

About the Director
Paula M. Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H.

Paula Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H. has been the Director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County since April 2008. Prior to her current position, Dr. Thaqi was the Director of the Highlands County Health Department in Sebring, Florida from 2001 to 2008.

Before coming to Florida, Dr. Thaqi spent 3.5 years working in Kosovo (former Yugoslavia) during the pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict period, starting with various non-governmental organizations and ending with nearly a year as a program manager for the United Nations World Health Organization. Before she worked abroad, Dr. Thaqi was an attending physician in the pediatric emergency room at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York from 1993-1997.

Dr. Thaqi received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Brooklyn College in 1986, then went on to earn an M.D. from SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn. Dr. Thaqi completed her pediatric residency training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in 1993 and earned a Master's Degree in Public Health at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, with an emphasis in Maternal and Child Health in developing countries in 1997.

She was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society in 1988 and was awarded the American Medical Women's Association Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Award for graduating first in her class in medical school in 1990. Dr. Thaqi holds membership in the Florida Medical Association, Broward County Medical Association, National Association of City and County Health Officers (NACCHO) and is a Board member of the Children's Services Council of Broward County, the Broward Healthy Start Coalition and the South Florida Board of the American Heart Association.

Her philosophy is to encourage staff to develop to their full capacity and empower them to carry out the Florida Department of Health mission and vision utilizing the strategies established in the agency strategic plan.