

Biography: Susan Starkey, MPH, MS, RD

Ms. Susan Starkey is a registered dietitian and an epidemiologist with over 30 years of experience in healthcare and public health, much of it working at a senior-level management capacity in local health departments in Connecticut.

Ms. Starkey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in human nutrition at the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and a Master of Science degree in nutrition at Boston University. Sue worked in hospitals including Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston City and UMASS Memorial before returning to the UMASS/Amherst where she completed all requirements and qualifying exams for a PhD in public health, but opted for a Master of Public Health degree – the terminal degree specifically required for all Connecticut health directors. Sue majored in epidemiology – the science of public health - which uses data and logic to understand the conditions that contribute to both disease and wellness.

Sue completed an internship with the Health Resources and Services Administration – an agency of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. She attended the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention Orientation Program for New Health Officials as well as the *Effective Risk Communications* program at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Ms. Starkey is currently the Director of Health at the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) where she is responsible for the delivery of public health services to approximately 85,000 residents in 12 northeastern Connecticut towns spanning over 438 square miles.

NDDH focus areas include chronic disease prevention and control through behavioral, environmental and policy change; communicable disease control, oral health, fall prevention, and emergency preparedness. Environmental health efforts include programs services and enforcement activities to ensure safe land and water and prevent lead poisoning and food borne illness

Ms. Starkey has conducted presentations to audiences at the local, state and national level including the Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut, the Connecticut Public Health Association and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. She

implemented a semi-annual reception for NDDH board members and town leaders that showcases the good work of all NDDH employees. As a dietitian she has spent years developing and delivering health education to individuals and groups including patients, health care providers and community groups. She prepares risk communication messages at NDDH and has conducted risk communications training in CT. Sue continues to educate policy makers and advocate for legislation, and laws to protect people and the environment.

Sue has served as the Chair of the Eastern CT Regional Emergency Preparedness Coalition. She is a board member of the CT Office of Rural Health and the New England Rural Health Association. She sits on the CT Department of Public Health Ten Essential Services Delivery Committee. She participated in the CT Department of Public Health 2019-2024 Strategic Planning Process, contributed to the State Oral Health Plan and serves in an advisory capacity for the development of the DataHaven Community Survey.