

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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October 23, 2023

**Stephen A. Jennings Appointed Jefferson County Director of Public Health**

Watertown, NY - The Jefferson County Public Health Service is pleased to announce that Stephen A. Jennings has been appointed to the position of Jefferson County Director of Public Health. Mr. Jennings' appointment becomes official on October 28, 2023, when current Director of Public Health Ginger Hall retires after 35 years of service with the department. Mr. Jennings received unanimous approval from the Jefferson County Board of Legislators at their October 3, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Jennings has been with the Jefferson County Public Health Service since 1995, serving most of those years in the position of senior Public Health Planner for the department. In January of this year, Mr. Jennings was promoted to Deputy Director of Public Health.

Mr. Jennings has served the local health department in numerous capacities. He has been responsible for completing the triennial community health assessment and community health improvement plans with partner hospitals and agencies; community and coalition development to address priority public health problems; and he has authored many successful grant applications to address problems and improve the public's health. Mr. Jennings has additionally served as the department's public information officer to handle messaging and media, as well as the department's corporate compliance officer to ensure all state and federal regulatory and legal requirements, and internal policies are complied with.

Mr. Jennings has served the County, North Country region, and New York State in various leadership capacities. Mr. Jennings was appointed to the New York State Public Health Council by Governor George E. Pataki and confirmed by the State Senate for two terms. He has also served as a member of the New York State Cancer Consortium and the New York State Oral Health Leadership Team. Locally and regionally, Mr. Jennings has served as chairman of the boards of the North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, and the Alliance for Better Communities. He has also served as president of Hospice of Jefferson County, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County.

"With his extensive public health experience, Steve is well prepared to maneuver the department through its many daily activities and any future public health events," said retiring Director of Public Health, Ginger Hall upon Mr. Jennings' appointment.

"From managing the pandemic, to beginning the process of national public health accreditation for the department, to establishing the first community paramedicine program in New York State, Ginger has worked tirelessly to measurably improve the public's health, and we will continue and expand upon her innovative work," states Mr. Jennings. "I am very excited to take up the baton from Ginger and continue her great work to advance the department and public health in our communities," said Mr. Jennings.

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