

TENNESSEE**John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM****Commissioner**

Tennessee Department of Health



John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, FACOEM joined Governor Bill Haslam's cabinet in 2011 as the 13th commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health. He brings more than 25 years of service in clinical and public health leadership at the federal, state and local levels to the position, and leads a statewide team of highly talented and dedicated professionals committed to working collaboratively to protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee. Dreyzehner and his team have been recognized with numerous awards including the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Vision Award in 2015, 2016 and 2017. These awards confirm TDH is setting the standard for effective, engaging public health efforts and creating a model for others to follow.



Compassionate, effective and efficient service to people in all 95 counties of the state is the standard of performance Dreyzehner has set for the department. As TDH commissioner, he has focused on team building and collaboration to create and strengthen relationships and build a stronger infrastructure for public health across Tennessee. The department is focused on preventing communicable disease and the behaviors that are the biggest drivers of death and chronic disease in Tennessee. Referred to as "The Big 4," they are the health challenges of our time: physical inactivity, excessive caloric intake, tobacco and nicotine use and other substance use disorders.

Dreyzehner began his medical service in 1989 as a United States Air Force flight surgeon, where he learned about the attributes that increase the effectiveness of public health efforts and the Baldrige performance excellence framework while accumulating more than 300 hours in the F-15 Eagle and other aircraft as a member of USAF 94th Fighter Squadron. He later served as Chief of Aeromedical Assessment for Air Combat Command and was honorably discharged as a Major in 1997. Following several years in the private practice of occupational medicine he returned to public service in 2002 as director of a rural health district in Virginia before coming to Tennessee as commissioner of health. He also practiced addiction medicine for several years while working to bring attention to the public health aspects of the now well-recognized epidemic of substance use and abuse.

Dreyzehner graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago and earned his Master of Public Health degree at the University of Utah, where he served as chief resident at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health. Board certified in 1999, he is licensed in Tennessee and Virginia and is a Fellow of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. He holds appointments as adjunct faculty and professor (Hon.) with East Tennessee State University's College of Public Health, founding faculty of the Healthy Appalachia Institute and formerly visiting assistant professor of public health at the University of Virginia. He and his wife Jana, a child psychiatrist, have two adult sons.