Dr. Susan M. Kansagra serves as State Health Official and Assistant Secretary for Public Health for the NC Division of Public Health. In this role, she will serve as the Director of the NC Division of Public Health with oversight of nearly 1,000 staff and a $1+ billion budget.

Dr. Kansagra is a gifted physician-leader who has served in various leadership roles throughout her career. Over the last two years, Dr. Kansagra has provided leadership for NC’s COVID-19 response efforts including serving as Operations Lead through the Omicron surge. She was also the driving force behind the creation of the first NC Opioid Action Plan bringing together stakeholders around the state on a common set of actions to address the opioid crisis.

Dr. Kansagra came to NC DHHS with a wealth of experience in public health and health policy, previously serving as Deputy Commissioner of the NYC Dept of Health, as well as Assistant Vice President of Population Health for NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest public health care system in the US. She served as President of the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and is an appointed member of the CDC Community Preventive Services Task Force.

She grew up in Greenville, NC and completed her undergraduate degree at UNC-Chapel Hill, her graduate degrees at Duke University, and her medical training at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School.