

## Executive Biography



**Jeremy Hanson Willis**, was appointed Chief Executive Officer for JustUs Health in April 2019 to build on the momentum which began with the merger integration between Minnesota AIDS Project and Rainbow Health Initiative. Jeremy will lead the agency through the development and implementation of a new strategic plan and advance the agency's mission to lead the work to achieve health equity for diverse gender, sexual, and cultural communities.

Jeremy served previously as the Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) between 2014 until his arrival at JustUs Health in 2019. As Deputy Commissioner, Jeremy was responsible for strategic coordination of the department's varied workforce development efforts and aligning training and work readiness resources with the needs of Minnesota business. DEED's workforce programs include efforts to prepare youth and adults for careers with market demand, reduce employment disparities, provide economic support to those who are disabled and unemployed, and help employers build, recruit, and retain skilled workers.

Jeremy also spent nine years in various roles with the City of Minneapolis. Most recently, he was Executive Director of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development, which managed the City's business development, workforce development, housing, land use planning, and building code inspections. He also served as Chief of Staff to Mayor R.T. Rybak, where he led the Mayor's Office staff and collaborated with City leadership to implement Mayor Rybak's agenda to improve the City of Minneapolis, with a focus on economic growth and workforce development. Before that he was Mayor Rybak's Communications Director and Press Secretary with responsibility for coordinating media relations, speech writing, social media, and overall communications strategy.

Prior to entering city government, Jeremy was a communications consultant at Tunheim Partners where he supported public advocacy campaigns for business and nonprofit clients involving communications strategy, media relations, coalition building and grassroots advocacy.

Jeremy also spent nearly ten years in nonprofit issue and legislative advocacy, including advancing the statewide public policy agendas of the Minnesota Smoke-Free Coalition and the Minnesota AIDS Project.

Jeremy grew up on a farm in rural Ada, MN, and holds a bachelor's degree in Communications, Political Science and Gender Studies from Macalester College and was a Policy Forum Fellow at the Humphrey Institute in 1996. He currently resides in Uptown Minneapolis with his husband Samuel and their daughter.