

Delaware | Steven L. Blessing, MA

Director, Division of Public Health

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

Steven Blessing has served the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Public Health (DPH) in various leadership positions for nearly 30 years and was named DPH Division Director in November 2023. In this role of directing one of the largest and most impactful divisions in state government, Director Blessing oversees over 1,000 staff and manages a \$433 million budget in grant and state funding.

Previously, Director Blessing served as Interim DPH Division Director since September 2023. He was named DPH Deputy Director in October 2022. Director Blessing also served as Emergency Medical Services Director, Paramedic Administrator, and Executive Assistant to the Division Director. His longest tenure was 12 years at the helm of the Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness Section (EMSPS), which he led as Section Chief. As EMSPS Chief, Director Blessing led the development and expansion of DHSS' response capacity during health and natural disasters.

Other notable career accomplishments include policy and legislative support for the development of Delaware's statewide trauma system, leadership in the development of statewide electronic reporting for EMS, the Delaware EMS Reform Act of 1999, and leadership in creation of the Public Health Preparedness program in Delaware. Director Blessing also was elected by his peers to a term as President of the National Association of State EMS Officials from 2008-2010. He has also participated in meaningful projects at both the state and national level with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Academy of Medicine, and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

