Biographies for DTSC Oversight Hearing

Meredith Williams - Director

Meredith Williams has served as the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control since December 2019 where she has shaped new policies to improve DTSC's transparency and accountability. She champions equity and inclusive processes for the department's decision making in order to protect California's most vulnerable communities.

Meredith joined DTSC in 2013 to lead the implementation of California's groundbreaking Safer Consumer Products Program to reduce toxic chemicals in consumer products. Before joining DTSC, Meredith held a number of leadership positions at the technology sector and for the nonprofit San Francisco Estuary Institute, a nationally recognized center for science in support of aquatic resource management.

She has expertise in research and development, product management, and operations for Fortune 500 companies in the technology, consumer product, and chemical sectors, including 3M and Applied Materials.

Jeanne Rizzo -- Board Chair Appointee, Governor Appointed

Jeanne Rizzo's eclectic background in medicine, the arts, administration, and activism has uniquely equipped her to chair California's inaugural Board of Environmental Safety.

Jeanne began her professional career as a psychiatric nurse in New York and moved to northern California to run the psychiatric unit of Marin General Hospital. She started as a volunteer with the San Fracisco-based Breast Cancer Fund and eventually lead the organization – it was later renamed Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP).

In Jeanne's tenure from 2001 to 2018, BCPP issued multiple scientific reports and advanced public policy changes in San Francisco, the state of California, and in federal law – including the labeling of chemicals in toys, the launch of Biomonitoring California, and dramatic reductions in the amount of radiation used in mammograms.

Jeanne also co-founded the Cancer Free Economy Network, chaired the California Breast Cancer Research Program, and co-chaired the National Institutes of Health's Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee.

Jeanne was appointed chair of the Board of Environmental Safety by Governor Newsom, with whom she worked closely when he was mayor of San Francisco.