



Knox County Health Department

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917

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Contact: Kelsey Wilson
865-215-5116 office
865-257-7460 cell

Knox County Names Interim Public Health Officer

Knox County, Tenn. – Dr. Warren Sayre has been named interim public health officer for Knox County and will serve through the end of December.

The executive search firm, Baker Tilly, is conducting a nationwide search to fill the public health officer role Dr. Martha Buchanan will vacate at the end of the month. A permanent public health officer could be selected prior to the end of the year.

Dr. Sayre was selected by KCHD for this temporary role based on his extensive experience and qualifications. His selection was then approved by Tennessee Commissioner of Health Dr. Lisa Piercey.

Dr. Sayre, a board-certified physician, has a master's degree in public health from Emory University in Atlanta. During his master's program, he worked on several initiatives with the Knox County Health Department.

“The most rewarding aspect of my master’s program was working with Knox County,” said Dr. Sayre. “KCHD opened my eyes to what community health, health disparities, and environmental health really mean. The opportunity to work with KCHD in this interim role is a way I can pay back the enlightening educational experience they afforded to me.”

Dr. Sayre is currently the Corporate Health Director for Consolidated Nuclear Security at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge and will continue this work in addition to his public health officer responsibilities.

Please see the attached photos of Dr. Sayre for use in your coverage.

About Knox County Health Department

The first health department in Tennessee to achieve national voluntary accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is dedicated to ensuring the conditions in which every resident can be healthy. As a chief health strategist for the community and with more than 240 team members, KCHD’s broad scope of work includes convening partners to improve community health, identifying community health threats, investigating disease outbreaks, conducting extensive outreach and education, preparing for public health emergencies, providing and



connecting the public with medical care, enforcing food safety and air quality laws, and more. For more information, visit www.knoxcounty.org/health.

