

Tony E. Welch, SHRM-SCP
District HR Director, Georgia Department of Public Health

Tony Welch is a seasoned healthcare executive with a career spanning hospital administration and human resources leadership across the Southeast. Beginning in a steel fabrication shop, Tony quickly found his calling in healthcare, advancing through roles including HR Director, Vice President of HR, and Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) in various health systems. He has also led ancillary and support services across multiple sites.

Tony is known for his strategic, crisis-tested leadership, having guided organizations through hospital startups, mergers, leadership transitions, and high-stakes events such as mass casualty incidents, workplace violence, and pandemic response. He brings a deep operational understanding to the HR function, viewing himself as a healthcare executive with HR expertise.

Most recently, Tony served as Senior Vice President and CHRO at Phoebe Putney Health System during the height of the COVID-19 crisis. He currently serves as District HR Director for the Georgia Department of Public Health in Augusta.

Tony holds a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina and a Master's in Management from Webster University. He is SHRM-SCP certified, a former SPHR, and a former Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. His work has been featured in ASHHRA publications, and he is guided by the principles of being data-driven, people-focused, and results-oriented.