

Tonya JOINER

Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health (OPH)

Tonya Joiner has served in multiple leadership roles in the Louisiana Department of Health since 2016, most recently as deputy secretary, and before that, as chief of staff. At OPH, Tonya oversees a broad range of programming that includes preventative health, infectious diseases, WIC, family health programming, the OPH Lab, the Bureau of Community Preparedness, EMS, Engineering Services, OPH administrative offices in the nine public health regions, and all 64 parish health units.

With more than 17 years of experience driving legislation development and passage, overseeing legal and regulatory compliance, and leading public health and advocacy campaigns, Tonya brings a diverse skill set to this challenge of leading OPH. Before she served as chief of staff, Tonya served as the Department's legislative director, advising leadership on policy, legislative decision-making, and administration.

Before joining LDH, Tonya served as staff attorney for the Louisiana House of Representatives, where she provided research, policy advisement, bill drafting, and support to members of the Legislature.

Tonya earned her JD at Southern University Law Center and her Bachelor of Arts in political science and government at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

She and her husband, Nick, a firefighter for St. George Fire Department, enjoy traveling and beach time with their 11-year-old daughter, Milan.