

Connections

WINNER OF THE NATIONAL
PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION
COALITION'S GOLD AWARD

Bringing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services employees closer together

October 2008
VOLUME 8, ISSUE 10

Help is on the way!



Photo: Jerry Crisp

These DHHS employees were among the first in the nation to respond to Louisiana's plea for help in processing disaster food stamps for its victims of hurricanes and flooding. Once they got to New Orleans, they found their brightly striped vests made it easier to find each other in the crowded Convention Center. Front row left to right: **Crickett Phelps** (Dakota City); **Dalene Krebs** (Lincoln); Cynthia Hartley (Lincoln); **Mickey Kotlarz** (Omaha), **Sonia Diaz** (Omaha); **Sheila Loguda** (Omaha); **Margaret Ahola** (Crete) and **Stacy Brown** (Chadron); Back row left to right: **John Butler** (Lincoln); **Josue Cabral** (Omaha); **David Loguda** (Omaha); **Donna Hajek** (North Platte) and **Margie Hoffman** (York). [More on page 2!](#)



Nancy Montanez Johner was one of the speakers at the 2008 World Day on the Mall. [Story the on page 10!](#)

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DHHS in the News Update...

Here are a few headlines of news releases recently issued by Communications & Legislative Services about DHHS programs. A full text of all releases is available under "Newsroom" on the DHHS Web site. Go to www.dhhs.ne.gov, clicking on the "Newsroom" link and then on "New Releases." Listen to sound bites issued with releases.

[Nebraska Celebrates Employ Older Workers Week](#) September 19

[Health and Human Services Workers Assist Relief Efforts in Louisiana](#)
September 11

[Project Helps People Live "Wherever They Choose"](#) September 8

[Time to Check for Head Lice](#) September 2

Have a story idea you think DHHS should be sharing with media? Contact Communications & Legislative Services at (402) 471-9108!

About the cover...

Thirteen Children & Family Services Division employees from across the state boarded two vehicles and departed from Lincoln's Central Office to aid victims of Hurricane Gustav in the Gulf coast. Nebraska was the first state in the nation to help—another example of *helping people live better lives*. These DHHS employees are experienced in processing disaster food stamps. They helped victims of Nebraska's severe spring storms and flooding receive emergency food stamp assistance.

[For more on this dramatic story, see pages 4 & 5!](#)

make the connection . . .

DHHS Public Web site: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov>

DHHS Employee Web site: <http://www2.dhhs.ne.gov>

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Connections can be made available in an alternative format for those with disabilities. Requests will be filled within 15 working days. Prior consent has been obtained for this publication to identify and publish photos of all individuals receiving DHHS services.

EOE/AA/ADA

Wellness Words: Myth-Information!

Many ideas about health have been repeated so often that we accept them as so...even when they're not. Here's a widely-believed myth you need to know the truth about!

"If you go outside in cold weather with wet hair, you'll catch a cold!"

Believed to be the culprits for countless generations, cold weather and wet hair aren't responsible for people causing colds. Viruses are to blame.

If people catch colds more often during wintertime, it's because these viruses are spread more easily indoors, where we come into contact with dry air and people with colds. Since dry air—indoors or out—can lower a person's resistance to infection, it's probably a good idea to use a humidifier in your home.

If you are sick, going outside in cold weather will add stress to your body trying to keep warm. That doesn't make you sick, but if you're already sick, it might take you longer to get better.



Christine Peterson (left) with Administrative Assistant **Bonnie Engel**

Photo: Bill Wiley

October is State Employee Recognition Month

Nebraskans have high expectations for state government and for state employees.

I'm proud to be the CEO of an agency where people are proud to be state employees and want to serve others through our health and human services programs.

I want to recognize all of you for your dedication and professionalism. It's an honor to serve with you.

And, of course, I want to congratulate the DHHS employees who are being honored this month through our State of Nebraska Recognition program, including our Employees of the Year, Managers of the Year, and those who have reached Length of Service milestones.

Information in this issue of *Connections* exemplifies your work ethic and commitment to *helping people live better lives*. These aren't empty words.

Helping people is what you do every day, whether you're providing safety to abused and/or neglected children or vulnerable adults; educating and protecting people through public health efforts; serving those in need of 24-hour facility care; assisting the elderly, poor and those with disabilities; or working behind the scenes to support all of those efforts.

Each day, the Department impacts the lives of thousands of people. That really is an awesome responsibility.

Thank you all for *helping people live better lives*.

Answering the call again!

DHHS provides emergency Food Stamp Disaster Relief for Gulf Coast hurricane victims

By Jerry Crisp

After doing the same for victims of severe weather and flooding in Nebraska last summer, DHHS employees provided emergency Food Stamp Disaster Relief for victims of Hurricane Gustav in September. The federal disaster food stamp program is designed to put food back on the table for low-income families who experience losses from flooding and power outages.

On September 12th, 13 employees from the Division of Children and Family Services from around the state left Lincoln for Louisiana. Some of the people being deployed had provided aid after Hurricane Katrina and helped after some of the recent damaging spring storms in Nebraska.

The group left at 9:00 Friday morning and arrived in New Orleans about 8:00 the next evening. The team assisted for three weeks.

The first day at the convention center, Economic Assistance Program Specialist **Cynthia Hartley** reported to supervisor **Trish Bergman** that about 200 Convention Center staff distributed Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards to long lines until cards ran out. After that, staff took about 10,000 applications for emergency Food Stamp benefits. With staff working 13-hour days, she said that “the 13 DHHS employees on site are tired but doing well.”



(Above) Members of the DHHS Louisiana disaster relief group leave the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln during a heavy downpour and head for vehicles waiting to take them to New Orleans. (Below) Louisiana-bound employees load a van while Cynthia Hartley, Economic Assistance Program Manager with the Division of Children & Family Services, answers questions from Lincoln’s KOLN-TV and Omaha’s KETV reporters. *Photos: Jerry Crisp*

Hartley also reported that at first there was no food or water at the convention center, and that staff had to leave on breaks to eat. Before the weekend was over, water was being provided.

A week later, Hartley reported that work hours had been cut to 10 hours a day, and that long lines had been replaced by “a steady stream of people at all times.” She also said that “a large number of eligibility workers made it

EMERGENCY RELIEF, PAGE 5

EMERGENCY RELIEF

FROM PAGE 4

possible for applicants to be seen right away.”

From September 9 through 23, Hartley estimates that they served approximately 80,000 of the estimated 380,000 eligible households in Louisiana. During the second week, the Nebraska delegation was divided into two groups and relocated from the convention center to smaller sites in the West Jefferson and Algiers Parishes.

The DHHS group received numerous comments from others on site about how admirable it is that Nebraska provided assistance.

“We have a well-trained work force, and I’m proud of these employees for responding to another state’s need,” said **Todd Landry**, Director of the Division of Children and Family Services.

“We learned how devastating power outages can be after several Nebraska communities were hit by summer storms, leaving thousands temporarily without electricity,” said **Governor Dave Heineman** in a news release on September 11. “I want to thank each state employee who deployed to lend a hand to communities and people in need.”

Recent disaster relief efforts testify both to DHHS preparedness and to the commitment of DHHS employees to respond to emergency needs.



(Top) Hurricane Gustav moves inland from the Gulf of Mexico.

(Center) A common scene in many Gulf Coast communities as people search for survivors and assess storm and flood damage.

(Right) People come to the convention center in New Orleans seeking disaster relief.

Photo: Crickett Phelps



DHHS Employees/Supervisors- Managers of the Year!

DHHS is proud to announce the 2008 Employees/Managers of the Year. State agencies are allowed to select one Employee and Manager/Supervisor of the Year for every 500 people employed by the agency.

Employees of the Year



Steve Breault

Steve Breault, Activity Specialist, has taken a leadership role in shaping the pre-vocational class at the Hastings Regional Center. When the class took on laundry and cafeteria duties, he helped establish procedures. When a youth has a vocational interest, he plans job skill activities and arranges visits to work sites and the community college.

He also helps youth register for selective service, study for driver's license exams and complete resumes. Steve is an excellent mentor who encourages youth and provides the tools they need to succeed.



Daniel Powers

A Program Specialist and Consumer Liaison in the Division of Behavioral Health in Lincoln, **Daniel Powers** has risen to national prominence through advocating for recognition, integration and acceptance for people in recovery from mental illness and substance abuse. He coordinates Nebraska's PATH grant, the state's support service

delivery for people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, and helped make a national consumer memorial in Washington, DC, a reality.



Jeremy Warner

Jeremy Warner, provisionally licensed psychologist, performs all psychology functions for the Beatrice State Developmental Center's Bridges Program on the Hasting Regional Center campus. With a strong work ethic, high standards and commitment to a team approach, he settles for nothing less than 100% effort. Gathering

input from all team members including the consumer, he involves all in program development and shared success.



Doug Fuller

Doug Fuller, Emergency Medical Services Specialist, coordinates the EMS/Trauma Program in the southeast region for the Division of Public Health. He has contributed significantly to implementing a state-of-the-art electronic patient data collection system for pre-hospital providers. More than 80% of Nebraska's 381 licensed transport ambulance services have now converted to electronic reporting. This has saved DHHS and EMS pre-hospital providers time and money. That data is now used to enhance patient care. Also through Doug's efforts, federal grants will provide automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) to 172 rural communities to treat those who experience sudden cardiac arrest.



Paul Richard

A Maintenance Specialist at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home in Scottsbluff, **Paul Richard** cares for the facility as if it were his own home. He follows projects through to completion, maintains high quality standards, and has been in charge of the Maintenance Department when his supervisor was absent. With skills that include electrical, plumbing, carpentry, painting, landscaping and lawn irrigation, he gives prompt attention to maintenance issues and willingly cross-trains co-workers to enhance their skills and better serve both members and staff.



Judy Shuda

Judy Shuda, Administrative Secretary to the Grand Island Veterans' Home's Maintenance Department, has a love for veterans that prompts her to make recommendations to make members' lives more comfortable and happier. The facility's Safety Coordinator, she assists with Veterans Administration and Fire Marshal inspectors, from whom she earns commendations. As coordinator for environmental rounds, she documents and records notes, and develops a repair schedule spreadsheet for the maintenance specialist for repairs.



Tina Zegers

An Information Technology Business Systems Analyst for DHHS Operations who works with Child Support Enforcement, **Tina Zegers** helps bridge the gap between state and local government. Her knowledge of computer systems is unparalleled. When enhancements are made in the CHARTS system, she makes applications accessible to all involved. She is the go-to person when something needs to be repaired and can't be fixed in the usual way. The ultimate beneficiaries of her work are children and families who receive support to which they are entitled.



Barb Ohnoutka

A Business System Analyst with the Division of Children and Family Services in the State Office Building in Lincoln, **Barb Ohnoutka** works on the N-FOCUS project and is dedicated to her work. With re-authorization of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program in 2006, many changes were needed in policy, the N-FOCUS system and an almost total rewrite of an extensive federal report. Barb assisted the TANF team in this huge undertaking. She has also developed a close relationship with the regional federal office staff to assist Nebraska in making its reports more accurate.



Melanie Auxier

A Child & Family Services Specialist for the Eastern Service Area officed in the Nebraska State Office Building in Omaha, **Melanie Auxier** went beyond the call of duty as case manager for a state ward who had been in state custody since 2004. Concerned about his safety, several previous case managers tried diligently but unsuccessfully to find the missing youth. Within 30 days, Melanie confirmed the youth's whereabouts and gained custody of the youth and a sibling. Her dedication to clients and willingness to assist others in coverage and professional development are highly valued.



Allison Wilson

A Program Coordinator with the Division of Children & Family Services in Lincoln's State Office Building, **Allison Wilson** is well-organized, supportive and results-oriented. She shepherds many assignments in which outcomes are integrally related to funding and federal approval. She was one of two asked to write the State's Program Improvement Plan and was able to bridge gaps, obtain consensus, and assist with developing a plan approved by federal officials and now implemented across the state. She coordinates audits for the Division's federally required Children and Family Services Review and is always on the lookout for ways to streamline processes and support people.



Diana Blythe

is also active in the community.

Diana Blythe, Social Service Worker in the Beatrice office, advocates for accurate benefits and dignity and respect for clients. A team leader and mentor, her strengths include problem-solving, creativity, and time-saving ideas. Involved with the Food Stamp Southeast Accuracy Team (SEAT) and the area's Disaster Response Team, she

Supervisors of the Year



Kim McFarland

Knowledgeable and resourceful, she contributes to the Division's efficiency and effectiveness. Division employees consider themselves lucky to have her as a co-worker, mentor and friend.

An Administrative Assistant within the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Lincoln office, **Kim McFarland** has strengths that include sensitivity to others' needs and the ability to connect person-to-person. Her skills allow her to relate to and communicate effectively with people with developmental disabilities, advocates, and co-workers.



Anita Haumont

learned about the benefits of their contributions, charitable giving substantially increased. She is also instrumental in arranging the annual IMPROV camp for youth, Anita's eye for detail, work ethic and dedication are exemplary.

A Recreation Assistant at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center at Geneva, **Anita Haumont** excels in communication skills, dependability and relationship-building. During the past year, she has taken on the added duty of First Aid/CPR instructor and directed the facility's Charitable Giving Campaign. Ensuring that all staff



Irene Hirschman

Irene Hirschman, Nurse Supervisor at the Lincoln Regional Center, is called a "great communicator." She keeps staff well informed and provides ongoing updates about clients. She not only cares about staff but is always willing to help, especially with patients exhibiting challenging behaviors. She knows every aspect of nursing needs and has solid

ethics and great judgment that employees want to emulate. Above all, Irene is always passionate about doing things right.



John Kroll

While continuing his duties as Director of Nursing, John also took on interim duties as Facility Operating Officer and did a fine job of managing the hospital.



Delvin Koch

The Qualified Mental Retardation Professional Manager at the Beatrice State Developmental Center, **Delvin Koch** also performs administrative functions for the Active Treatment Administrator position. Beginning as a direct care provider, later serving as a Psychological Services Assistant and advancing to supervisory positions as QMRP and Team Leader, he has demonstrated leadership skills in each position. His commitment to excellence and dedication to a team approach are obvious to anyone fortunate enough to work with him, and he willingly devotes long hours implementing Plans of Correction he helped design.



Cindy Kadavy

Cindy Kadavy is an administrator within the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care in Lincoln's Central Office. Cindy supervises an area that serves persons who are elderly or have disabling conditions and need ongoing services through nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for those with mental retardation, home health, personal assistance and hospice. She oversaw the startup of the federal Money Follows the Person initiative to encourage transition of people from facilities to home-based and community-based settings. Cindy makes a habit of incorporating logic, consistency and efficiency in policy decisions as she and her staff implement new approaches to streamline processes and promote positive outcomes in a fiscally responsible way.

The Health Program Manager for the Environmental Health Section within the Division of Public Health, **Tom Christopherson** encourages staff to use their experience in the water well industry more as teachers than enforcers. He



Tom Christopherson

has helped create a working atmosphere that makes one proud to be part of the Water Well Standards Program. He has been instrumental in leading a project that has produced ground-breaking research showing how grout performs underground. This research will affect how water wells are constructed in the future and is being followed by other states. Tom works with staff to set attainable goals and then encourages them to apply personal skills to get the job done.



Brenda Knutson

Brenda Knutson, Director of Nursing at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home in Bellevue, cares deeply about vulnerable adults in general and veterans in particular. A recent challenge was helping to keep two facilities operational for several hours during transfer of members from their former home in Omaha to their new home in Bellevue, 27 miles away. Her planning was flawless, and the move was smooth for all involved.



Kari Calvillo

Kari Calvillo, Nurse Director/Associate at the Norfolk Veterans' Home, lives the facility motto of "Members Living Well." This is shown in her commitment to the care of each individual member that earns her the trust of both members and staff. Kari exhibits her ability to be Charge Nurse, assist the Medical Director with member rounds, and respond to any need and meet any challenge with a level of professionalism that is second to none.



Bradley Gianakos

Bradley Gianakos, an attorney with Legal Services for DHHS Operations in Lincoln, provides leadership and a calm and steady role model to those he supervises. While offering the management needed for staff to deliver effective legal services, he is a selfless, can-and-will-do attorney who brings a wealth of experience with DHHS programs to his new role as General Counsel section leader. His experience in child protection and public health and many working relationships he established as a hard-working advocate serves him well. With a clear understanding of the law and the agency he serves, he also understands people and never asks those he supervises to do more than he would do himself. Brad's experience and intellect serve the agency well.



Brenda Brooks

Brenda Brooks, the Children & Family Services Supervisor in the Western Service Area in the North Platte office, is a catalyst to change for families in difficult situations. She lets them know their input is valued, gives them hope and remains committed to their progress. When families are faced with safety issues, she is honest but not judgmental. When co-worker workloads are heavy, she is the first to offer help. When getting the Child Advocacy Center up and running, she assisted with training and community awareness. She sets the bar high for herself and inspires others to do the same.

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Mary Eman

Mary Eman, the Service Coordination Supervisor in the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Holdrege office, positively impacts persons with developmental disabilities statewide through serving on the quality assurance committee. She shared her expertise by helping develop new Individual Program Plan format forms and a quality assurance review process. She also assisted with developing a statewide training program for Service Coordinators. Those whose efforts she oversees benefit from her vast knowledge, strong advocacy and innovative thinking.

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A Youth Security Supervisor at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center at Kearney, **Brian Long** has a positive, caring attitude and is never too busy to listen to youth and staff concerns. He's fair and never asks others to do what he wouldn't do himself. His leadership has led to a strong nucleus of staff who have enhanced campus

security. He also continues to conduct tornado emergency preparedness training that keeps the facility ready for any weather emergency. Brian is part of the glue that helps hold everything together.



Tami Osborne

Tami Osborne, the Children & Family Services Supervisor in the Northern Service Area in the DHHS O'Neill office, volunteered to train Tribal staff members from the Santee, Winnebago and Omaha Child Protective Services Programs. She puts her creativity to work when designing ways to motivate and challenge her staff to better serve children and their families. She communicates often with employees to acknowledge the quality of their contributions. Her knowledge and experience is a vital resource for staff and the children and families they serve.

Tami Osborne, the Children & Family Services Supervisor in the Northern Service Area in the DHHS O'Neill office, volunteered to train Tribal staff members from the Santee, Winnebago and Omaha Child Protective Services Programs. She puts her creativity to work when designing ways to motivate and challenge her staff to better serve children and their families. She communicates often with employees to acknowledge the quality of their contributions. Her knowledge and experience is a vital resource for staff and the children and families they serve.



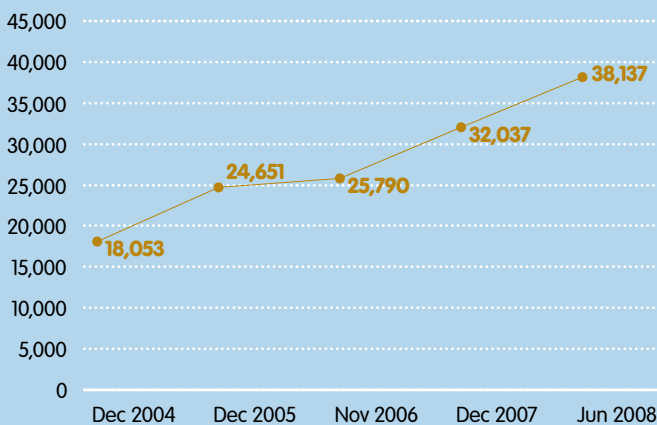
Carolyn Pendrell

Carolyn Pendrell, Social Services Supervisor for the Eastern Service Area office in Omaha, sets an example of superior customer service. Her leadership contributes directly to the quality of work provided by the Employment First (EF) team she oversees. She has made contributions to increase the Food Stamp accuracy rate and the work participation rate for EF participants. Her solid reasoning and sound judgment make her an invaluable asset to both EF and DHHS.

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Congratulations to these Employees/Managers-Supervisors of the Year and to all DHHS employees, managers and supervisors yet to be so honored for *helping people live better lives*.

Average Page Views and Downloads Per Day



Good Things Are Happening!

In December 2004, the average number of page views and downloads on the DHHS Web site totaled just over 18,000 per day. As this chart shows, that number has nearly doubled over the past 3.5 years to 38,137 per day. Activity on the site has grown twice as fast in the first six months of 2008 than in most previous full calendar years.

DHHS Webmaster **Greg Votava** attributes these skyrocketing stats to a new design, more user-friendly navigation, simplified language and the ability for people to subscribe to content, creating more consistent return visits — yet another example of DHHS ongoing outreach to clients, customers and the general public!



Photo: Mike Shullaw

World Day on the Mall

2008 marks the 11th year of World Day on the Mall—an annual extravaganza to honor state employees and celebrate diversity and acceptance of all people.

Held on Centennial Mall just north of the State Capitol, the event is hosted by DAS State Personnel and DHHS with help from several state agencies. It is sponsored in part by a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council and contributions from local businesses.

Those attending World Day enjoyed tasty ethnic cuisines and the talents of “Son Del Liano,” a group reviving classic musical sounds of 1950s and ‘60s Havana, original salsa and elegant boleros.

Also performing was “The Executive Steel Band,” as well as an award-winning step team from Lincoln Southeast High School.

Nancy Montanez Johner was one of the presenters of “Loving Your Family—Feeding Their Future” in the State Office Building in Lincoln on September 9. Former Director of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Johner is Under Secretary for Food,



Son Del Liano

Photo: Mike Shullaw

Nutrition and Consumer Services with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lieutenant Governor **Rick Sheehy** was keynote speaker at World Day's opening ceremony [*photo at right*]. He called World Day on the Mall "a great tradition helping celebrate the diversity represented by Nebraska's peoples and cultures."

The Lieutenant Governor concluded his remarks by saying, "We must be able to utilize all of our available resources—especially our human resources, and the hard-working men and women of all backgrounds who call this state home... Today's celebration is part of our recognition that Nebraska's growing diversity is something that has the potential to make great contributions to our value as a state and our ability to forge a prosperous future for our children and grandchildren."

World Day's Planning Committee represents a multi-agency collaboration and includes representatives from DHHS, State Personnel, Department of Education, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, Department of Roads, State Patrol, Department of Agriculture, Mexican-American Commission, Worker's Compensation Court, and members-at-large. The Planning Committee is co-chaired by **Roxanne Rediger** and **Charles Roberson** of Administrative Services—State Personnel.



Photo: Jerry Crisp

Happenings!

Photos spotlighting DHHS activities around the state



SHAKEN BABY SIMULATORS

Five seconds of shaking is all it takes to damage a baby's brain and cause lifelong problems or even death.

"Infants and young children are susceptible to Shaken Baby Syndrome because their heads are bigger than their bodies and their shoulders and neck muscles are underdeveloped," says **Yolanda Nuncio**, administrator of the Central Service Area.

The DHHS Grand Island office now has two new Shaken Baby Syndrome Simulators, donated by the Saint Francis Foundation. The simulators are infant-size dolls with a clear head and face. They cry and can be held and rocked – and shaken. When the doll is shaken, different sections of the 'brain' light up and show potential damage to memory, speech, vision, emotions or arm and leg movements.

"We'll use the simulators to train staff; at team, parenting and foster parenting meetings; and during home visits," said Nuncio. "It gives us a chance to share alternatives for coping with a crying baby."

Nuncio said those alternative include laying the baby down on his/her back in a crib, going to another room for a short break, or taking deep breaths and counting slowly to 10.

Photo courtesy of RealityWorks



HOT WAX, COOL ART!

Take molten beeswax, paint pigment and a dose of creativity, and you have a successful encaustic art activity at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center in Geneva (YRTC-G). Lincoln artist **Margaret Berry** spent 20 hours of one week teaching 44 YRTC-Geneva girls and 18 staff members encaustic wax art. Encaustic wax can be molded, sculpted, textured and combined with collage materials by fusing colors in wax to a surface with a hot iron.

"I was impressed with the girls' problem-solving skills and creativity while working in a new medium," said **Elizabeth Mattox**, Chemical Dependency Training Specialist at YRTC-Geneva. Having seen Berry at a Nebraska Arts Council workshop last fall, Mattox arranged for the artist-in-residence visit.

Berry is the only encaustic instructor in a 5-state area and thinks YRTC-Geneva is the only facility of its kind in the U.S. to offer it. Her residency was funded in part by a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council.

Photo: Mary Stofer

If you have a photo of a DHHS activity you'd like to share with co-workers across the state, contact *Connections* by any means listed in the editorial box on page 2, and we'll publish as many as space allows.

Front Liners

There are thousands of stories to be told about DHHS employees who deliver direct customer services that *help people live better lives*. This is only one of them.

By Jerry Crisp

Jan Wagner has a no-nonsense, businesslike way about her that leaves room for a twinkle in her eye—qualities that help her do her work as Administrative Assistant in Legal Services, a job she’s been doing for more than a dozen years.

In addition to the usual office duties typical for any Administrative Assistant, Jan’s primary focus is on the Division of Public Health (where she worked for almost a decade before coming to Legal Services). When she arrives in the morning, she checks her calendar for scheduled public or legislative hearings, gathers files and exhibits that DHHS attorneys will need, and readies for any emergency that might arise and often does.

“CEO **Chris Peterson**, the six Division Directors or program people might pop in at any time with a question, concern or special project,” Jan says. “Like any other part of Operations, we’re a support service to all those who fulfill the DHHS motto of helping people live better lives.”



Jan Wagner

Photo: Jerry Crisp

“Jan has all kinds of contacts in the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln,” says **Brad Gianakos**, General Counsel Section Leader for Legal Services, “She always knows exactly who to talk to whenever we need something.”

Like many other DHHS employees, Jan’s biggest challenge is finding—or making—time to get everything done in a timely fashion, but she finds compensations as well.

“The main reward is all the great people we work with throughout DHHS whose work requires legal advice or assistance,” says Jan.

But the legal advice people seek isn’t always DHHS-related.

“Every spring, we get phone calls from people inquiring about the legality of returning swimwear,” Jan explains. “They buy a new swimsuit, later find it doesn’t fit as well or doesn’t look as good as first thought, and wonder if they can still return it. There’s no law that says one can’t return swimwear, of course, but every spring we get those calls anyway.”

“We constantly juggle multiple projects, and Jan handles the ever-changing workload with a great sense of humor,” says **Jodi Fenner**, Legal Services administrator. “While we all take our work seriously, her contagious laughter helps us keep everything in its appropriate perspective.”

Respected by her colleagues and co-workers throughout DHHS for her professionalism, Jan Wagner does her work with a dash of wry humor that only makes her more personable.

For What It’s Worth...

An anonymous tip from a DHHS co-worker you might be able to use:

Listen with ears, eyes and heart!

Listening with our ears means listening *actively* by focusing on the person speaking to us and what they’re saying by clearing our minds of distractions. If that sounds obvious, remember that *most of us don’t do this most of the time!*

Listening with our eyes means observing body language that can reveal mood or attitude and maintaining eye contact to show interest and help us focus on what they’re saying...*if you see what I’m saying!*

Listening with our hearts means listening *empathetically*, making a conscious effort to see things as others do, to walk a mile in their shoes. Whether we end up sharing their viewpoint or not, we understand them better than we would otherwise.

Listening with ears, eyes and heart makes us all better listeners, *as we all discover for ourselves whenever we do it!*

To share your tip (anonymously if you like), contact Jerry Crisp by phone at (402) 471-3995, or by e-mail at jerry.crisp@dhhs.ne.gov.

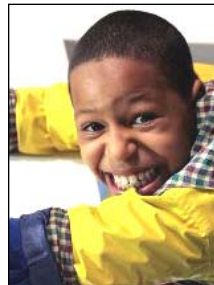
November Observance: National Adoption Month!

For many reasons—including neglect, abuse and abandonment—there are children who have found themselves in the foster care system. Many of these children are free for adoption and are looking for a loving family.

You can get information about adopting children who are state wards by calling 1-800-7PARENT (1-800-772-7368). Children who are free for adoption are featured on the DHHS Web site at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/adoption/children.htm> and on the Heart Gallery Web site at <http://nebraskaheartgallery.org/heartgallery.htm>. Here's a quick visit with a few of these deserving, loving children.



Chyann is an energetic and fun-loving young lady. She loves to play outside, swim, and read. Her brother **Nathen** is a very active boy who loves to be outside. He can spend hours riding his bicycle, skateboarding, or roller-skating.



Michael is an affectionate, friendly, polite and helpful young man. He enjoys being outdoors, playing basketball and football.



Aaron is a typical teenager and enjoys typical teenager activities. He has a good sense of humor and likes playing video games and hanging out with his friends.



Nakyta is a very sociable little girl who loves to interact and play with others. She enjoys being active and can often be found riding her bike and playing outside.

Shyanna is a smart, young lady who can keep herself busy

doing different craft projects. Shyanna enjoys doing beadwork and even knows how to crochet. She also likes going to the mall and shopping for new clothes to add to her wardrobe.



Kronos is coming!



A Heads-up from Human Resources and Development

Half of you will hear that “Kronos is coming” and say, “Kronos is already here!” The other half will say, “What’s Kronos?” Kronos is an electronic time-and-attendance software system that captures employee’s work time, leave used and leave accrued. All DHHS 24-hour facilities already use it, but Kronos will soon be used by all DHHS employees.

If you work in a DHHS Service Area and Central Office locations, you will soon be using a new Internet-based module of Kronos to record your time. In these areas, Kronos will replace Excel timekeeping spreadsheets now

used. Since this is a Web-based system, entry and approval can be done from any computer with Internet access, eliminating use of paper timesheets.

You will also have real-time leave balances on-line through this system. Leave and comp time balances are downloaded from the NIS system. Leave usage entered on your timecard deducts those hours immediately to show a real-time leave balance in Kronos. Supervisors/managers will also be able to see real-time balances in Kronos for those they supervise.

Human Resources and Development is working on an implementation and training plan for the rollout of Kronos software. The goal is to have it implemented system-wide by the middle of 2009. All employees and supervisors in the Service Areas and Central Administration will attend computer classroom training on the software.

More information will be provided as Kronos implementation approaches.

In their own words...

Letters to DHHS employees who are *helping people live better lives*

Dear **Hastings Regional Center staff:**

I would like to thank all of you for all of the help you have given me. My experience here has been a good one, and I believe it will help me live a better life in the real world. When I first came here I didn't believe I had a problem, now I know I do. But I'm leaving here with the skills to live a successful life and overcome my addiction. I've learned what my addiction has cost me, and what I need to do to stay sober and prevent it from causing any further damage.

The staff here have helped me overcome many obstacles, and gave me many tools to live a successful life. I now believe that I can overcome my past and live a successful and happy life. I owe a great deal of my success in recovery to HRC. No matter what the youth say, this place truly does help, and to people who want it, offers them a chance at a better life.

Thank you all for everything you have given me and helped me with. I wish you all the best, and hope you continue to help young men work toward a better future. God Bless.

A former client in the HRC Juvenile Chemical Dependency program

Please send letters from satisfied customers via any method listed in our editorial box on page 2, and we'll publish as many as space allows.

Dear **Ann Kawata** (Economic Assistance Administrator, DHHS Broken Bow office):

I want to tell you what a great job **Darrin Wyatt** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Grand Island office) did while I was working with him. Last winter my husband was laid off from work due to the weather, and he was off for three months. During that time, I had to swallow my pride and ask for assistance. It took us a month or more to get the first unemployment check. I had applied for food stamps and Kids' Connection for all three of my children. Fortunately, when the decision was made regarding food stamps, my husband began receiving his unemployment benefits, so we didn't need the food stamps.

Walking into the office and asking for assistance was very tough for me, but Darrin made me feel at ease. He was so non-judgmental and kind. I think he should be commended for doing such a great job and being so family-centered.

A Central Service Area client

Dear **Gina Ruskamp** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Wayne office):

I want to thank you for helping me and my girls these past few years with health care and food stamps. This assistance truly helped us during my return to graduate school and transition into a new career. My family and I are truly thankful for such programs.

A Northern Service Area client

Dear **Patsy Juedes-Fulk** (Children & Family Services Specialist Supervisor, DHHS Gering office):

I am writing to compliment you on Child & Family Services Specialist **Barton Blair** for his rapid response to ensure a safe discharge for a vulnerable adult found to be in need of an emergency temporary guardianship. Due to great teamwork and coordination, this vulnerable adult was discharged in a timely manner to a safe setting, with support of his extended family and friends. Please extend to Bart my sincere thank you for his efforts that ensured safety and long-term plan for a patient.

LaVonne Ashwood
Medical Social Work
Regional West Medical Center
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Dear **Mary Rice** (Eligibility Technician, Nebraska State Office Building, Omaha):

Wow, Mary. I was astonished to get that package of authorizations in the mail from you yesterday! Thank you so much for your hard work on this. I appreciate it immensely. The Child Saving Institute is thrilled to be able to work with you because your efficiency and attention to details is amazing. Thank you again so much!

Micaela A. Moderow, MHSA
Volunteer & Training Coordinator
Child Saving Institute
Omaha, Nebraska



WASTE NOT, WANT NOT!

Because it's included in the job description for some state government employees, we might be tempted to think that recycling is *their* job, not ours. Fact is, recycling is *EVERYONE's* job.

Most people might agree that recycling is a good thing and even want to do their part, yet many of us have picked up wasteful habits. For instance, what do we do at work with a large binder of material that is no longer needed?

Have you ever pitched that binder full of outdated material into the nearest wastebasket?


Why? That wastebasket might be close by and seems like the quickest, easiest solution to the problem.

But why not remove the contents to put in the nearby recycling basket? Then decide to reuse the perfectly reusable

binder, see if someone else could use it, or send it to Surplus Property for resale.

Doing the right thing takes only a few moments longer and helps us become part of the solution. If no recycle bin is handy, ask your local recycling coordinator or office manager to get one and place it next to your wastebasket so that wastefulness is no longer easier or more convenient!

"Waste not, want not" might be an old adage, but age doesn't keep it from still being perfectly valid. The more we reduce waste and conserve resources, the better for our workplace, our community, our planet and ourselves!

This is only one way for all of us to become more efficient recyclers. Keep reading *Connections* for more recycling tips in upcoming issues. 

Happenings!

Photos spotlighting DHHS activities around the state



Kari Majors answers a question about an AED asked by **Victoria Schwab** during an educational session in the Nebraska State Office Building in Lincoln, as **Mel Bargas** (Schwab's husband and Department of Education employee) looks on. Majors is Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention Coordinator and Schwab is a Community Health Nurse with the Division of Public Health.

Photo: Jerry Crisp

LEARNING TO SAVE LIVES

One hundred Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) were distributed to DHHS buildings across the state in July.

"The aim of our educational sessions is to help anyone feel comfortable using an AED to help someone in need," Kari explains. "The more comfortable a person feels, the more likely they will be to use the device to save a life."

Easy to operate, an AED uses voice prompts, lights and text messages to instruct the rescuer. The rescuer will be prompted to apply the two pads provided with the AED to the victim's chest. Once applied, the AED will monitor the victim's heart rhythm and, if necessary, direct a rescuer to deliver an electrical shock or delivers the shock automatically. After the shock, the unit prompts for CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) with a built-in metronome that sets the pace for proper chest compressions and instructs you through the CPR process.

"We all hope AEDs won't be needed," Majors says, "but if someone experiences sudden cardiac arrest, AEDs could make the difference between life and death."



Shown talking with three of the visitors are (from left) **Chris Hanus**, Administrator of the Child Welfare Unit, Policy Section; **Todd Reckling**, Policy Section Administrator; and **Mike Harris**. The three visitors shown are **Petar Georgiev** from Bulgaria, **Dr. Wan Jun** from China, and **Ms. Angelica Pierre-Louis** from Dominica.

Photo: Bill Wiley

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Seven non-governmental leaders from around the globe visited with DHHS officials on September 2nd. Staff from the Division of Children & Family Services shared information on how they interact with private sector agencies. The group came from Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Dominica, Jordan, the People's Republic of China and Saudi Arabia.

"The meeting was helpful for the visitors and us to learn how communications and policies are handled in their countries compared to ours," said Mike Harris, Administrator of the Economic Assistance & Child Support Enforcement Unit.

If you have a photo of a DHHS activity you'd like to share with co-workers across the state, contact *Connections* by any method listed in the editorial box on page 2, and we'll publish as many as space allows.

Something to CHEER about!



Shown is Center citizen **James Blankenau** surrounded by Jill Hatzenbuehler (left), Megan Hicok (right), and high school squad member **Julie Kalivoda** following their performance at the BSDC campus gym. BSDC clients benefit in more ways than one from on-call high school students like these who supplement full-time employees by assisting with eating and recreational activities. The youthful energy they bring to entertaining activities like cheerleading also finds its way into the daily care they provide, enhancing both quality of services and quality of life for the clients they serve.

Photo: Cary Udell

Jill Hatzenbuehler and **Megan Hicok**, two direct care providers at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC), were excited about an upcoming cheerleading camp at Diller-Odell High School and used break time at work to practice.

“If you want to show clients your cheers and work their programs into it, this could make a great learning experience,” said Treatment Specialist **Karen Engelman**.

Center clients enjoyed the activity so much that Engelman asked the cheerleaders if they’d share it with the whole campus. On July 24, the two staff members were joined by a third member of the high school cheerleading squad in a couple dance routines and several cheers at the campus gym in which Center clients were included.

Well over 175 clients and staff members showed up. Plans are to offer this event again next year and invite the entire high school cheerleading squad!

DHHS Length-of-Service Honorees

The following DHHS employees are recognized for years of service from 10 years to 45 years in 5-year increments. Their service is both valuable and valued. Please congratulate those you know for their contributions to *helping people live better lives*.

Connections publishes this information provided by DAS State Personnel. If errors or omissions appear, please contact your local Human Resources Office.

45 Years of Service

Hastings Regional Center

Rose M Henricksen

Lincoln Regional Center

Billy G Haughton

Norfolk Regional Center

Darlene M Porter

Northern Service Area

David Lee Prokesh Sr

YRTC-Geneva

Francis W Hurst

Division of Public Health

Karen M Johnson

Operations

Georgia L Skinner

40 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Linda K Hyberger

Hastings Regional Center

Marlene M Petr

Lincoln Regional Center

Susan Dahlman
Katherine P Nicholson
Marion G Schmidt

Eastern Service Area

Larry L Bamesberger
Dianne D Geddes
Elsa Miller

YRTC-Geneva

Richard Wehland

Division of Public Health

Jack L Daniel
G Daniel Cillessen

Operations

John E Anderson
David L Brown
Shirley Baack
Thomas W Jurgens
Florence M Carr

35 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Gwen Duitsman
Teresa K Goetz
Carol Janssen
Deborah A Janssen
Barbara J Jones
Marilyn J Keilig
Susan K Laber
Robert L Maxson
Nancy K Mayfield
Virginia M Meyer
Dianne Springer
Frances Stegemann

Hastings Regional Center

Charlene J Gentert
Linda K Graham
Jean M Luther
Gary S Peisiger
Peggy J Weseman

Lincoln Regional Center

Audronis L Dapsys
Randolph S Jacobs
Susan H Wesche
Melinda M White

Grand Island

Veterans' Home
Kathleen S Hegwood
Barbara L Rhoad
Janet M Warneke

Central Service Area

Deborah Pool
Sheryl K Taylor

Eastern Service Area

Katie Adams
Mariellen R Becker
Joan M Brunkow
Robert J Cummings
Jeannette J Dyer
Dennis B Jones

Northern Service Area

Elizabeth J Nicolas

Southeast Service Area

Kathryn M Bean
Susan L Klein
Patsy F Pittman

Western Service Area

Linda Belford
Jennifer A Hilpmann
Virginia L Moore
Deborah K Silverman

YRTC-Geneva

Donald P Belau
Delores S Hartman

YRTC-Kearney

Timothy R Jorgensen

Division of Children and Family Services

Sandra J Accardy
Louann M Larson-Gaston
Beverly J Weber
Michelle A Buresh
Claire J Speedlin

Division of Public Health

Kathleen L Goddard

Operations

Bonita K Bartels
Rose E Dixon
Susan K Hughes
Norma J O'Brien
Marsha Rekart
Linda M Sylvan
Wanda F Yoachim
Agnes Davis
Virginia J Goomis
Sandi Aden
Bryan L Klein
Larry D Morrison
Danny L Ransdell
Julia M Schluckebier
Barbara A Berten
Rodney D Halm
Wade B Remmenga

30 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Rita Allen
Sandra Clark
Yvonne Eckhoff
Roger V Girch
Loretta M Goracke
Lois J Kotas
Judy K Little
Jeanne Lytle
Lou A Maxson
Rosemarie Milke
Allan D Neal
Kimerley Recker
Richard Schnaidt
Jeanette M Stevens
Debra J Swoboda
Charlotte J Taylor
Inez M Trauernicht
Debra A Uarich
Bettie J Ward
Daniel A Wieden

Hastings Regional Center

Mary A Bishop
Steven T Fielder

Lincoln Regional Center

Cynthia Hunter
Audrey E Kelly
Steven Lagemann
Edward E Varejcka

Norfolk Regional Center

Julie L Beutler
Susan K Waterman

Grand Island

Veterans' Home
Shiela R Daniels

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Edith M Eichberger
Rozanne E Phillips

Central Service Area

Susan K Jensen
Patricia M Loeffelholz
Katherine Rehtus
Kay L Schenck

Eastern Service Area

Lynn A Banker
Debra J Bigando
Pamela J Curry
Linda M Dorrell
Robin M Hudson
Lucy A Hughes
Edna L Martin
Sharon J Maynard
Nadine E Plambeck
Susan M Strnad

Northern Service Area

Judith E Pedersen
Nelda Rosenbaum

Southeast Service Area

Shelley S Graham
Linda J Harral
Dalene J Krebs
Irene R Marcussen
Sharon K Rotert
Janis K Stahl
Ramona K Tuxhorn
Victoria A Van Arsdall

YRTC-Geneva

Jerry L Herman
Nancy S Kalvoda

Division of Children and Family Services

Jeanette A Harris

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Donald D Severance
Joan L Speicher-Simpson

CONTINUED

30 Years of Service

Division of Medicaid and Long Term Care

Kristi K Holmes

Division of Public Health

Mary M Becker
Marlene A Janssen
Debra A Stoltenberg
Jerry P Fischer
Cynthia L Kelley
Virginia J Sisson
Marvie J Sullivan

Operations

Kaylene M Wessel
Diane M Schnase

Patricia A Shefferd
Debra K Sumpter
Richard Mayfield
Sherri L Scholl
Mary Shanahan
Marcia A Alber
Alicia A Hahne Oestmann
Dale C Shallenberger
Kathleen S Krogh
Kirsten Olmsted
Judy Ann Barker
Thomas G Budenholzer
Deborah Christlieb
Linda Devore
Herbert A Massey
Gill Parks

25 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Priscilla A Andersen
George E Clark
Susan B Clausen
Melba Engel
Tony Kelley
David Knisely
Stanley A Miller
Bernice Rinne
Judy A Schock
James K Stone
Wayne Waltke
Sara Young

Hastings Regional Center

Lynn A Folcik
Lisa A Sedlak
Marsha E Utecht

Lincoln Regional Center

Teresa Bernt
Barbara Foley
Marijo Herman
Brad Huddleston
Deborah L McTee
Paula Nicholls

Norfolk Regional Center

Kristine R Boe Simmons
Douglas S Moats
Kenneth D Palmer

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

Robin E Caniglia

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Kristi L Bowers
Cindy L Copley
Barbara L Elliott
Tamala S Hansen
Jeff A Hawkinson
Vicky L Lierman
Diann L Sandberg
Karen C Sweatman

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Tammy S Mefford

Central Service Area

Debra R Corman
Judy L Regelin
Dorothy Wadas
Rebecca J Weber

Eastern Service Area

Don Warren Davis
Charline M Duncan
Janice K George
Evelyn K Hanner
Douglas G Kagan
Donna J Kudirka
Craig Marshall
Ronda L Newman
Patrick A Rapier

Northern Service Area

Sherry D Bedel
Robert L Furr
Mavis A Hatcliff
Patricia C Havel

Gina L Ruskamp
Dian C Schellenberg
Carole L Tremain

Southeast Service Area

Andrea L Carpenter
Terri L Chmelka
Richard G Kreifels
Eike D Marthaler
Loretta Pellan
Mary J Richey
Mary B Treick

Western Service Area

Tammy S Mefford
Christina Magdaleno
Dee Walton
Tiara M West
Sandy J White
Elizabeth A Widener

YRTC-Kearney

Michael A Buchta
Deborah B Eirich
Debra E Murrish

20 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

James L Bush
Robert E Chace
Frederich E Devries
Elton D Edmond
Nettie S Grant Sikyta
Janet B Hiner
Shelly A Johnsen
Garry Klein
Nancy Lamb
Delores H Marmon
Billie J Miller
Laurie M Muhlenbruch
Virginia L Reimer
Karen K Schmidt
Catherine Schock
Shari S Swett
Hai H Tran
Julie J Weyer

Lincoln Regional Center

Theresa Conner
Laurie A Consbruck
Lori Ditson
Darlene Drees
John E Eilers

Division of Children and Family Services

Jill L Bittner
Carol K Case

Division of Public Health

Beverly Spang
Shirley A Deethardt
Connie M Luers
Paula Eurek
Janice R Heusinkvelt
Julie A Luedtke-Miller
Donna J Range
Ladonna K Shippen

Operations

Linda K Jimenez
Pamela J Spale
Richard E Mettler
Patricia Mulvaney
Sheryl Y Oberheu
Carmen Segura
Malinda K Shobe
Kathie K Osterman
Karen K Kammann
Lori Keenan
Ann C Mallory

Heidi Fahrnbruch
David A Fricke
James Oconnell
Cynthia Reece
Gordon J Tebo
Daniel Ullman
Joyce Weber
Tamara T Welch

Norfolk Regional Center

William C Block
Raymond D Garver

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

Beth A Huskey
Yvonne L Leonard
Lillian F Wesemann

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Joleen K Carrillo
Debra S Dimmitt
Sharon K Gleason
Brenda A Hall
Linda M Marisch

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Kimberly A Benson
Lanell E Bilau
Shelley R Hubers
Lori B Retzlaff
Sandra K Wiseman

Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

Janet Boyer
Laura Singleton

Central Service Area

Marjorie Creason
Marcia A Eberle-Unick
Bonnie M Fisher
Cindy S Keller
Karen E Kuta
Nancy K Lyne
Connie J Philbrick
Sheila I Winslow
Patricia A Wright

Eastern Service Area

Rita D Briggs
Paul G Farrand
Anita L Hagerty
Diana F Hostetter
Rosezerian C Jackson-Griffith
Dara A Johnson
Mary L Kangior
Sandra A Key
Vickey L Kobza
Diane E Martig
Michele A McClellan
Debra L Pflager
Joel D Rogers
Vickie A Stauffer
Jane M Teten

Northern Service Area

Julie K Brenneis
Stacey R Brockhaus
Vicki S Schindler

Southeast Service Area

Betty P Daubendiek
Rita J Simpson

Western Service Area

Gregory L Stinson
Patricia A Bullock
Joan K Cornish
Kerry H Hopkins
Pamela J Mann
Beverly A Probasco
Vicky J Stanec

Dana S Thornburg
Alvin L Zimmerman

YRTC-Geneva

Janice A Slepicka

YRTC-Kearney

Scott A Casper
James B Christensen
Patricia L Deutsch
Sidney L Haarberg
Timothy T O'Dea

Division of Children and Family Services

Kristal K Millstead
Shirley A Pickens-White
Joyce E Schneider
Lynelle J Schwedhelm
Susan L Zook

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Pamela Hovis
Sharon K Kahm

Division of Public Health

Peggy Prusa-Ogea
Nila Irwin
Cynthia Stoll Dorf
Dean Cole
Ali A Latifi
Kathy K Fischer
Jacqueline R Johnson
Sheila M Exstrom
Nancy M Hauschild
Charlene Kelly
Tony L Kopf
Nancy D Stava
Linda K Stenvers
Wanda E Wiese

Operations

Sandy L Anderson
Jon A Grubb
Lorelee J Novak
Darren A Duncan
Karen J Dvorak
Cynthia Strufing
Dan P Theobald
Penny L Clark
Linda J Shandera
Ruth E Westergren
Harry M Farley
Heidi Burkland
Georgia A Claborn
Karen M Homes

15 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Marcia Holst
Anna M Izer
Shannyn Kiehn
Mary F Klein
Amy J Peterson
Julie Pirnie
Harold W Thaut

Hastings Regional Center

Sally M Weiss
Nancy J Kinyoun

Lincoln Regional Center

Judith Delgado
Jeanette Fischer
Linda Jiskra
Carleen L Kinney
Rafael Taty

Norfolk Regional Center

Laura Gorham
Stephen J Oneill
Robert S Walton
Joy K Wieseler

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Stephanie A Bolles
Carmen C Matthiessen
Jeffery S Oxford
Mary A Sims
Phillip A Snell

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Karen K Hitz
Barbara A Uehling

Eastern Service Area

Brenda Roetman
Mark S Bryant
Julie A Butler
Rachelle A Christy
Dorothy Engler
Patty A Junge
Angela L Mitchell
Jeffrey Morton
Barbara J Russell
Sandra K Sueper
Claudia A Trexler
Asuquo Peter Umoren
Deborah J Underwood
Cathy Wiles
Richard B Yoakum

Northern Service Area

Jennifer K Baumann
Ann E Carstens
Patricia A Ferguson
Linda E Hintz
Mary E Kahlandt
Melanie Strathman

Southeast Service Area

Monica A Hinrichs
Teresa T Stogdill

Western Service Area

Sheryl I Bruns
Rebecca Goltl
Leann K Laurent
Linda M Schliep

YRTC-Geneva

Janice L Myers
Connie Taylor

YRTC-Kearney

Richard D Hancock

Division of Children and Family Services

Wilma Kobza
Lori L Koenig
Roxana L Webb

Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Jeanne M Garvin

Division of Public Health

Stephen G Jackson
Jody L Plihal
Linda K Heller
Linda L Henningsen
Ruthanne Jorgensen
Molly L Uden
Irene A Eckman
Renee E Madsen
Cheryl Walburn

Operations

Robert A Peters
Douglas T Roach
Randall E Coil
Richard J Kohel
Ann M Linneman
Sherry L Nutsch
Sandra L Warford

10 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Joyce Armstrong
Tiffany Barrett
Lory Costello
Judy F Dettmer
Teri Dorn
Sheila Ebbers
Gregory B Hamm
Rebecca Jobman
Nicole D Jurgens
Patricia A Marshall
Krista D McCaghy
David B Meyer
Lori Policky
Cheryl L Scheele
Ruth Schoen
Karen Schwarz
Joan M Stepan
Lois Tegtmeyer
Gladys Valderrama
Marjorie Weichel
Danny L Wenzl

Hastings Regional Center

Jerome A Dierfeldt
Michael J Judson

Lincoln Regional Center

Karen Brocksmith
Tami Burkey
Kathy Foster
Larry D Friesen
Irene Hirschman
Zbigniew B Jesionowicz
Lisa M Laurell
Barbara Markovic
Kerry Miller Loos
Joanne Murney
Van T Nguyen
Lewis M Prue
Jimmy L Ruppelt
John C Sweazy
Bonnie Tyrrell
Daniel Wade
Robert A Weichel
Julie K Wingett

Norfolk Regional Center

Bonnie J Bergland
Terry L Hess
Susan R Johnston
Brian Schlote
Dianna Timm
Melodie Winter

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Mary S Bonczynski
Patricia Bryer
Natasha L Hamm
Jan Hettinger
Barbara Labenz
Linda S Lewis
Deborah Lohman
Zaccariah Matthiessen
Rebecca Quandt
Jo A Robertson
Ernest S Rother

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Cynthia Krause
Kari L Kubes
Joseph P Mrsny

Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

Valerie Connolly
Kathie Meier

Central Service Area

Cheri R Anderson
Janie A Bryer
Patricia J Foster
Candi L. Launer
Kriste Mott
Julie A Shively
Cheri M Strong

Eastern Service Area

Jane Bodnar
Lance L Burwell
Pamela M Eckel
Lana L Frazier
Julie Johnson
Merritt H Keiser
Anne M Lindzy
William L Monahan
Carolyn Pendrell
Sarah T Phan
Jennifer L Potterf
Mary E Rice
Marlene Rivas
Cheri L Rychly
John W Welker
Bernadette C Wyatt

Northern Service Area

Jobeth L Blecher
Traci K Kuhl
Barbara E Lilja
Mistan D Marking
Linette M Molczyk
Colynn Paprocki
Nadine M Reyes
Colleen R Schumacher
Jolene Stockamp
Robert D Thomas
Daniel D Wieneke

Southeast Service Area

Barbara G Arens
Kris T Armatys
Jennifer Barber
Shauna R Becker
Lori A Coon
Laura J Ekstrand
Rhonda Erikson
Tanja M Evans
Jayme E Fochtman
Jodilyn K Fransen
Tangela L Gropp
Sherry L Holmes
Patricia A Kermmoade
Tammy R Kocian
Mary C Koester
Patrick C McClure
Debra A McQuistan
Julie Splichal

Western Service Area

Jeanne M Burns
Alice Dentler
Pamela B Herron
Tracy E Huxoll

YRTC-Geneva

Linda J Bottorf
Patricia A Carpenter
Louis H Matthies

YRTC-Kearney

John R Dutton
Peggy L Jorgensen
Viola S Luce
Michael D McDonald
Brian R Robinson

Division of Children and Family Services

Patricia G Callahan
Connie R Coffey
Bradley C Petersen
Micaela K Swigle
Cindy A Wiesen

Division of Public Health

Lenard A Brown
Chin F Chew
Sharon H Godfrey
Barbara A Mills
Nancy Hansen
Beverly M Kliment
Patricia A Patton
Janis N Singleton
Shirley F Davis
Garry Steele
Julieann Boyle
Rayma L Delaney
Vonda Apking

Operations

Leeann K Adams
Darla J Bolln
Dale D Hauptmeier
David W Hill
Darren R Knudson
Elishia Kroll
Nancy K Minchow
Carl W Morones
James R Oeltjen
Misty D Sinsel
Broc E Witt
Lorie A Ayers
Ruth E Herman
Helen K Hanes-Palm
Pamala K Schmidt
Denise K Uhing
Sharon Valencia
Sharon J Johnson
Cindy L Kadavy
Bradley Gianakos
Sam G Kaplan
Carol A Sheets
Stacey A Nelson
Pamela S Gerdes
Carolyn Williams