

Timeline - State Health Officer of Texas,
Texas Commissioner of Health, and
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

State Health Officer of Texas (1879-1954)

*NOTE: The title of **State Health Officer of Texas** was used from 1879-1954.*

A legislative act creating the position of a State Health Officer of Texas to serve a 2-year term was passed in 1879.

ROBERT RUTHERFORD, M.D.
1st State Health Officer of Texas
1879 – 1881
1885 – 1889

RICHARD M. SWEARINGEN, M.D.
1881 – 1885 (In 1881, Dr. Swearingen was the 2nd person to be appointed State Health Officer of Texas)
1889 – 1898

WALTER FRASER BLUNT, M.D.
1898 – 1901
State Health Officer of Texas
Governor Charles A. Culberson appointed him as the State Health Officer of Texas to fill the unexpired term of the late Dr. R. M. Swearingen, who died on August 9, 1898.

GEORGE R. TABOR, M.D.
1901 – 1907
State Health Officer of Texas

WILLIAM M. BRUMBY, M.D.
1907 – 1911
State Health Officer of Texas

RALPH STEINER, M.D.
1911 – 1914
State Health Officer of Texas

W. B. COLLINS, M.D.
1914 – 1919
State Health Officer of Texas

CHARLES WALTER GODDARD, M.D.
1919 – 1920
State Health Officer of Texas

OSCAR DAVIS, M.D.

1920 – 1921
State Health Officer of Texas

MANTON M. CARRICK, M.D.
1921
State Health Officer of Texas

JOHN H. FLORENCE, M.D.
1922
State Health Officer of Texas

W. H. BEASLEY, M.D.
1923
State Health Officer of Texas

MALONE DUGGAN, M.D.
1924
State Health Officer of Texas

H. O. SAPPINGTON, M.D.
1925 – 1927
State Health Officer of Texas

J. C. ANDERSON, M.D.
1927 – 1933
State Health Officer of Texas

JOHN W. BROWN, M.D.
1933 – 1937
State Health Officer of Texas

GEORGE W. COX, M.D.
1937 – 1954
State Health Officer of Texas

HENRY A. HOLLE, M.D.**
1954 – 1959
State Health Officer for Texas (May 1, 1954)
Texas Commissioner of Health until April 8, 1959
**NOTE: Also in 1954, the title of *State Health Officer of Texas* was changed to *Texas Commissioner of Health*.

TEXAS COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH (1954 – Aug. 2004)

*NOTE: The title of **Texas Commissioner of Health** was used from 1954 – Aug. 2004*

JAMES E. PEAVY, M.D., M.P.H.
1959 – 1975
Texas Commissioner of Health

FRATIS L. DUFF, M.D., Dr. P.H.
1975 – 1978
Texas Commissioner of Health

ROBERT BERNSTEIN, M.D., Major General, United States Army, Medical Corps
January 1980 – June 1991
Texas Commissioner of Health

DAVID R. SMITH, M.D.
1992 – 1996
Texas Commissioner of Health

PATTI J. PATTERSON, M.D., M.P.H.***
1996 - 1997
Interim Texas Commissioner of Health, Oct. 1996 – Sept. 1997
1st Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Texas Department of Health from 1997 – 1999
***NOTE: Dr. Patterson was the 1st woman to serve as Commissioner, either in an interim or permanent role.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS ARCHER III, M.D.
Sept. 1997 – 2000
Texas Commissioner of Health

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAHA****
2001 – 2006
Texas Commissioner of Health, Texas Department of Health, Sept. 2001 – Aug. 2004
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services, Sept. 2004 – Oct. 2006
****NOTE: Dr. Sanchez served as during the name change of the agency.

- In September 2004, the Texas Department of Health was merged into the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Dr. Sanchez was chosen to lead the new agency. The Texas Department of State Health Services combines the former Texas Department of Health, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Texas Health Care Information Council, and the mental health component of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services since its inception in 2004

*Note: **Texas Department of State Health Services** was created by HB 2292 of the 78th Texas Legislature in 2003.*

EDUARDO J. SANCHEZ, M.D., M.P.H., FAAFP, FAHA*
Sept. 2004 – Oct. 2006
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

CHARLES E. BELL, M.D. (Interim)
(Health Services Deputy Executive Commissioner for the Texas Health and Human
Services Commission who served as Interim DSHS Commissioner)
Oct. 2006 – Dec. 2007
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
Jan. 2007 – Jan. 2015
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

KIRK COLE
Jan. 2015 – Jan. 2016
Interim Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

JOHN HELLERSTEDT, M.D.
Jan. 2016 – Sept. 30, 2022
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services

JENNIFER SHUFORD, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services – Oct. 1, 2022 – Dec.
26, 2022
Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services – Dec. 27, 2022 – Present

Timeline of Title Changes:

- In 1954, the title of *State Health Officer of Texas* was changed to *Texas Commissioner of Health*.
- In 2004, the title of *Texas Commissioner of Health* was changed to *Commissioner, Texas Department of State Health Services*.