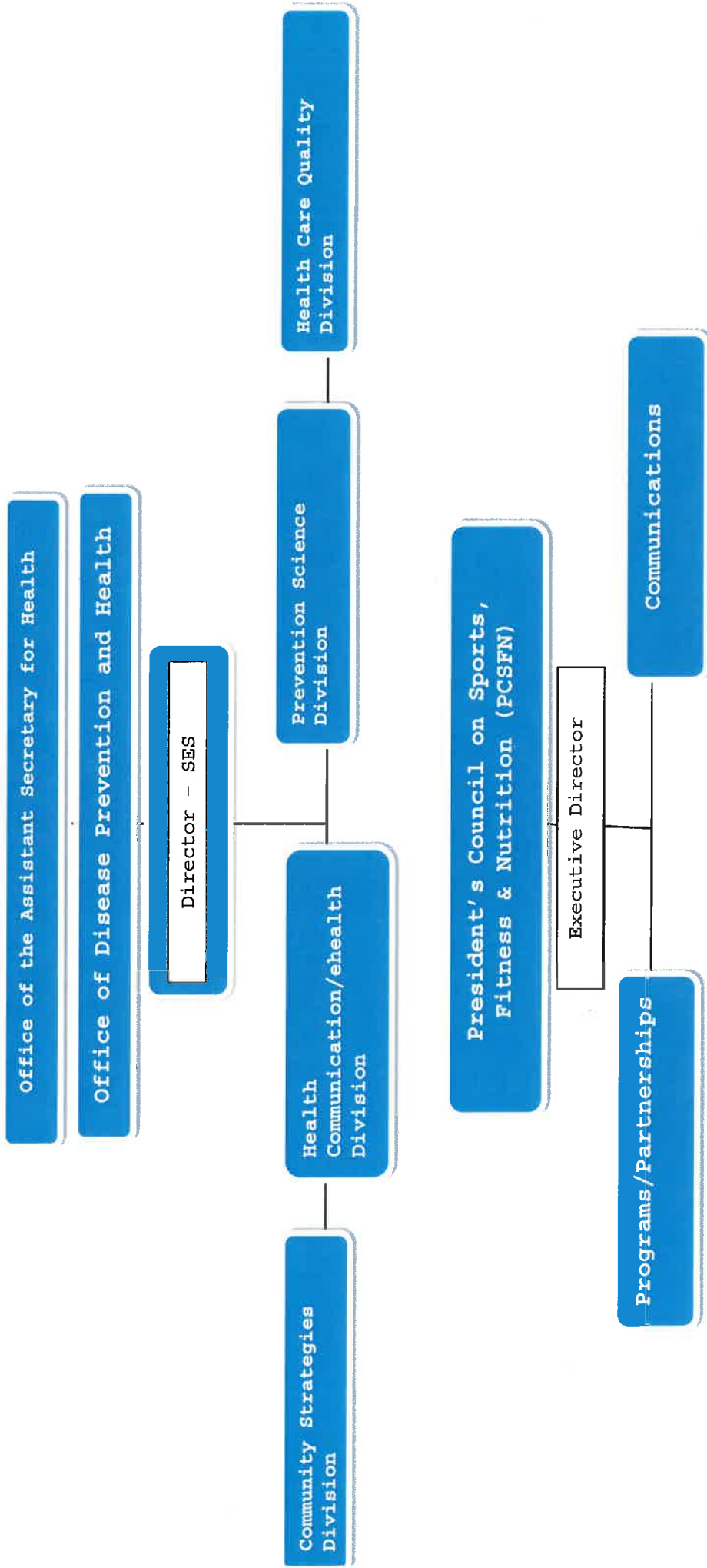
Current Organizational Chart



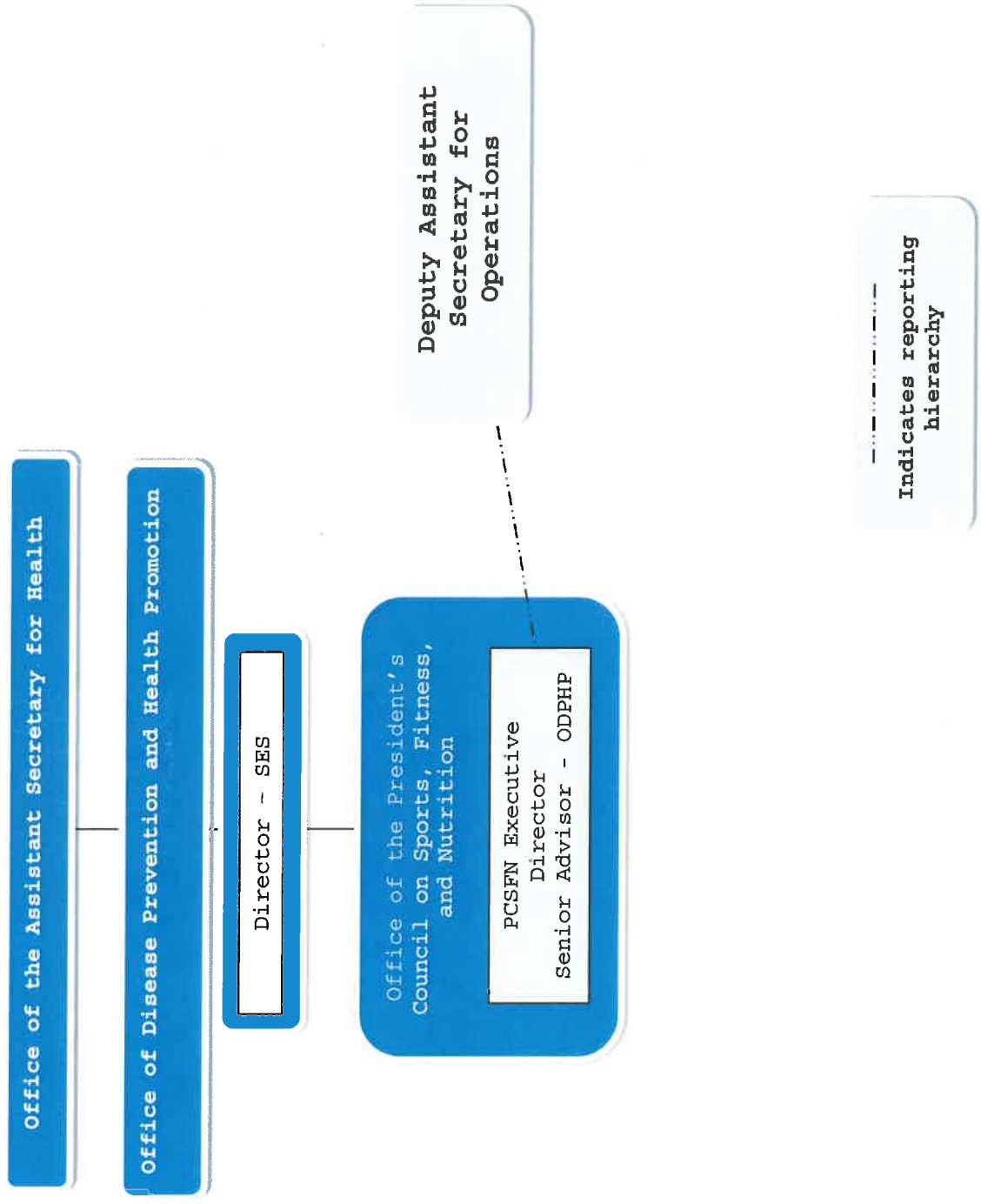
Proposed Notional Organizational Chart – Merger of Office of Population Affairs and the Office of Adolescent Health



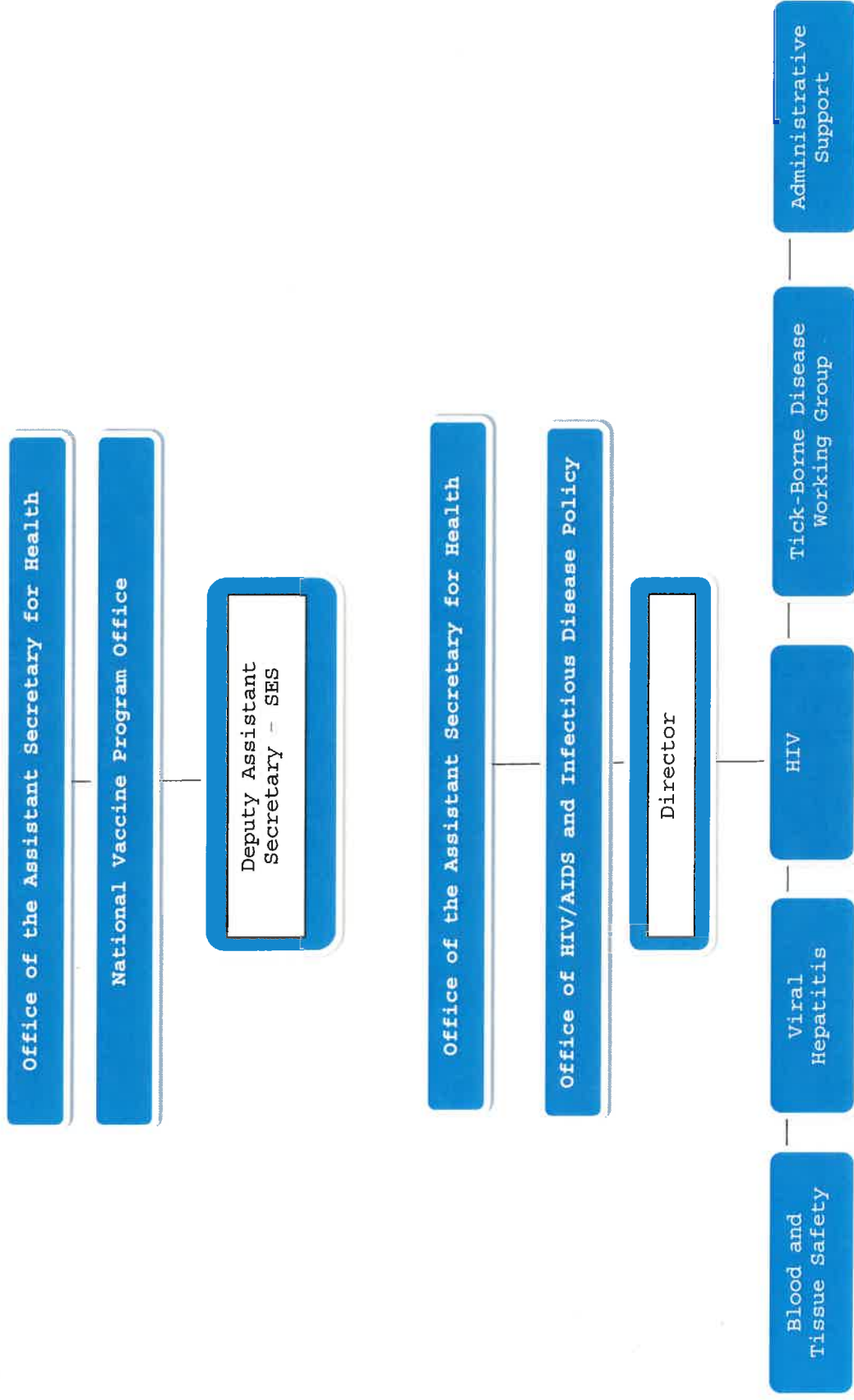
Current Organization Chart:



Proposed Notional Organizational Chart – Merger of Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Office of the President’s Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition



Current Organizational chart



Proposed Notional Organizational Chart – Merger of National Vaccine Program Office and the Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy

