

LOUISIANA

Beth Scalco, MPA

Assistant Secretary for Public Health

Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals

Beth Scalco, MSW, MPA, LCSW, served as the interim assistant secretary of the Louisiana Office of Public Health (OPH) from February 2016 until June 6, 2016 when she was appointed to this position. Prior to this, she served as the deputy assistant secretary of OPH since March 2010, which is the principal assistant to the assistant secretary of OPH. As the assistant secretary, she is responsible for directing the state's public health system, which has a budget of over \$340 million and includes 1,100 employees who are charged with protecting and promoting the health of the communities of Louisiana.

OPH's responsibilities include: monitoring the food Louisiana's residents and visitors eat; assuring the water is safe to drink; addressing chronic and communicable disease; ensuring readiness for hurricanes, disasters, and other threats; managing, analyzing, and disseminating public health data; ensuring access to vital records like birth certificates; and offering preventive health services. The organizational structure includes three centers, 15 bureaus, and over 50 programs. OPH's executive leadership also provides direction and policy guidance to administer programs, manages 70 parish health units, three specialty clinics (sexually transmitted disease, tuberculosis, and 6 WIC-only) and ensures fiscal responsibility for over 200 funding sources.

Prior to this position, Scalco served as the director of the OPH HIV/AIDS Program from 1996 to 2010. Her primary responsibility as director was to oversee the state's response to the AIDS epidemic. While serving in this capacity, she was a member of the executive committee of the National Alliance for State and Territorial Health Directors (NASTAD) from 2002 until 2006, and the organization's chair for 2004-2005. Scalco has also served as a steering committee member of the Southern AIDS Coalition and served as co-chair in 2009.

Scalco received a master's degree in social work from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1986 and a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Orleans in 2001. She has been licensed in Louisiana as a clinical social worker since 1988. Scalco is a 2011 National Public Health Leadership Institute graduate and a 2014 fellow in the Aspen's Institute's Justice and Society Program in state public health law.