

Dr. Sarah Moyer with husband Jed and twin boys James (left) and Landon (right)



Photo by Amber Elder

Meet Dr. Sarah Moyer

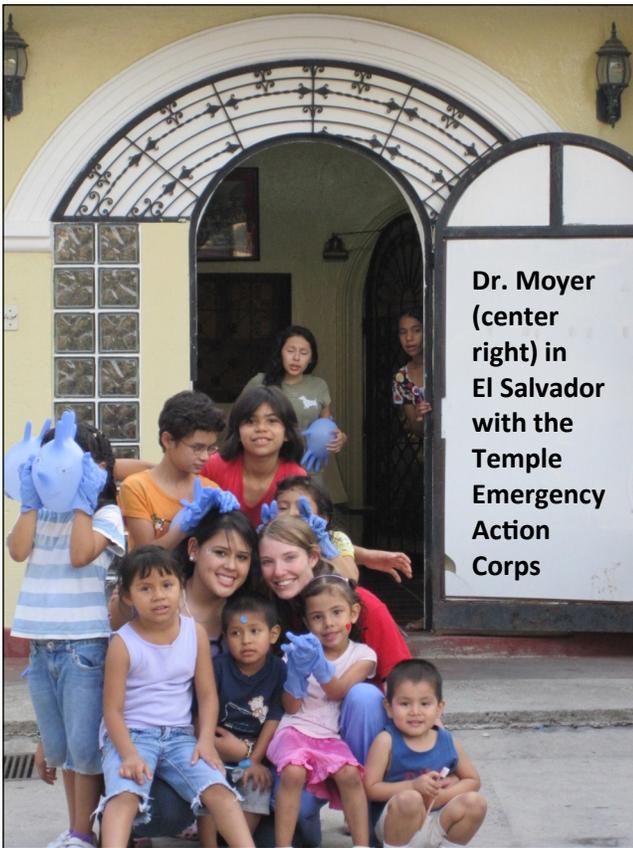
Dr. Sarah Moyer joined the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness as its medical director in January. She also now is serving as the department's interim director following the January departure of Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, who left to become the director of the Washington D.C. Department of Health.

Dr. Moyer continues to serve on the faculty of the University of Louisville School of Medicine in the Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine, where she is an assistant professor and the director of quality improvement. She also works with Louisville's two Teenage Parent Program (TAPP) schools - schools de-

signed to give teen moms the support they need to be good parents and to graduate from high school.

"I have the best of both worlds," said Dr. Moyer. "I get to impact the health of many more people by working on health policy issues at Public Health and Wellness. Yet I still get the hands-on interaction with patients, medical students, and residents at U of L about 30% of the time."

Dr. Moyer brings an acute mind coupled with a passion for serving others to her work here in Louisville. She grew up in Northbrook, Illinois just outside of Chicago, and graduated cum laude from Colorado College, a small liberal arts college in Colorado Springs.



It was there that her interest in public service took hold, and where she started to become interested in medicine. "I was a physics major," said Dr. Moyer. "As part of the physics program I shadowed a medical physicist, but I soon realized that I liked what the physicians were doing better."

Before entering medical school, Dr. Moyer earned a Master's in Public Health with honors from Dartmouth. During her time there she spent a month in Tanzania conducting research on whether it was feasible for the medical school to manufacture its own HIV medications for the people it was serving. Many of the medications at that time were coming from China and India. "I've always been interested in travel," she said, "and in getting to know new cultures."

Dr. Moyer's other projects at Dartmouth included a critical assessment of ovarian cancer screening in high risk women, a feasibility study for the Vermont legislature on implementing a patient-centered electronic health record system, a quality improvement study

for the Palliative Care Center of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, and a grant proposal for preventing obesity in elementary school children in Windsor, Vermont.

Dr. Moyer earned her medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, where she formed Temple's Emergency Action Corps and worked in disaster areas throughout Central and South America after such first responder agencies as the Red Cross had left. She served in Honduras, El Salvador and Bolivia in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

During her time at Temple, she also worked on issues surrounding childhood obesity in rural Oregon and spent time in Kayenta, Arizona providing medical care on a Navajo Indian Reservation. In 2010 she was honored for "Excellence in Family Medicine" by the Philadelphia Academy of Family Physicians.

In 2012 Dr. Moyer did a resident rotation in Lilongwe, Malawi with Partners for Hope. She worked as a physician in a free HIV clinic and inpatient ward in Malawi's capital city. She also rotated through rural community sites treating patients with AIDS and complications, TB, malaria, diarrheal diseases, pneumonia, trauma, hypertension and diabetes.

Dr. Moyer did a Family Medicine Residency at the Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston Salem North Carolina. "I continued to be drawn to family medicine," said Dr. Moyer, "because it allows me to work with patients of all ages on both the physical and social factors that affect their lives."

At Wake Forest Dr. Moyer worked with federally qualified health centers throughout the Winston Salem area, helping to transform community clinics into patient centered medical homes. She also lobbied the North Carolina legislature in support of a statewide Medicaid system. In 2012 she was named "Outstanding Resident" by the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.

During my residency I was also able to develop the skills I needed to be involved in public health organizations as a family physician. I also gained a basic understanding of health care finance and different payment models,” said Dr. Moyer.

In late 2013 Dr. Moyer came to Louisville when her husband Jed accepted a fellowship in non-operative pediatrics with Norton Healthcare. “We liked Louisville and decided to stay,” she said. They have since expanded their family and have one-year-old twin boys.

Dr. Moyer serves on the Performance Measure Task Force for University of Louisville Physicians and on the Clinical Affairs, Quality Improvement and Chronic Care Committees of the University of Louisville Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine.

Last year Dr. Moyer interviewed then Louisville health director, Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt, for an article that would appear in the *Journal of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physicians*. The article discussed why the health department was cutting back on some services in order to promote patient-centered medical homes

as the best places for patients to receive comprehensive primary care and preventive health services. “We seemed to connect,” said Dr. Moyer. “The next week Dr. Nesbitt called and asked me if I’d be interested in the medical director job.”

“I’m delighted to be at the Department of Public Health and Wellness,” she added. “We know that about 20% of a person’s health is the result of direct clinical interventions. The other 80% results from socioeconomic factors and from health policy. Working with patients gives me the chance to impact that 20% and working in public health allows me to get at the other 80%.”

“I’m struck with just how much the health department does and its potential impact on the people it serves,” said Dr. Moyer. “We need to close the gap between public health and clinical medicine to improve the health of our patients.”

Dr. Moyer can be reached at Sarah.Moyer@louisvilleky.gov or [@LouMetroHealth](https://twitter.com/LouMetroHealth).



Dr. Moyer (center left) in Honduras with Temple's Emergency Action Corps