

Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Health Director, Division of Family Health and Wellness

Who we are and how we impact Tennessee:

TDH incorporates our values into the work we do each day to achieve our mission, live our vision, and address the four leading causes of death in Tennessee.

Mission:

Protect, promote and improve the health and prosperity of people in Tennessee.

Vision:

A recognized and trusted leader, partnering and engaging to accelerate Tennessee to one of the nation's healthiest states.

Our Values:

- Integrity
- Respect
- Excellence
- Compassion
- Collaboration

Tennessee Big Four: Leading Causes of Death in TN

1. Tobacco Use
2. Obesity
3. Physical Inactivity
4. Substance Abuse

[TN State Careers](#)

Key Responsibilities:

1. *Title V Director, Maternal Child Health Block Grant:* Oversee the administration and implementation of the block grant to promote the health and wellbeing of women and children. Requirements include regular stake holder meetings, regular needs assessment, and annual update and review of action plans with associated performance measures. MCH priority areas include: reduction of infant and maternal mortality, access to comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care for women, and facilitation of family-centered, community-based systems of coordinated care for children with special healthcare needs. MCH programs also include lead screening and follow up, newborn screening, and the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome surveillance program.
2. *Reproductive and Women's Health:* Medical Director responsible for administration and implementation of breast and cervical cancer screening program, prenatal presumptive eligibility registration, rape prevention education, abstinence and sexual risk avoidance, and the federal Title X grant funding for comprehensive family planning services across the state of Tennessee. Activities include review of clinical and administrative protocols, communication and clarification of clinical guidelines, and assurance of fiscal and administrative grant requirements.
3. *Early Childhood Initiatives:* Oversee the administration of evidence based home visiting, targeted case management and early childhood comprehensive systems. Administration of Children's Special Services payer of last resort and care coordination program as part of Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs Section. Administration of newborn screening follow up, childhood lead poisoning prevention, and perinatal regionalization programs. Facilitate Genetics Advisory Committee and Perinatal Advisory Committee. Facilitate development of an integrated care coordination program Community Health Access and Navigation in Tennessee (CHANT) in all county health departments to identify infants with high risk of infant mortality and connect those families with needed social and medical services.
4. *Supplemental Nutrition:* Oversee administration of the Women Infants and Children (WIC) Program, commodity and supplemental food program, senior farmer's market and cross cutting breastfeeding initiatives across the state of Tennessee. The WIC program serves 140,000 Tennesseans each month. WIC also generates approximately \$100M revenue for local grocery store vendors.
5. *Injury Prevention and Detection:* Serve as Child Fatality Review Committee co-chair and Maternal Mortality Committee chair. Oversee grant funded initiatives in Violence and Injury Prevention, SIDS/SUID Prevention, Infant Mortality Reduction Initiatives, Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiatives, Traumatic Brain Injury services coordination and prevention.
6. *Chronic Disease and Health Promotion:* Responsible for promotion of physical activity, improved nutrition and decreased tobacco usage through CDC Chronic Disease and School Health Grant, Tobacco Prevention and Control program, Project Diabetes state funded initiatives, and Preventive Health Block Grant. Coordination with local and regional health departments on built environment work, school health, tobacco prevention, and substance abuse prevention.

Minimum Qualifications:

Education: MD or DNP(required), MPH (preferred)

- Must have or be eligible for active, unrestricted Tennessee medical license
- At least 10 years of clinical and administrative experience

Ideal candidate:

- Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Med/PEDS, or Preventive Medicine.
- Experience with public health and community-based systems, particularly related to maternal and child health, tobacco and obesity prevention.
- Vision for systems approach to promoting health.
- Leadership experience in community assessment, partnerships and programs to address social determinants of health and health disparities.
- Experience with grant applications and reporting.
- Experience in management of interdisciplinary teams.
- Experience in communications with media and high level stakeholders including governmental and community partners.

Other duties of the Assistant Commissioner include:

- Oversight of 140 staff, substantial budgetary responsibility, over 300 outgoing contracts to community entities, and management of 25 incoming grants.
- Strategic planning and execution of health priorities across the state, including priority areas of promoting physical activity, decreasing tobacco use, decreasing obesity, and decreasing substance abuse.
- Guide the division in the selection, evaluation, and implementation of evidence-based prevention strategies that align with the Maternal and Child Health Block grant and department priority areas.
- Develop public health capacity for effective strategic planning, funding utilization, and evaluation.
- Represent the division at TDH Medical Leadership team meetings as needed.
- Present to local, regional, state, and national groups as requested on topics relevant to section work.
- Partnership and coordination with external agencies and community partners to improve health outcomes in key areas including breastfeeding promotion, infant mortality and maternal mortality reduction, neonatal abstinence syndrome, adverse childhood events, and emerging health threats.
- Support rapid public health quality improvement initiatives.
- Ensure equitable allocation of available funds particularly to groups or geographic regions disproportionately burdened by poor health outcomes.

To apply:

Please send a CV with cover letter to Dr. Morgan McDonald Morgan.McDonald@tn.gov

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.