Speaker Biographies

Jerome Adams  
*U.S. Surgeon General*

Dr. Jerome Adams is the 20th Surgeon General of the United States. His mission as the “Nation’s Doctor,” is to advance the health of the American people. Dr. Adams’ motto as Surgeon General is “better health through better partnerships.” He is committed to strengthening relationships with all members of the health community, and forging new partnerships with members from the business, faith, education and public safety and national security communities.

As the Surgeon General, Dr. Adams holds the rank of Vice Admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In this capacity, he oversees the operations of approximately 6,500 uniformed health officers who serve in nearly 800 locations around the world, promoting, protecting, and advancing the health and safety of our nation.

During his tenure as Surgeon General, Dr. Adams has created several initiatives to tackle our nation’s most pressing health issues, including: the opioid epidemic, oral health, and the links between community health and both economic prosperity and national security. In response to the opioid epidemic, Dr. Adams issued the first Surgeon General’s Advisory in thirteen years, urging more Americans to carry naloxone, an FDA-approved medication that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Additionally, Dr. Adams is focused on building a culture of health and prevention in all sectors. As part of those efforts, Dr. Adams will compile the available evidence and best practices documenting the connection between private sector investments and public policies which promote healthy communities, and subsequent measures of business and community prosperity. He will issue a report to share the evidence, inspire future research and provide tools and resources for effective, efficient community health investments that produce results. Dr. Adams is also the former Health Commissioner of Indiana, where he led the State’s responses to Ebola, Zika, and to the largest ever HIV outbreak in the United States related to injection drug use.

Nicole Alexander-Scott  
*Rhode Island Department of Health*

Nicole Alexander-Scott has been the director of the Rhode Island Department of Health since May 2015. She brings to this position tremendous experience from her work as a specialist in infectious diseases for children and adults at hospitals in Rhode Island affiliated with Brown University and at the Rhode Island Department of Health. Her clinical and academic responsibilities were balanced with serving as a consultant medical director for the Office of HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STDs, and TB in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology at the Rhode Island Department of Health. Alexander-Scott is board certified in pediatrics, internal medicine, pediatric infectious diseases, and adult infectious diseases. She obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Brown University in 2011. She is also an assistant professor of pediatrics and medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Alexander-Scott attended Cornell University, majoring in human development and family studies, and subsequently graduated from medical school in 2001 from SUNY Upstate Medical University at Syracuse. After completing a combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency at SUNY Stony Brook University Hospital in 2005, Alexander-Scott finished a four-year combined fellowship in adult and pediatric infectious diseases at Brown in 2009.
Wendy Braund
University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

Wendy E. Braund, MD, MPH, MSED, FACPM, a board-certified preventive medicine physician, served as the Wyoming State Health Officer and Public Health Division Administrator of the Wyoming Department of Health from 2011 until 2017. During her tenure, she served as the Region VIII Representative on the ASTHO Board of Directors and Chair of the ASTHO Performance Policy Committee. In 2017, Dr. Braund joined the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, where she serves as Director, Center for Public Health Practice; Associate Dean for Practice; and Professor, Health Policy and Management. In her current role, she promotes public health practice in scholarly and educational activities throughout the school, university, and region; facilitates student, faculty, and practitioner opportunities in practice-based research, teaching, and service; and teaches at Pitt Public Health and the Pitt School of Medicine.

Charles Brown
Equitable Cities, LLC

Mr. Brown is founder and managing principal of Equitable Cities, LLC—a nationally known urban planning, policy, research, and multimedia firm working at the intersection of transportation, health, and equity. He also serves as a senior researcher with the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) and adjunct professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, both at Rutgers University. He has 17 years of public and private sector experience in urban and regional planning, public policy, and research. He also has extensive experience in community outreach and engagement having worked with municipal, county, and state government agencies, for-profits, and non-profit organizations across the U.S. He has served as an instructor of courses on introductory and advanced environmental justice (EJ) for the National Transit Institute (NTI), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Brown is also part of course faculty at the Walkability Action Institute, funded by the CDC, and creator of the newly created Virginia Walkability Action Institute on behalf of Virginia Department of Health.

Additionally, he served as an instructor for thirty (30) deliveries of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Complete Streets Course, and trained chronic disease coordinators throughout NJ on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Health. He serves as a Trustee with the Urban League of Essex County (NJ) and as a member of the Board of Directors with America Walks. Mr. Brown is also a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Pedestrian Safety Committee, TRB Bicycle Transportation Committee, and the Region II Healthy Equity Council. Mr. Brown's work has been published in several international journals as well as featured by or quoted in the New York Times, Streetsblog, CityLab and various other national and local media outlets. Mr. Brown is the recipient of several notable honors in transportation and receives invitations to speak locally, nationally, and internationally. He is a military veteran and a recipient of the Mississippi Commendation Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.
Jay Butler
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Jay C. Butler, MD is the Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases. In this capacity, he provides leadership to the efforts of CDC’s three infectious disease national centers and helps to advance the agency’s cross-cutting infectious disease priorities.

Dr. Butler has 30 years of experience in increasingly complex public health leadership and management positions. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a BS in zoology, received his MD at the University of North Carolina, and did internship and residency training in medicine and pediatrics at Vanderbilt. After completing CDC’s Epidemic Intelligence Service in the Wisconsin Division of Health, Dr. Butler completed a preventive medicine residency with the Respiratory Diseases Branch in the National Center for Infectious Diseases, and an infectious disease fellowship at Emory University. He is board certified in medicine, pediatrics and infectious diseases, and has served in public health positions at federal, state, and tribal government, including completing more than 22 years in the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service, from which he retired at the level of Captain (Medical Director) in 2012.

From 1998-2005, Dr. Butler was Director of the Arctic Investigations Program and from June 2009 to March 2010 he directed CDC’s 2009 H1N1 Pandemic Vaccine Task Force, which achieved emergency vaccination of more than 80 million Americans.

Dr. Butler made critical contributions to emerging infections, including serving on the Hantavirus Task Force in CDC’s Viral Special Pathogens in 1993 and 1994. He held leadership roles in multiple emergency responses, including CDC’s response to bioterrorist anthrax in 2001.

Dr. Butler has also held multiple leadership roles in Alaska, including CMO for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (2014-2018 and 2007-2009), State Epidemiologist (2005-2007), and Senior Director of the Division of Community Health Services for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)(2010-2014). He was President of ASTHO in 2016-2017, and has made important contributions to public health approaches to reducing harms associated with addiction.

Brian Castrucci
De Beaumont Foundation

Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, MA, is the president and chief executive officer of the de Beaumont Foundation. He has built the Foundation into a leading voice in health philanthropy and public health practice.

An award-winning epidemiologist with 10 years of experience working in state and local health departments, Brian brings a unique perspective to the philanthropic sector that allows him to shape and implement visionary and practical initiatives and partnerships and bring together research and practice to improve public health.

Under his leadership, the de Beaumont Foundation is advancing policy, building partnerships, and strengthening the public health system to create communities where people can achieve their best possible health. Among the projects he has spearheaded are CityHealth, the BUILD Health Challenge, and the Public Health Workforce Interests and Needs Survey (PH WINS). He is also an editor and contributing author to The Practical Playbook. Public Health. Primary Care. Together, published by Oxford University Press in 2015.

Brian has published more than 70 articles in the areas of public health systems and services research, maternal and child health, health promotion, and chronic disease prevention. His recent work has focused on the public health needs of large cities, the need for better data systems, and public health system improvements.

Brian earned his Doctorate in Public Health Leadership at the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from North Carolina State University and a Master of Arts degree in sociomedical sciences from Columbia University.
Laura Cheever
Health Resources and Services Administration

Laura Cheever, MD, ScM, is the associate administrator and chief medical officer for the HIV/AIDS Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Dr. Cheever previously served as the deputy associate administrator and chief medical officer of the HIV/AIDS Bureau, responsible for leading the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and HRSA’s programming for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. She has also provided national leadership for HIV/AIDS care and treatment, including the development of federal guidelines for HIV care.

Dr. Cheever joined HRSA in 1999 as the chief of the HIV Education Branch where she was responsible for providing HIV/AIDS clinical education and training for the nation’s health care providers. Before joining HRSA, Dr. Cheever was an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University. She is committed to serving the HIV population and volunteers at the Moore Clinic for HIV Care at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Dr. Cheever received her medical degree from Brown University and is board certified in infectious diseases.

Gerd Clabaugh
Iowa Department of Public Health

Gerd Clabaugh was appointed by Governor Branstad in May 2014 as the director of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). Clabaugh has served in many capacities within IDPH, including deputy director, director of health promotion and chronic disease prevention, director of acute disease epidemiology and emergency response. During the early 1990s, he served as director of the center for health policy. Clabaugh’s responsibilities in these various programs included oversight of the delivery of services to at-risk and underserved Iowans such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Maternal and Child Health, and the I-Smile dental program to overseeing chronic disease programs, IDPH’s support of all 101 local boards of health, infectious disease surveillance, immunization programming, and support of emergency medical services. Clabaugh has experience in both state government operations and nonprofit organizations. He is the former director of operations at the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) where he worked with Iowa hospitals in promoting infection reduction strategies. As a private consultant, he supported public health agencies in assessing community health needs, program development, planning for public health improvement, and grant writing. He has previously served as chief employee benefits manager for the state of Iowa and on the staff of Governor Terry Branstad. While director of health policy at IDPH in the mid-1990s, he was appointed by Governor Branstad as project director for a Robert Wood Johnson-funded initiative to study and implement healthcare reform in Iowa. He is past-president and past-legislative chair of the Iowa Public Health Association and has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Iowa, Montana State University Billings, Des Moines University, and Iowa State University. He has been lead author or contributed to academic publications in the journals Value in Health, American Journal of Medical Quality, and Vaccine. Clabaugh’s community involvement includes serving on the city council and as the mayor pro tem in the city of Johnston, Iowa. He is the past-chairman of the board of directors for central Iowa’s regional solid waste agency, providing services to over 400,000 Iowans.
Dr. Edward Ehlinger is a public health metaphysician who has spent his professional career working in various settings to advance health equity and optimal health for all. He has integrated the values, practices, and approaches of medical care, public health, community building, and social justice in his work as a Senior Assistant Surgeon with the National Health Service Corps, Director of Maternal and Child Health at the Minneapolis Health Department, Director and Chief Health Officer at Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota, and Commissioner of Health at the Minnesota Department of Health. He currently chairs the federal HHS Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality, serves on several boards, provides coaching for the National Leadership Academy for Public Health, and consults and speaks on public health and community-building issues locally and nationally.

Dr. Ehlinger received his BA degree in English and his MD degree from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and his Master of Science in Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. He is a Fellow of the American College Health Association, a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar, and a Bush Fellow. He is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics and is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Minnesota.

Matt Garrett
DeLoitte Government and Public Services

Matt Garrett, Ph.D., is a specialist leader in workforce and organizational transformation in the government and public services healthcare practice at Deloitte. For the past 6 years, he’s consulted on Future of Work and various projects related to the public health workforce. His Ph.D. is in human development, and prior to consulting he spend nearly a decade in workforce development in higher education.

Gary Gunderson
Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center

Rev. Gary R. Gunderson currently serves as Vice President of Faith and Health and Professor, Public Health Science at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, NC. From 2005-2012, he served as Senior Vice President, Faith & Health for Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare and Director, Center of Excellence in Faith & Health. His leadership roles focus on building the capacity of religious institutions to advance health and wholeness. Since 1992, in the Interfaith Health Program at President Jimmy Carter Center in Atlanta, Gary has explored the confluence of health and faith by working with an international network of community leaders and multi-disciplinary scholars.

He serves on the Institute of Medicine (National Academy of Sciences) Population Health Roundtable. He leads the Leading Causes of Life Initiative, which includes over 50 international Fellows from all disciplines and fields. Gary also is the Secretary of Stakeholder Health, a learning collaborative of over 50 health systems dedicated to partnering with community to improve the health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. He has served as PI on numerous grants from the CDC, RWJF and others. Gary is an ordained American Baptist minister.
David Lakey  
*University of Texas System*

David Lakey, an adult and pediatric infectious disease physician by training, served as the Texas Commissioner of Health from 2007 until 2015. During his tenure he had the privilege of serving as the ASTHO president in 2011, and led his agency’s response through numerous high profile events including the H1N1 pandemic, multiple hurricanes, and the Dallas response to Ebola. In 2015 Dr. Lakey joined the University of Texas System, where he currently serves as the Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer. His current efforts focus on enhancing statewide health improvement collaborations and leading the UT System’s population health initiatives. He and his wife DeDe are the proud parents of 3 children.

J.T. Lane  
*Navigant*

J.T. Lane, who served as Louisiana’s state health official from 2011 to 2016, is a director on the Value Transformation team of Navigant—a global professional services firm that serves and supports health & human services agencies, health systems, payers and other health organizations in making transformational change. As a seasoned health leader, J.T. leads transformation efforts to improve population health outcomes, financial and organizational strength, and programmatic quality and performance outcomes of Public Health and Medicaid programs, health plans, healthcare providers, and multi-sector private and public partners.

As both a trusted advisor and former state health official, he has previously led inter-agency, multi-sector efforts among public health, Medicaid, managed care, and healthcare provider groups to develop quality improvement initiatives for adolescent health, chronic disease, HIV, and birth outcomes. J.T. has co-chaired or chaired national steering or advisory committees focused on leveraging public payer, healthcare and public health systems to improve quality, performance and financial efficiency, and advised groups on modernizing the nation’s public health infrastructure and financing.

Glen Mays  
*University of Colorado School of Public Health*

Glen P. Mays is Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy at the University of Colorado School of Public Health. His research examines delivery and financing systems for health care and public health services, with a focus on evaluating the health and economic impact of these systems. He directs the national program office for the Systems for Action research program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which studies mechanisms for aligning the delivery and financing of medical, social, and public health services. As part of this work, he leads the National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems, which has followed a national cohort of U.S. communities since 1998 to study the dynamics of population health improvement initiatives. Mays also leads the National Health Security Preparedness Index Program supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which studies health system preparedness for large-scale hazardous events. Mays holds an undergraduate degree in political science from Brown University, M.P.H. and Ph.D. degrees in health services research from UNC-Chapel Hill and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in health economics at Harvard Medical School. Before joining Colorado, he held faculty and research positions at the University of Kentucky, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Mathematica Policy Research.
Harvey Milkman, Ph.D., is a psychology professor emeritus at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Dr. Milkman is currently the principal consultant for the US-Russia Peer-to-Peer program on working with at-risk youth.

From September 1992 – June 2002, he was author, principal investigator and director of Project Self-Discovery: Artistic Alternatives for At-Risk Youth, a national demonstration model funded by The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays Lectureship Award at the National University of Malaysia and has represented the United States Information Agency as a consultant and featured speaker in Australia, Brazil, Iceland, The Netherlands, Peru, Turkey and Yugoslavia. In July 2016 in Moscow State University, Russia, he delivered master classes at on adolescent problem behaviors.

His coauthored book "Pathways to Self-Discovery and Change: Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents" is the principal substance abuse/criminal conduct treatment curriculum used in residential correctional settings for juveniles throughout Oregon, Colorado, Texas and Montana.


Esther Muña

Ms. Esther L. Muña was appointed in April 2014, as Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, the health agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ms. Muna held other leadership roles for the Corporation and for the Department of Public Health as Chief Operations Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Hospital Administrator.

Muña currently oversees strategic direction and all operations of the Commonwealth Health Center Hospital, Rota Health Center, Tinian Health Center, Public Health Services, and Behavioral Health Services.

She is board certified in healthcare management as a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Her leadership roles include serving as a member of the ESRD Board of Directors of the Health Services Advisory Group, Inc., as President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Secretary of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, President of AAPC Guam-CNMI Chapter, and as a member of the Health Access Policy Committee of ASTHO.

She received a Master of Health Administration degree from Saint Joseph’s College of Maine and her Bachelor’s degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.
John O’Leary
Deloitte Center

John O’Leary heads up State and Local Government research for the Deloitte Center for Government Insights. John has served in several senior leadership roles for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including Chief Human Resource Officer. He was a distinguished research fellow with the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and is the co-author of the best-selling book “If We Can Put a Man on the Moon: Getting Big Things Done in Government.”

M. Norman Oliver
Virginia Department of Health

Dr. Norman Oliver was appointed Virginia State Health Commissioner by Governor Ralph Northam effective May 30, 2018. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Oliver served as the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health for the Virginia Department of Health. Before accepting the Deputy Commissioner position, Dr. Oliver was the Walter M. Seward Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. As Chair, Dr. Oliver helped lead the transformation of the Department’s clinic sites into patient-centered practices focused on population health. In his role as the Deputy Commissioner for Population Health, Dr. Oliver worked with others in the health department, other state agencies, and healthcare systems across the state to improve the health and well-being of all citizens of the Commonwealth. He remains committed to a cross-agency and multi-sector approach to implementing population health initiatives.

Dr. Oliver has a long record of accomplishments studying health inequities, particularly as they affect racial and ethnic minorities. Improving our understanding of racial and ethnic health disparities and developing effective interventions to reduce or eliminate them are major goals of the health department. Dr. Oliver attended medical school at Case Western Reserve University, where he also obtained his Masters degree in medical anthropology. He trained in family medicine at Case, and he then practiced broad-spectrum family medicine in rural Alaska for two years before joining the UVA Department of Family Medicine in 1998.

Frances Phillips
Maryland Department of Health

Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA, serves as the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services within the Maryland Department of Health (MDH.) As such, she is responsible for the delivery of multiple health surveillance, improvement and protection programs to Maryland residents, including the services of the Offices of the Medical Examiner, Health Care Quality, Controlled Substances Administration, Vital Statistics, Prevention and Health Promotion and Population Health Improvement, Preparedness and Response and the State Laboratory. She previously held this position from 2008 to 2013.

Prior to both of her appointments as Deputy Secretary, Ms. Phillips served as Health Officer for Anne Arundel County, Maryland from 1993 to 2008, including a period serving as Interim County Fire Chief, and a second term as Health Officer between 2017 to 2018. In addition to her public service, Ms. Phillips has held leadership positions on non-profit boards, served on the Maryland Health Care Commission and provided independent consultant services for an array of public, non-profit and academic clients.

Ms. Phillips holds an undergraduate degree in community health nursing from The Catholic University of America and a master’s degree in health care administration from The George Washington University. She is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the University of Maryland’s School of Nursing and an Associate in the Department of Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Ms. Phillips is a resident of Anne Arundel County.
George Roberts  
National Association of County and City Health Officials

My journey to the world of Public Health began with my Education. I received a B.B.A. from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX and went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Health Administration (MHA) from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. After an Administrative Residency at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, I accepted a position with the Baylor Administrative Team. Four years later I was asked to become the Vice President of Operations at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. After six years at Mother Frances Hospital, I was hired as the CEO of Henderson Memorial Hospital in Henderson, Texas where I served for more than 12 years.

During my career as a Hospital Administrator, I was honored to serve on state boards where I helped address the growing need for health care in our country. The power of preventive health care to address this problem captured my attention, as well as Public Health as the vehicle to help. After extensive research, I was asked to lead the Northeast Texas Public Health District (NET HEALTH) in Tyler, Texas. I so appreciate the opportunity NET Health has provided for me to work on public health policies and strategies on a local, state, and national level to promote health and healthy living!

Nate Smith  
Arkansas Department of Health

Dr. Nate Smith has served State Health Officer for the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) since 2013. In this position, he is a member of the Governor’s cabinet and provides senior scientific and executive leadership for the agency. Dr. Smith has a strong commitment to the mission of ADH, “To protect and improve the health and well-being of all Arkansans.” In his role as Director he strives to help colleagues achieve their full potential using public health best practices supported by science-based decisions. He currently serves as president-elect of ASTHO.

The ADH delivers over 100 services through the main office in Little Rock and over 90 local health units in each of the state’s 75 counties. These services include immunizations, WIC, outbreak response, vital records, chronic disease prevention, preparedness and emergency response, injury and violence prevention, and suicide prevention. The ADH also includes the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory.

Dr. Nate Smith has previously served the ADH as Branch Chief for Infectious Diseases, State Epidemiologist, and Deputy Director for Public Health Programs. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases and holds voluntary faculty positions in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine and in the Epidemiology Department at the College of Public Health. His clinical interests include HIV, tropical medicine, and emerging infectious diseases.

Sylvia Trent-Adams  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health

As the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, she shares responsibility with Assistant Secretary for Health, for planning, coordinating, and directing substantive program matters; policy and program development; and determining and setting legislative and program priorities covering the full range of public health activities within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

She served as the Acting Surgeon General from April 2017 through September 2017, Deputy Surgeon General from October 2015 through December 2018 and as Chief Nurse Officer of the USPHS from 2013 through 2016.
RADM Trent-Adams has held various positions in HHS, working to improve access to care for poor and underserved communities. As a clinician and administrator, she has had a direct impact on building systems of care to improve public health for marginalized populations domestically and internationally.

Prior to joining the USPHS, RADM Trent-Adams was a nurse officer in the U.S. Army.

RADM Trent-Adams received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Hampton University, a Master of Science in Nursing and Health Policy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She became a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2014. She recently was elected as a member of the National Academy of Medicine’s Class of 2018.

Mylynn Tufte

North Dakota Department of Health

Tufte’s previous experiences as a health management executive and former critical care nurse bring an extensive background to the top leadership role in the North Dakota Department of Health.

Tufte has more than 20 years of experience in the health industry, serving in a strategic and health advisory role to some of the largest payers and providers in the country. Her diverse experience includes working with state governments, national and regional health plans, integrated delivery networks, academic and community medical centers, physician groups and accountable care organizations.

As a progressive leader with extensive experience in strategy, operations, and health information technology, she has helped organizations develop and implement innovative solutions that improve health care for broad populations. Her experience in population health management has helped organizations improve quality and access to care, decrease the total cost of care and improve the overall experience for consumers.

Tufte earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, followed by an MBA and a master’s degree in information management from Arizona State University.

Donald Warne

School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of North Dakota

Donald Warne, MD, MPH is the Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion as well as the Indians Into Medicine (INMED) Program Director, and Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of North Dakota. He also serves as the Senior Policy Advisor to the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board. Dr. Warne is a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe from Pine Ridge, SD and comes from a long line of traditional healers and medicine men. He received his MD from Stanford University School of Medicine and his MPH from Harvard School of Public Health. His work experience includes: several years as a primary care physician with the Gila River Health Care Corporation in Arizona; Staff Clinician with the National Institutes of Health; Indian Legal Program Faculty with the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University; Health Policy Research Director for Inter Tribal Council of Arizona; Executive Director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen’s Health Board; and Chair of the Department of Public Health at North Dakota State University.
Stephanie Williams
Arkansas Department of Health

Stephanie Williams, RNP, MPH, began her long career with the Arkansas Department of Health in 1990 as a public health nurse based in a school-based clinic. Since that time she has served in numerous roles including Administrator of the Crittenden County Local Health Unit, Branch Chief for Hometown Health Improvement and the State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care, and as Director for the Center for Health Advancement where she manages numerous state and federal programs including Tobacco Prevention & Control; Maternal & Child Health; Chronic Disease Prevention; the Office of Oral Health and the WIC Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In her current role as Deputy Director for Public Health Programs she oversees and guides the work of the four operational Centers within the Department: Health Advancement, Health Protection, Local Public Health and Public Health Practice. She also oversees the operation of the State Public Health Laboratory, the Office of Health Communication and the Office of Minority Health. Ms. Williams advises and assists the Director in setting policy and programmatic direction for the Department as a whole and, in his absence, serves as Director.

Karen Yeary
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Karen Yeary, PhD, is a Professor of Oncology at the Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to her recent move, she worked at the Winthrop Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as an Associate Professor. Her research focuses on translating evidence-based behavioral interventions for underserved communities, including the testing of implementation strategies. She engages communities using a community-based participatory research approach to create practical interventions that can be sustained in low-resource settings. Her prior work has included obesity and cancer prevention interventions for rural, African American, low-income, and faith communities. Dr. Yeary received her PhD from Cornell University and was a W.K. Kellogg Community Based Health Scholar at the University of North Carolina School at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health.