



Don Gilbert is a proud graduate of Sam Houston State University, having graduated with a B.B.A. in 1974. He attended the University on a golf scholarship. Upon graduation, Don began his career in the public sector at the Terrell State Hospital in the administrative offices. He went on to earn an M.B.A. at East Texas State University in 1978, while continuing his work at the hospital. Don became the first non-physician Superintendent at the Terrell State Hospital in 1981 at the age of 29. There he was responsible for the operation of a 1,400-bed psychiatric hospital with over a thousand employees. Don continued in the public mental health field for several years and was named as the State Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, by Governor George W. Bush. A few years later, he was named as the State Commissioner of Health and Human Services by Governor

Bush. He continued in that role for 5 years, including a two-year term serving Governor Rick Perry. Don retired from state government in December of 2002. In his role as HHSC Commissioner, Don oversaw the work of 13 state agencies and 55,000 employees with a budget of \$34 billion that accounted for 30% of all state spending in Texas. He was recognized by Sam Houston State University with a Distinguished Alumni Award in October of 1999.

Don started a health care consulting practice in 2003 which continues today, serving all 5 of the major non-governmental health systems in Texas, many mid-sized Texas hospitals, managed care organizations, psychiatric and dental companies, and a variety of health care technology and other health related organizations. He is married to his wife of 34 years, Susan Trout Gilbert and they have three wonderful and successful children, Chris, Jenny, and Matt all of whom live in Austin.