

South Carolina | Brannon Traxler, MD, MPH

Acting Director

South Carolina Department of Public Health

As acting director of DPH, Dr. Traxler leads nearly 2,500 employees located in more than 90 locations across South Carolina. As deputy director of Health Promotion and Services & Chief Medical Officer, she provides strategic direction for Health Promotion and Services, overseeing the statewide efforts related to chronic disease and injury prevention, clinical services, communicable disease prevention and control, community nutrition, maternal and child health, vital statistics, and emergency preparedness and response, as well as the state's public health laboratory.



Prior to this role, Dr. Traxler served as deputy director of Health Promotion and Services & Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Traxler served as the Chief Medical Officer for the state's COVID-19 response. She is trained and board certified in general surgery and previously practiced as a surgeon in South Carolina before changing her specialty focus to public health. Traxler completed residency in general surgery at Greenville Health System (now Prisma Health Upstate) in Greenville, South Carolina, and fellowship in breast surgery at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Traxler earned her medical degree from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and her Master of Public Health degree from George Washington University. She received her undergraduate degree in microbiology at Clemson University Honors College. In spring 2022, Traxler was recognized for her leadership and dedication to public health as one of The State's 20 under 40 and became a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.

Traxler is the South Carolina State Health Official (SHO) Designee for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer on ASTHO's Board of Directors and as the Vice Chair of ASTHO's Public Health Preparedness Policy Committee, as well as participating on regional and national multidisciplinary committees focused on public health and medical preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

Traxler and her husband, Tony Roach, live in Greenville with their daughters, Lucy and Bettie, and their rescued dog, Oscar. In her spare time, she also enjoys traveling and watching baseball.