

IOWA

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA

ASTHO Representative, Region VII

Director, Iowa Department of Public Health



Gerd Clabaugh was appointed by Governor Branstad in May 2014 as the director of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). Clabaugh has served in many capacities within IDPH, including deputy director, director of health promotion and chronic disease prevention, director of acute disease epidemiology and emergency response. During the early 1990s, he served as director of the center for health policy.

Clabaugh's responsibilities in these various programs included oversight of the delivery of services to at-risk and underserved Iowans such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Maternal and Child Health, and the I-Smile dental program to overseeing chronic disease programs, IDPH's support of all 101 local boards of health, infectious disease surveillance, immunization programming, and support of emergency medical services.

Clabaugh has experience in both state government operations and nonprofit organizations. He is the former director of operations at the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative (IHC) where he worked with Iowa hospitals in promoting infection reduction strategies. As a private consultant, he supported public health agencies in assessing community health needs, program development, planning for public health improvement, and grant writing. He has previously served as chief employee benefits manager for the state of Iowa and on the staff of Governor Terry Branstad. While director of health policy at IDPH in the mid-1990s, he was appointed by Governor Branstad as project director for a Robert Wood Johnson-funded initiative to study and implement healthcare reform in Iowa.

He is past-president and past-legislative chair of the Iowa Public Health Association, and has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Iowa, Montana State University-Billings, Des Moines University, and Iowa State University. He has been lead author or contributed to academic publications in the journals *Value in Health*, *American Journal of Medical Quality*, and *Vaccine*.

Clabaugh's community involvement includes serving on the city council and as the mayor pro tem in the city of Johnston, Iowa. He is the past-chairman of the board of directors for central Iowa's regional solid waste agency, providing services to over 400,000 Iowans.

Clabaugh has pursued doctoral studies at the University of Iowa, holds a master's degree in public administration from Iowa State University and a bachelor's degree from Drake University. He is married with four children.