Working with State Health Departments: The Role of State and Territorial Health Officials (S/THOs)

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January 2022
VISION
State and territorial health agencies advancing health equity and optimal health for all.

MISSION
To support, equip, and advocate for state and territorial health officials in their work of advancing the public’s health and well-being.
ASTHO: Who We Are

• Non-profit organization representing public health agencies

• Track, evaluate, and advise members on the impact and formation of public or private health policy

• Provide guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation’s health
Local health units are primarily led by employees of the state and the state retains authority over most fiscal decisions.

Local health units may be led by employees of the state or of local government. If they are led by state employees, then local government has authority to make fiscal decisions and/or issue public health orders.

Some local health units are led by employees of the state and some are led by employees of local government. No one arrangement predominates in the state.

Local health units are primarily led by employees of local governments and the local governments retain authority over most fiscal decisions.
State and Territorial Health Agency Priorities

**Infrastructure**
- Workforce
- Funding
- Policy Development and Support
- Collaboration
- Surveillance and Assessment

**Programmatic**
- COVID-19 and other communicable diseases
- Health Equity
- Behavioral Health
- Access to Care
Engaging Your S/THOs

Share data, evidence-base, and best practices on emerging public health issues

Inform legislation contributing to better health outcomes for your constituents

Provide testimonies

SHO peer networks – what’s happening in other states?

Legislative Liaisons
State and Territorial Health Official Directory

State and Territorial Health Officials

Alabama
Scott Harris, MD, MPH [Bio]
State Health Officer

Alaska
Anne Zink, MD, FACEP [Bio]
Chief Medical Officer

American Samoa
CSM Motusa Tuileama To'atolu Nue [Bio]
Director, Department of Health

Arizona
Don Herrington*
Interim Director

Arkansas
José Romero, MD [Bio]
Secretary

California
Tomás Aragón, MD, DrPH [Bio]
Director & State Public Health Officer

Erica Pan, MD, MPH, FAAP*
State Epidemiologist
S/THO Designee

Colorado
Jill Ryan, MPH [Bio]
Executive Director

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
Esther L. Muha, MHA, FACHE [Bio]
CEO, Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Connecticut

http://www.astho.org/Directory/
Thank You!

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