

The logo for Panhandle Public Health District features the word "Panhandle" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below it, the words "Public Health District" are written in a smaller, black sans-serif font. The text is set against a background of two overlapping purple rectangular shapes that resemble a map outline of the Panhandle region.

Panhandle

Public Health District

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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Panhandle Public Health District (PPHD) is pleased to announce the selection of Jessica Davies as its new Health Director. Davies brings over 20 years of experience in public health, community engagement, and leadership, making her an exceptional choice to lead PPHD into its next chapter.

Davies has a strong history with PPHD, having served as the Assistant Health Director. Her tenure at PPHD has been marked by her dedication to improving community health outcomes, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Under her leadership, several key initiatives, including the expansion of worksite wellness supports, walkability initiatives, and the successful immunization program, have reached new heights, significantly impacting the health and well-being of the Panhandle community.

Davies holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she specialized in health administration and health policy. She has also been an advocate for health equity, focusing on reducing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes across the region.

"I am honored to take on the role of Health Director at PPHD," said Davies. "My commitment to the Panhandle and my passion for public health have guided my work here for many years. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with our dedicated staff, community partners, and the people of the Panhandle to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live a healthy life."

In her new role, Davies will oversee all aspects of public health services in the Panhandle region, including disease prevention, health promotion, and emergency preparedness. Her immediate priorities will include addressing the ongoing public health challenges related to accessing mental health services, cultural awareness and support, quality and accessible childcare, community education, affordable housing, and environmental health concerns.

The Board of Health expressed its confidence in Davies' ability to lead PPHD with vision and integrity.

"Jessica has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and a deep understanding of the health needs in our community. We are excited to support her in this new role and have full confidence that she will continue to advance the mission of PPHD," said Board President, Dan Kling.

As she steps into her new position, Davies will continue to champion the core values of PPHD, focusing on prevention, education, and community partnership. Her appointment is seen as a pivotal moment for the district as it navigates the evolving public health landscape.

Davies succeeds Kim Engel, who is retiring at the end of the year after a rewarding career of 21 years with PPHD. The district expresses its gratitude to Engel for her years of dedicated service and leadership.

For further information, please visit www.pphd.ne.gov. Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.