



Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Thomas O'Toole, MD

Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health
Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Health
Veterans Health Administration



Effective August 3, 2025, Thomas O'Toole, MD, was appointed as Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health (DUSH) within the Office of the DUSH. In this role, he will deliver executive oversight for all policies and programs within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Prior to this appointment, he served as Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health (AUSH) for Clinical Services as well as Acting Chief Medical Officer, serving over 9 million enrolled Veterans annually at over 1,700 sites of care in the nation's largest integrated healthcare system. In 2021, Dr. O'Toole was selected for the Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health (DAUSH) for Clinical Services position. Before this role, he served as a Senior Medical Advisor within the Office of the AUSH for Clinical Operations and Director of the National Center for Homelessness where he served as the founding Director of the Homeless Veterans Patient Aligned Care Team (H-PACT) Program.

Prior to joining VHA Central Office, Dr. O'Toole, served as Chief of Primary Care at the Providence VA Medical Center (VAMC). He is a General Internist based at the Providence VAMC in Rhode Island where he is also a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at Brown University. He has previously served as a faculty member at University of Pittsburgh, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown University. His health services research over the past 32 years has focused on the needs of vulnerable and underserved populations, medical education, and health systems design. Dr. O'Toole was the Principal Investigator on grants from National Institutes of Health, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, private foundations, and VA Health Services Research & Development. He has over 100 papers, peer-reviewed articles and book chapters published. In 2016, Dr. O'Toole was a finalist for the National Samuel J. Heyman Service to America award. He completed the VHA Healthcare Leadership Development Program in 2015.

VA CAREER CHRONOLOGY:

2025 – Present	Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health, VHA
2025 – 2025	Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, VHA
2021 – Present	Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, VHA Deputy Chief Medical Advisor, Office of the AUSH for Clinical Operations, VHA
2018 – 2021	Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the AUSH for Clinical Operations, VHA
2017 – 2018	Acting Senior Medical Advisor, Office of the AUSH for Clinical Operations, VHA
2016 – 2018	Director, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, VHA
2011 – 2018	National Director, Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (H-PACT) Program, VHA
2007 – 2014	Associate Chief of Staff -Education, Providence VA Medical Center, VHA
2006 – 2011	Chief of Primary Care, Providence VA Medical Center, VHA

EDUCATION:

2018	Federal Senior Executive Series (SES)
2015	VHA Health Care Leadership Development Program, Class of 2015a
1994	American Board of Internal Medicine Diplomate 1
1991	Doctor of Medicine, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

