

MISSOURI

Randall Williams, MD, FACOG

Director

Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services



Randall W. Williams, MD, FACOG, is an obstetrician and gynecologist who graduated from the University of North Carolina with Honors in History and Zoology and received his medical training at the University of North Carolina where he was a Holderness Fellow.

Dr. Williams was appointed by Governor Eric Greitens to serve in his Cabinet as Director of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and was subsequently unanimously confirmed by the Missouri Senate on March 9, 2017. He believes a fundamental tenet of effective leadership is to be readily available and accessible and he has visited each of Missouri's 115 counties to listen and learn from all of Missouri's citizens.

DHSS accomplishments to date with Dr. Williams include passage of Missouri's Good Samaritan Law and Universal Narcan Availability Law; working with Governor Grietens on the Executive Order establishing a statewide PDMP; holding opioid summits throughout the state; and bringing together and meeting with all 115 local health departments for the first time in more than a decade. The department is also working to increase the number of providers in rural and underserved areas; improve behavioral health services for veterans and their families; promote physical fitness and community engagement through the My Missouri Steps Up initiative; enhance interagency coordination and collaboration with the state Departments of Social Services and Mental Health; and improve all aspects of women's health, especially to reduce infant and maternal mortality.

Dr. Williams previously served as both the Deputy Secretary for Health and State Health Director in the Department of Health and Human Services in North Carolina. His responsibilities there included developing, integrating and communicating state health policy and helping lead a 17,000 member agency with a 20 billion dollar budget that combined Medicaid, social services, public health and mental health services.

Dr. Williams has also previously served on local and state boards of health, in addition to delivering 2000 babies as a practicing obstetrician. He also helped serve the medical needs of people in overseas conflict zones. His ongoing work has taken him to Iraq 12 times, and he has also worked in Afghanistan, Libya and Haiti. Recognition of these efforts was reflected in his selection as Triangle Red Cross Humanitarian of the Year and the Raleigh News & Observer's Tar Heel of the Week.

He is also an avid runner. Dr. Williams believes physical exercise contributes greatly to a sense of wellness and led a campaign to encourage families to run 5Ks for charity. He enjoys training for and running marathons and has run marathons in Boston, New York, Paris, Athens, Florence and Jerusalem.

