

Connections

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

Bringing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services employees closer together

October 2009
VOLUME 9, ISSUE 10

Celebrating Employee Recognition Month!



(Above left) **Dennis Leschinsky**, Surveillance Specialist in the Division of Public Health, receives an Employee of the Year plaque from **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Director, and **Kerry Winterer**, CEO.
Photo: Mike Wight

(Above) **Elaine Halferty**, Social Service Supervisor at the Hastings Regional Center, receives a Supervisor of the Year plaque from Director **Scot Adams** (L) and CEO Kerry Winterer at a ceremony in Lincoln.
Photo: Mike Wight

(Left) With (L-R) **Gov. Heineman**, CEO Kerry Winterer and COO **Bob Zagozda** at a length-of-service ceremony, **Janice Ropers**, Trust Office Supervisor at the Lincoln Regional Center, is honored for 45 years.
Photo: Bill Wiley

DHHS employees do exceptional work that deserves to be recognized, including Employees and Supervisors/Managers of the Year and those honored for length of faithful service. Details inside.

DHHS now on

You can follow DHHS at <http://twitter.com/NebraskaDHHS>

DHHS in the News Update...

Here are a few headlines of news releases recently issued by Communications & Legislative Services about DHHS programs. You can read and subscribe to all DHHS news releases from the DHHS [Newsroom](#). You can also listen to [sound bites](#) issued with releases.

Go to the DHHS Intranet home page, and click on "[DHHS In The News](#)" for links to Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star articles involving DHHS programs and services.

[Know Suicide's Warning Signs](#) September 8

[Time to Get Your Seasonal Flu Shot](#) September 11

[Dave Prokesh Honored for 45 Years of Service with DHHS](#) September 15

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

make the connection . . .

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

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

DHHS System Advocate: 1-800-254-4202, (402) 471-6035 in Lincoln, or via e-mail at diana.duran@nebraska.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.

H1N1 Update:

The bad news is that 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1) is actively circulating all over Nebraska right now. The good news is that vaccine for this virus is here.

Initially, the vaccine is targeted to certain high risk groups, like children, pregnant women and people with serious underlying health conditions.

"Right now, we're getting limited amounts of vaccine in," said Dr. Joann Schaefer, Chief Medical Officer. "But soon, the vaccine will be available in larger quantities, so that everyone who wants to be immunized can be."

Possibly in late November or early December enough vaccine will be here for everybody.

"The single, most important thing you can do to avoid getting the flu is get vaccinated," Dr. Schaefer said.

Until more vaccine becomes available, there are precautions you can take to reduce your risk:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

To avoid passing germs to others, cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or cough or sneeze into your elbow. If you do become ill, stay home until you have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines..

The symptoms of H1N1 include a fever over 100 degrees, sore throat, cough, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. H1N1 can also cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Go to the DHHS Web site for more information: <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/H1N1Flu/>

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The Good Life

A reminder of what we all share and hope to provide to our fellow Nebraskans we serve

By CEO Kerry Winterer

I want to give an update on this Department's response to the budget issues facing our state.

You may have heard about the Legislature's Special Session being planned for November to respond to Nebraska's dramatic reduction in tax receipts in September. That reduction in tax receipts means that the amount of money available to fund state government is dramatically reduced. The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board met on Oct. 27 and significantly decreased state revenue projections that form the basis for the state budget.

I've shared information already about **Governor Heineman's** direction that all state agencies closely monitor spending as we go about our business of delivering state services. That includes only filling essential vacant positions, reducing travel costs, only buying equipment if an emergency exists, and not starting new programs or contracts right now.

I've been meeting with the Division Directors as we take a hard look at what we do. All state agencies are

developing plans for possible reductions in current state budgets for the next two fiscal years.

I know that DHHS employees are doing their very best to provide timely and accurate services and benefits to clients and the public, and that any cuts make that

more difficult. Because state government's funding is closely tied to the amount of tax revenues that are available, it is likely that the Special Session will result in some cuts to state agencies. I understand that at times like these there will be rumors and concerns about what these cuts may mean to DHHS. However, the fact is that, until the Special Session is completed, there is simply no way to know what if any changes may be made to DHHS' budget.

If you have ideas on how you or the Department can more efficiently and cost effectively deliver services, please share these with me, your division director, or your supervisor. I share the

Governor's confidence that we can weather this fiscal storm if we all work together to respond to whatever the future may bring.



Kerry Winterer

Photo: Bill Wiley

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the employees who are featured in this issue of *Connections*. I had the opportunity to attend the Years of Service ceremonies in four communities and the Employee and Supervisor/Manager of the Year recognition in Lincoln. I very much enjoyed meeting the employees and being able to personally offer my congratulations. I continue to be impressed with the dedication and commitment expressed by DHHS employees, not only at these events but also as I've visited our offices and facilities across the state.

Employees of the Year!



Diane Blacketer, Accounting Clerk at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home (ENVH), is a consummate professional with

exceptional skills and unparalleled dedication to the service of ENVH members. She provides outstanding service to 111 members and their families, manages over \$75,000 in the Members Trust Fund to ensure that members' bills are paid correctly and on time, and manages over \$70,000 in Canteen sales. "She is the friendliest ATM in town" and always steps up to the plate by putting members and the Home first.



Scott Collier, a Security Specialist III at the Lincoln Regional Center (LRC), cares about the work he does providing guidance and support to a difficult patient population in LRC's forensics program. He pulls his team of workers together so all are working to make the environment safe for

both patients and staff, while encouraging all to be and do the best. Cheerful and funny, Scott injects happiness into a potentially drab environment.



Harriet DeLay was in Child Protective Services for nine years and has been a Social Service Worker with the Medically Handicapped Children's Program/Disabled Children's Program in Lincoln for 20 years. She coordinates family services and assists families in learning

to meet their own needs in the community. Harriet participates in several community teams and excels at problem-solving and streamlining paperwork to get the job done.

Cheri Delay, an Administrative Secretary for the Hastings Regional Center (HRC), was hired to provide administrative support to the Performance Improvement/Risk Management Department and has been a valuable

DHHS is proud to announce the 2009 Employees/Supervisors-Managers of the Year. State agencies are allowed to select one Employee and one Supervisor-Manager of the Year for every 500 people employed by the agency.



resource to several clinical and operational departments. Organizational skills and an eye for detail have enabled

her to coordinate and assemble documentation required for the Joint Commission Accreditation process that garnered commendations from surveyors. Her ever-present smile, friendly demeanor and willingness to help have made her an asset to the entire facility.



Sonia Diaz, a Case Aide in the Eastern Service Area, was one of the team members who went to Louisiana to help with disaster relief, requiring her to be gone weeks from her family. When a building manager was needed, Sonia stepped forward. She is willing to learn new duties and

has proven to be the glue that keeps the team together.



Linda Dorrell, a Developmental Disabilities Service Coordinator in the Eastern Service Area, has a special place in her heart for the clients with developmental disabilities she serves. Her concern is never for herself but always

for someone else. Linda went the extra mile when a client's father was in the military, and she called his commanding officer to see if he could be sent home to care for his daughter, prior to asking for funded supports. That client's life was changed forever because of Linda's dedication.



Information Technology Business Systems Analyst **Ruth Grosse** provides support to staff working with eligibility issues. She helps families find their way through the process of obtaining Medicaid

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coverage from another state for a child with a Nebraska-subsidized adoption; she assists workers to obtain documents needed to create Title IV-E eligibility for a child; she works with Social Security so a check goes to the appropriate payee; she developed a change to N-FOCUS so Nebraska can meet federal requirements, and she provides information to Financial Services so Nebraska can claim additional federal funds.



LeAnn Laurent, a Resource Developer for the Western Service Area, performs above and beyond expectations. In addition to her full-time workload, she has served as peer trainer/mentor for one new staff and covered a vacancy. She took on additional duties for foster parent pre-service training. She successfully supports foster parents and maintains placement for children in their homes. She facilitates volatile situations and helps teams resolve differences in order to reach the best outcomes for children and their families.



Dennis Leschinsky, a Health Surveillance Specialist in the Office of Epidemiology, is the heart of the disease surveillance program. He routinely scans incoming data searching for patterns of disease cases that might indicate potential outbreaks, compiling data and summarizing trends. He coordinates a statewide network of professionals with DHHS and local health departments. His expertise is universally recognized by co-workers. He is the go-to person orchestrating all aspects of information gathering and reporting processes.



Nancy Mayfield, lead Social Worker at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC), focuses on the best interests of Center clients and their quality of life and gives support to their families, guardians, friends and advocates. She has played a key role in making the recent transition of BSDC clients to community settings as smooth as possible. Nancy is well respected for her caring and

compassionate approach, coupled with strong integrity and commitment to excellence.



Betty Reinsch, a Youth Security Specialist at the Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center (YRTC) at Geneva, ensures that things run smoothly when she's on duty. Co-workers are impressed with her knowledge of rules and ability to appropriately enforce them in a constructive way. Her role modeling is an important part of the YRTC-Geneva culture. In her involvement with the annual Youth State Trap Shoot event in Doniphan, Nebraska, she has supervised youth in the rain for days on end while motivating and encouraging youth to see things through in challenging conditions.



Roxy Shuman, a Unit Clerk at the Grand Island Veterans' Home (GIVH), is dedicated to the members and staff at the Home. She meets challenges and changes head-on as a team worker, and new members find that she is a ready resource they can count on. She makes every member feel special and has had a positive impact on everyone around her. GIVH is pleased to have her as part of the facility family for more than 32 years.



An Assistant in Human Resources & Development with Operations supporting the Northern Service Area, Norfolk Veterans' Home (NVH) and Norfolk Regional Center (NRC), **Denise Uhing** volunteered to relocate her office from NRC to NVH to cover a vacant workload and kept everything afloat. She took on new duties involving recruitment, all the while ensuring that 400+ employees were paid correctly and getting everything else done on time.



A Medicaid Nurse Consultant for the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, Behavioral Health Unit, **Margaret Van Dyke** writes regulations and can almost quote them from memory. An excellent

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resource for colleagues, she spends hours explaining billing procedures and regulations to providers and knows all of the resources within the Division that can be called on for assistance. Many times, she has made the difference in whether a Nebraska Medicaid client, temporarily out of the state, has access to mental health treatment and medication.

Supervisors/Managers of the Year



Deb Becker, Activity Supervisor at the Norfolk Veterans' Home (NVH), leads by example and doesn't ask anything of her staff she wouldn't ask of herself. An excellent communicator, she has gained the respect of all with whom she works. She exemplifies the NVH motto of "Members Living Well." She always goes the extra mile to ensure that veterans enjoy the quality of life they deserve. Thanks to employees like Deb Becker, NVH has one of the finest activity departments of any skilled nursing facility in the state.



A Child Support Supervisor for the Division of Children and Family Services, **Mary K. Becker** supervises staff in four office locations. Even though many miles apart, she keeps her staff functioning as a team. Quick to pass on staff ideas to help everyone do their jobs better, she implemented a suggestion that paternity acknowledgements be scanned and e-mailed to workers instead of being mailed—an idea that expedites the case process by several days and saves money on postage.



Pam Cade, an Office Manager in the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care, plays a key role in making improvements in Medicaid policies and procedures. She never forgets that the real "clients" are recipients and providers. She has the experience to look at things from different viewpoints and make decisions beneficial to all involved.



She is quick to encourage and applaud the achievements of others. A Social Services Supervisor in the Northern Service Area (O'Neill office), **Melodee Drenkow's** enthusiastic, can-do team approach focuses on individual strengths to enhance the performance of her unit. She lives the philosophy of Family-Centered Practice (FCP) by modeling it and providing opportunities for her staff. Appreciation of diversity—an integral part of FCP—is shown as Melodee interacts with community partners, providers, staff and clients. Her decisions are respected because her staff knows that she carefully considers options and gathers input before making them.



Michael Grutsch is the Professional & Occupational License Investigations Program Manager for the Public Health Investigations Unit. His area investigates about 1,800 complaints a year and presents information to 28 regulatory boards for potential disciplinary action. Always willing to listen to and encourage staff, Mike creates a positive working environment resulting in high morale. He is now implementing a paperless report system, resulting in improved use of resources. He standardized the report format for all investigators, enhancing the quality of reports to enable professional board members to better evaluate each situation and determine if a regulatory violation has occurred.



Serving as a Certified Master Social Worker Supervisor at the Norfolk Regional Center (NRC), **Elaine Halferty** is Admissions Coordinator and a voting member of the Sex Offender Council. She also chairs and liaisons for meetings between the Department of Corrections and the Regional Centers. She looks beyond an individual's past at their potential and helps them to reach a brighter future. Elaine is a resource not only to the NRC campus but to the Lincoln campus and six Behavioral Health regions in various placement options for patients.

A Children and Family Services Supervisor for the Eastern Service Area, **Diane Martig** takes the initiative

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to make calls to learn more or stop by clients' homes to ensure their safety. In a crisis, she stays calm and thinks creatively outside

the box to help families remain intact. She will work with any worker in need of a problem-solving partner to ensure that a family is stabilized, relatives are located, and children are safe. Her passion for child safety never ends.



A Staff Assistant for the Central Service Area (Kearney office), **Kristi McDowell** is insightful and compassionate. She's a

team cheerleader, encouraging cohesiveness and sharing her wisdom. She helps finish pending cases and screenings when staff are inundated. When a staff member experienced a personal family tragedy, Kristi helped them get back into the rhythm of work, patiently updating the employee on new procedures implemented in their absence. You won't find another supervisor with more integrity and devotion to their position.



A Food Service Supervisor at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home (WNVH), **Norberta Murillo** has

earned a reputation as one of the best supervisors at the facility.

Always focused on member care, she knows the members' personal preferences and special requests, visits with members during meals, and is respected by staff, members and their families. She mentors new employees, listens to their concerns and is willing to try new ideas. When her promotion to Supervisor required her to use a computer, she took college classes, practiced at home and has become skilled in computer use. Always eager to enhance her own skills, she has helped make the Food Service Department one of the best.



The dentist at the Beatrice State Developmental Center, **Dr. Dennis Pestal** came on the scene when the facility

had an immediate need to provide both emergency and routine dental care to individuals who live there. His knowledge, skills and abilities enabled the facility to meet the current challenges of providing dental care and erase a backlog of dental care needs. A strong advocate for the clients who provides dental services in the least restrictive manner possible, he develops a rapport with individuals that lowers anxiety and reduces the need for dental procedures under general anesthesia.



Kenneth Robinson, a Youth Security Specialist at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center at

Kearney, excels at following

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Congratulations

to all of those honored this year as DHHS Employees and Supervisors/Managers of the Year,

to all those honored in years past, and

to all those whose success in helping others live better lives will qualify them as Employees and Supervisors/Managers of the Year in years to come.



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procedures to ensure safety and good order on the campus. During a recent incident, Ken used his de-escalation training to get a youth under control until assistance arrived. His quick response was vital to keeping a potentially critical incident from getting worse. His calm demeanor and leadership allow both youth and staff to have a safe environment that is essential to rehabilitation and returning youth to their community as productive citizens.



A Facility Maintenance Supervisor at the Hastings Regional Center (HRC), **Jim Schuyler** supervises the Maintenance Specialists and the Stationary Engineer. He provides mechanical and technical support to the communications system, security system, video cameras and serves as

the facility's sole electrician. No matter how busy with meetings, projects and repairs, Jim will make time to help out with technical assistance. He is a valuable contributor to the Environment of Care Committee at HRC and to the Regional Centers' Safety Committee. His willingness to help and easygoing demeanor make Jim a respected and admired leader.



As the Disability Services Coordinator in the Division of Developmental Disabilities, **Don Severance** and his staff touch the lives of every person with developmental disabilities served in community-based services in Nebraska. He directs the Quality

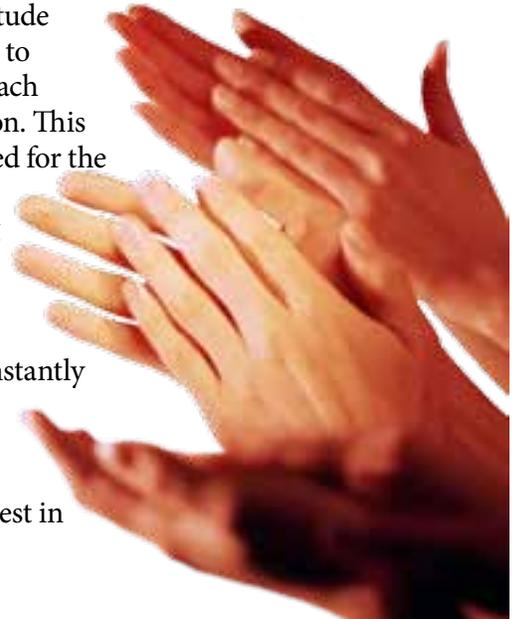
Improvement (QI) Committee that gathers data to

identify problems. He also directs the DHHS Committee for Service Integrity, which develops practical solutions and has produced assessment tools and training for use by Service Coordinators and Developmental Disabilities Specialists. Don's analytical skills, combined with his disciplined emphasis on data collection, have influenced his co-workers to consider all available facts before taking action.



The Administrative Assistant III for the Records Management and Contract Unit in Support Services, **Linsey Yokley** worked with the Division of Public Health, Legal Services and NIS team on implementation of DHHS service contracts that went live in March

2008. She initiated work on sub-grants to create a tracking tool, giving users up-to-date expenditure information. Her staff and other supervisors get recharged by seeing her positive attitude and willingness to work through each contract question. This Unit has changed for the better because of Linsey. Being a positive role model and straight to the point, she is constantly challenging herself and others, which brings out the best in everyone.



Good Things Are Happening!

The federal DHHS has released \$6,285,045 to Nebraska for H1N1 Phase III funding for vaccine administration. This amount is in addition to nearly \$4 million for Phases I and II for a total of \$10,251,928. These dollars will support planning and response

activities of DHHS and local health departments, including surveillance, laboratory testing and vaccinations that help safeguard the health of all Nebraskans during the H1N1 public health emergency.

The best way to meet H1N1 or any other emergency is to be prepared!

The World in a Day

2009 marks the 12th year of World Day on the Mall—an annual extravaganza to honor State employees and celebrate diversity and acceptance of all people.



A bird's eye view of World Day on the Mall 2009

Photos: Jerry Crisp

Held on Centennial Mall just north of the State Capitol on September 17, the theme this year was “The World in a Day.” The meaning of that phrase is “to expose participants to a wide array of cultural experiences in a very short time,” according to **Charles Roberson** of Administrative Services-State Personnel who co-chairs the World Day Planning Committee with DHHS’ **Roxanne Rediger**. “We try to spark curiosity and imagination to help them see that differences can actually be cool and fun and incorporate that experience into their daily lives.”

Those attending enjoyed tasty ethnic cuisines and the musical talents of “**RMV**” (Results May Vary), a blend of Haitian, Afro, Latin and World Wide music. Also on stage was recording artist **Daniel Martinez**, whose specialty is the Latin, Flamenco and classical guitar and who has performed both here and abroad. Rounding out the entertainment was **Paola Plata**, a dancer specializing in traditional Colombian music.

In addition to entertainment, fine food and information vendors, presentations offered entertaining ways of exploring issues directly related to the work performed every day by state workers. **Judy gaiashkibos**, Director of the Commission on Indian Affairs, suggested ways of working through differences to come to common understanding, as well as how to allow differences and still come together and move forward.

Bianca Ramirez-Salazar of the U.S. Census Bureau discussed challenges of

(Below) “RMV” wows with spicy, toe-tapping musical fare.



KOLN-KGIN TV co-anchor Serese Cole MC-ed 2009 World Day.

reaching out to various communities often under-counted in Census rolls, while **Dominique Garay** and **Oscar Rios Pohirieth** joined forces to offer a blend of poetry and music that reminded their audience of the importance of valuing each other in spite of varying viewpoints.

As a World Day invitation said, “As State employees, we can use this ... to motivate us to grow and work more effectively with our co-workers, clients and customers, who are a very diverse group.”

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, Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, and members-at-large.

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

Joyful Stoves has a charming name and a big job that's not always full of joy. As a Service Coordinator in the DHHS Lincoln office, her mission is to help ensure that persons with developmental disabilities receive services they need and that their rights are respected.

On any given day, Stoves might drop by a group home, extended family home, or workshop to check on the 25 clients or so on her case load.

"I need to make sure that their needs are being met and find out if they have any concerns," Stoves explains. "I also check on sanitation and safety factors and make sure that habilitation is ongoing, rights are being respected, and funding remains available to pay for these services."

According to **Kim Johnson**, her immediate supervisor, "Joyful is a delight to work with and provides those she serves and their families comprehensive information and great care."

Earlier this year, Stoves has been heavily involved in the transfer of clients who were determined to be medically fragile at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) to Lincoln hospitals. She bore the lion's share of the task of securing appropriate community-based services for them.

On a typical day, Stoves heads for the hospital where some BSDC clients remain. There she meets with medical staff, community-based providers, dietitians, nurses and others. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that all of the client's basic needs are being met. Upon returning to her office, she contacts family members and guardians to share progress reports, as needed.



Joyful Stoves

Photo: Jerry Crisp

"Three of these clients are no longer classified as medically fragile and two others have returned to BSDC," Stoves explains.

Perhaps the major challenge Stoves faces is when dealing with the most independent clients who have no guardian or family and want to make choices for themselves.

"We want to help them make their own decisions and encourage independence, but we also want them to make the decisions that are best for them in the long run," says Stoves. "When we try to steer them in the right direction and they don't want to go there, sometimes it's best to offer options, provide resources and allow them to make a questionable decision because they're not really independent if we make all decisions for them."

What keeps Stoves going is whenever she is able to help someone out of a bad situation and into a better one.

"One of the BSDC clients I've worked with is now out of the hospital, living in an extended family home, and doing very well," says Stoves. "He's still medically fragile, but he's happy."

Stoves finds the best guide for success is thinking outside the box.

"While clients can be categorized or classified, each is a person with individual needs," says Stoves. "Tailoring services to meet clients' needs is possible because many more community options are now available than ever before."

Joyful Stoves finds joy whenever she sees a client becoming more independent and heading toward a brighter future.

"When they're happy," she says, "so am I."

Way to Go!

Statewide and national recognitions, honors and awards

Karen Bowen is much concerned with the quality of care provided to you and everyone else receiving medical care. Bowen is the Nurse Practice Consultant for the Board of Nursing in the Division of Public Health.

Bowen is so concerned with this issue that she recently co-authored a book on the subject. "Nursing Pathways for Patient Safety" was written with a distinguished panel of experts from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). NCSBN is a not-for-profit organization whose members include nursing boards in 50 states and four U.S. territories with a mission of advancing regulatory excellence for public protection.

"The book looks beyond individual errors and instead focuses on nursing practice breakdown from a system perspective," Bowen explains. "We describe the TERCAP data



Karen Bowen

Photo: Jerry Crisp

collection tool that the panel developed and provide a review of eight types of practice breakdowns."

The work offers compelling case studies based on actual instances of practice breakdown and provides a helpful framework for identifying and addressing such problems.

"This book is a must-read for all undergraduate and graduate nursing students, as well as all practicing nurses, nurse educators and administrators," says **Patricia Benner**, one of the book's editors and authors. "It clarifies and exemplifies the nurse's central role in patient safety. Nurses are the patient's first and last defense in today's complex health care

system. Central to their work is prevention of safety hazards to patients as a result of hospitalization or encounters with all health care institutions."

The book is available from Elsevier at <http://www.us.elsevierhealth.com/index.jsp> or by calling 1-800-545-2522.

DHHS employees should be proud of themselves and each other. If you earn statewide or national recognition or know a co-worker who does, let *Connections* know, and we'll proclaim it here!

November Observance

In 2008, more adoptions were finalized for children in foster care than ever before, with 572 that year. Even with that progress, at any time there are over 360 children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities who still need a loving adoptive family. Generally, they are older boys and girls who may have unique medical, psychological or physical needs, or who want to be placed together with their siblings.

Adoption has changed over the past 30 years. You don't have to be married, rich or own a house to adopt. You DO

National Adoption Month

have to provide a stable, loving home and be able to help your adopted child work through issues raised by his or her past. Children need families. If you and your family want to make a difference and learn more about adoption, call 1-800-7PARENT (1-800-772-7368). Pictures and information about some of the children looking for parents can be found at <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/adoption/children.htm>.

Wellness Words: *Think Health!*

Now cut that out! Sugar, I mean. Sugar packs on pounds, can complicate diabetes and leads to tooth decay. Drink diet soda. Avoid large amounts of certain sauces that are high in sugar, like barbeque sauce and French dressing.



Buy sugar-free snacks. Eat a piece of fruit. Don't drink fruit juice. Sugar can be an addiction. Resolve to cut it out of your diet as much as possible.

Dr. Joann Schaefer
Chief Medical Officer

Keep Nebraska Beautiful honors BSDC clients, staff



Center citizen **Charlie Norris** plants a flower at his campus home, with a helping hand from Recreation Aide **Cary Udell**.

Photo: Patty Hasenkamp



Bright red flowers on the 422 Solar cottage patio are among hundreds that thrived this summer at campus homes and in the community of Beatrice. *Photo: Jerry Crisp*

By Jerry Crisp

If you plant the right seeds, good things will grow. That's what Activity Specialist **Diane Waltke** was thinking when she suggested that BSDC become part of "Grow Big Red"—a beautification effort sponsored by Keep Nebraska Beautiful (KNB) to encourage Nebraskans to plant red flowers in public areas such as parks and along highways and curb sides.

KNB must have been happy with the results because it gave BSDC a 1st-place award at a ceremony thanking major participants. KNB Executive Director **Jane Polson** told the more than 100 people attending that the BSDC's entry was one of the best her organization had ever seen.

"The judges were blown away with your application," Polson said. "This is the most outstanding Grow Big Red project I have seen since it was developed 14 years ago."

Grow Big Red took root when the University of Nebraska football team won the 1995 national championship.

Recreation Director Julie Belding liked Diane's suggestion and contacted Vocational Coordinator **Nancy Sedlacek**, who agreed to help.

"Green Thumb" clients from several campus homes planted donated seeds and started growing red zinnias, nasturtiums and poppies, and other clients potted more than 500 of these plants at the BSDC Senior Center.

Tended in the campus greenhouse, these plants were delivered to addresses across campus and schools, child care providers and neighborhoods throughout Beatrice. In April, Center citizens and Recreation Department staff set up a booth at the Homestead National Monument to distribute free plants and flyers.

Polson called the BSDC group "our model." She said that all Nebraskans are encouraged to show their Cornhusker spirit by filling their communities with red flowers in honor of Nebraska's excellence in the environment and overall stewardship of the land.

The BSDC campus and community of Beatrice are now more beautiful. As Diane Waltke and others know well, plant the right seeds and good things will grow.

DHHS recognition Web site helps you make a difference

By Dianna Seiffert

October has been designated as state employee recognition month in Nebraska, but did you know that DHHS has a Web site dedicated to employee recognition all year long? It's on our Human Resources page under "recognition" at www.dhhs.ne.gov/hur/recognition.

Employee recognition is good for workplace motivation and creates positive morale. It's simple — people who feel recognized and appreciated produce more and better work. That's why employee recognition activities are important, and, best of all, easy to do.

The recognition Web site has tools and information to help you with your recognition



efforts, like Reasons and Ideas for Recognition, a Get to Know Your Co-workers questionnaire and a printable Thank You card, because even a small "thank you" for someone's work can have a big effect.

The Web site also has quick links to DHHS' employee recognition policy and more information about the Governor's Employee Recognition program. You can even e-mail your questions and ideas about DHHS employee recognition to dhhs.recognition@nebraska.gov.

Remember, the more we do to recognize employee and co-worker efforts, the more motivated and productive we all become.

SNAP to it! DHHS food stamp program changes its name

DHHS' food stamp benefit program recently changed its name to SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The name change reflects the national focus on nutrition and putting healthy food within reach for low-income households.



Federal funds pay for SNAP. Our program is available to Nebraskans with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level. Last fiscal year, low-income Nebraskans received \$162,110,219 in food stamp benefits.

Good Things Are Happening!

Nebraska Medicaid has been chosen for a one-year award of technical assistance to develop and implement policies that increase access to medical homes for participants in the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance

programs. A medical home is a place or system that provides patient-centered care from a team of providers who can attend to the multifaceted needs of the whole person.

Nebraska is one of only 8 states to receive the award, with a potential to reduce costs created by duplication of tests and inappropriate use of emergency rooms and to enhance access and delivery of health care to clients.

In their own words

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

Dear **Stacey Werth-Sweeney** (Facility Operating Officer, Lincoln Regional Center):

I would just like to thank everyone in Building 10 for all the help they gave my son. Everyone was so good at their jobs and helped him so much, and it makes me feel good we have a facility in Lincoln that has the ability to help. You have made his life better as well as mine.

My thanks again to all the technicians, counselors and others who were a part of this.

**A family member of a former
Lincoln Regional Center patient**

To all **staff members of the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home at Bellevue:**

A member's spouse came in to see me and had nothing but good things to say about the Home. She said she thinks her husband looks and acts better than he has in the past two years. She was especially complimentary about the speech therapist who is working with him. She said the facility doesn't even look like a nursing home.

Apparently there was some resistance from the family for him to come here, but she said the facility and the staff have overcome all of their resistance.

She had one question: "Where do you find so many positive and caring people to work here?"

Verna Evans
Business Manager
Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
Bellevue, Nebraska

Dear **Cathy Liberty** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Falls City office):

I really want to express our gratitude for all your help taking care of the needs of our mom.

As far as making her a ward, this is something we don't feel could ever be an option. She is our mom, and we could never walk away or desert her just because things get a bit difficult. As a parent, she did not do that to her children, and this child could never do that to her.

Make no mistake in thinking that we do not appreciate your help and concern. We thank you for all your help, and consider you a blessing in all of our lives. You should always feel pride in the work you do to help so many others.

A family member of a Fall City service recipient

In their own words

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

Dear **Joanne Baier** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Wayne office):

I would like to say thanks to you and your staff for the most professional, attentive and sensitive way that you have worked with me over the years as I coordinated the care of my mother and father. It was not easy to come to your office to apply for Medicaid for my parents. However, you made it a comfortable experience by the way you approached the process in a positive way, with a warm smile and a comforting tone of voice.

Over the years, calling your office for information or clarification was met with a pleasant voice, which really made me know I was dealing with hometown people who were not bureaucrats just pushing paperwork. I knew that there was a sense of caring because you were there to help people who needed services that government provides.

Mother was such a warm and caring person, and you and your staff exemplify the grace that surrounded her life. My sincere thanks for all you do.

A family member of a Wayne area service recipient

Dear **Lynette McCowen** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Omaha Pacific Street office):

I appreciate the fact that when you talk to me, you talk with your heart and not just your lips. I feel that I am too ugly for people to look at, but you do not make me feel that way. You always try to encourage me, and I feel so much better about myself after my interviews with you.

Thank you.

An Omaha client

Dear **Nichole Eilenstine** (Children & Family Services Specialist, DHHS Grand Island office):

Just wanted to tell you thanks for all your help. If it wasn't for you putting me with my dad, I wouldn't be where I am now. My parents have helped me a lot, but if it wasn't for you, I'd probably be in juvenile or something, you know?

My job is going good, too. I work 18 hours a week, and I can't wait for school to start!

Thanks, Nichole.

A former client

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.

DHHS Years-of-Service Honorees

Because employees are located across the state, those working in facilities and service areas are identified accordingly. The Regional Centers are in the Division of Behavioral Health, the Veterans' Homes are in the Division of Veterans' Homes, the Beatrice State Developmental Center is in the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers and Service Areas are in the Division of Children and Family Services.

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

Norfolk Regional Center
Ellen Matthies

Operations
Janice Ropers

40 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center
Vonna Holdren
Velda Lenners
Rena Novotny
Shirley Stream

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Roxie Cillessen

Eastern Service Area
Louisa Tilford
Karen Marquez

Hastings Regional Center
Patricia Vath

Lincoln Regional Center
Betty Hansen

Norfolk Regional Center
Donna Baumann

Operations

Kathryn
Baumbach
Kathleen Reidy
Gloria Sanborn
JoAnne Welch

35 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center
Elaine Connelly
Wayne Goetz
Teresa Hausman
Roger Koch
Duane Lenners
Virginia Thomas

Central Service Area
Evangelin Head
Charles Ponec
Nancy Smith

Division of Children & Family Services
Jane Finney
Debra Fraas
Cynthia Hartley

Division of Developmental Disabilities
Cynthia Brinker

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Kris Azimi

Division of Public Health
Jane Bailey
Susan Farnsworth
Carol Gray
Trudy Hill
Kathleen Korinek
Donna Marking
Helen Meeks
David
Montgomery
David Palm
Barbara Pearson
Claire Titus

Eastern Service Area
Mary Craig
Linda Hruska
Maureen Pane

Grand Island Veterans' Home
Glenda Beckler
Janice Fladseth

Hastings Regional Center
Marvin Colburn

Lincoln Regional Center
Pearl Heburn
Peter Troy

Norfolk Regional Center
Darlene Ave

Northern Service Area
Teresa
Chamberlain
Deborah Habrock
Glenda Horst
Donald Vanecek

Norfolk Veterans' Home
Debra Becker
Sandra Brandt
Richard Dohmen

Operations
Paula Hartig
Janet Spaulding
W. Lynn Stone
Monica Vance
Mark Vaske

Southeast Service Area
Genene Minnick

Western Service Area
Phyllis Greenwood

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva
Mary Ann Janssen
Keith Scheidies

30 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center
Karen Girch
Ricky Hofeling
Richard Karas
Harvey Kimes
Cynthia Neal
Susan Rehm
Robin Retchless
Ronald Richards
Debi Rinne
Patricia Sookram
Bonnie Stevens
Chizuru Vanek
Alice Weyer

Central Service Area
Shelly Dankert
Lorie Hartzell

Division of Behavioral Health
Robert Bussard
Alexandra Castillo

Division of Children & Family Services
Margaret Bitz
Reed Clark
Margaret Ewing
William
Davenport
Denise Manton

Division of Developmental Disabilities
Katherine Hoppes
Karen Kavenaugh
Mary McFarland
Lynne
McGrew-Winans

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Eric Bachenberg
Karen Cheloha
Tonye Eisenhauer
Mary Robertson

Division of Public Health
Charlene
Gondring
Nancy Jones
Nancy Herdman
Susan Medinger
Barbara Merkel
Jeffrey Newman
Sherry Wirth

Eastern Service Area
Daniel Bace
Patricia Heimes
Frank Keatley
Paula Markuson
Yolanda
Peoples-Pruitt
Susan Pluta
Katherine Sanchez
Marvene Smith
Marianne Triplett
Margaret
Williams

Grand Island Veterans' Home
Joann Ewoldt
Annette Partridge
Sharon Schweitzer

Hastings Regional Center
Jerald Fergus
Donna Hartzell
Nancy Horsham
Korena Hoshaw
Ida Loutzenheiser
Dean Stromer

Lincoln Regional Center
Vicky Buchholz
Joan Devries
Cynthia Dykeman
Manuel Gamez
Nancy Goff
Scott Loder
Frederic Lyford

Norfolk Regional Center
Sandra Bohlken
Patricia Brand

Marilyn Fuller
Kathy Herian
Myron Wagner

Norfolk Veterans' Home
Marjorie Goetsch
Leon
Herbolsheimer

Operations

Allan Albers
Deborah Avey
Stephen Daly
Janice Duntz
Randal Jensen
Kathleen Kennedy
Lois Little
Kimberly Mostek
William Niemann
Michele
Ottersberg
William Patterson
Kathy Ryder
Donald Swartz
Garrick Tilman
Paul Van Arsdale
Paulette Wathen

Southeast Service Area
Carol Koch
Barbara Stone

Western Service Area
Denise Prohs
Sharon Trauernich

25 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center
Jerdon Hamm
Patricia
Hasenkamp
Carol Mick
Marita Miller
Joyce Parde
Douglas Porter
Jimmy Stevens
Marcia Vontz
Virginia Winkle

Central Service Area
Peggy Friesen
Lanetta Kellogg

Division of Children & Family Services

Cynthia Dorcey
Joan Frahm
Diane Lewis
Le Roy Shelden
Peggy Walters

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Renee Brown
Robert Gonderinger
Michael Mischnick

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Patricia Darnell-Cass
Sharon Gruhn

Division of Public Health

Mary Arends
Thomas Rauner
Stanley Cooper
Vickie Krueger
Shirley Nave
Regina Paschold
Harriet Spelts
Sharon Steele

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

Larry Bonacci

Eastern Service Area

Sheila Bacon
Sherry Buhrmann
Colleen Crowley
Sharon Davis
Sheila Loguda
Stephen Wilson

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Connie Beberniss
Linda Erickson
Sandra Fowler
Sheila Grosvenor
Cheryl Husak

Lincoln Regional Center

Randall Becker
Mark Dewitt
Phillip Jefferson
Betty Ann Korber
Sherry Nielsen
David Reece
Laurie Reinsch
Wendall Reberts
Louise Stone

Norfolk Regional Center

Mary Andersen
Marilyn Blunck
Sandra Bogue
Dawn Collins
Eleanor Jensen
Jean Lang
Patricia Leise
Walter Rogat
Daniel Sturgis
Polly Timperley
Lisa Weible
Leann Weich

Northern Service Area

Carolyn Klein
Sheri Leffler
Pamela Meierdierks
Vicki Viox

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Martha Borer
Paula Janssen

Operations

Renee Bennett
Gary Brennan
Carol Ertl
Tamara Foley
Sheryl Hansen
Wendell Harper
Elliott Horton
Eugene Kelly
Keith Larsen
Suzanne Newsome
Bradley Pope
Sue Reynoldson
Thomas Ryan
Luetta Sinner
Diana Wiedel
Steven Zulfer

Southeast Service Area

Rita Beachler
Gayle Durfee
Deborah Heinrichs
Margue Hoffman
Paula Jones
Catherine Liberty
Linda Rae Ludi
Kathryn Parham
Arthur Weiland

Western Service Area

Patricia Anderson
Shelli Arensdorf
Marnie Carr
Peggy Knoles

Kathleen Nichols-Gerken
Lana Parmenter
John Zach

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva

JoAnn Jackson
Joyce Odvody

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney

Marvin Carr
Michael Haberlan
Brett Hansen
Cindi Kidder
Daniel Lyon
Irvin Nelson
Robin Smith
Morris Van Vleet
Mary Wright

20 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Terri Bowers
Thomas Carpenter
Les Hauptman
Nancy Huber
Theresa Hyberger
Mike Izer
Gary Jurgens
Susan Landon
Mark Mohr
Lisa Munsterman
Kathy Pretzer
Cora Shaw
Donna Stansberry
Rudy Vazquez
Keith Vorderstrasse
Bonny Walker

Central Service Area

Michele Anderson
Cindy Fankhauser
Lisa Jurrens
William Ryan
Darrin Wyatt

Division of Children & Family Services

Larue Cole
Luana Collins
Barbara Ohnoutka
June Vogel
Julia West

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Drusilla Bergerson

Beverly Kumm
Leanna Lukas

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Sharon Butts

Division of Public Health

Lori Anderjaska
Judy Anderson
Tina Brubaker
Katherine Cooper
Susan Huffman
Michelle Humlicek
Melissa Leyboldt
Judith Mooberry
Alice O'Donnell
Helen Pytko
Julia Schmitt
Julie Thomsen
Rita Watson
Yvonne Winters

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

Shirley Frazier

Eastern Service Area

Shirley King
Debora Kipper
Douglas Kreifels
Vicki Romero
Al Schleich
Shannon Siebe
Dagmar Srb

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Victoria Brooks
Waunita Dimmitt
Rose Helmer
Peggy Nelson
Julie Quednau

Hastings Regional Center

Rhonda Brewster
Annette Halsey

Lincoln Regional Center

Larry Birkett
Brian Lassalle
Judith Gaona
Sandra Harrison
Roanne Mack
Christy Rupe
Scott Schnirl
Stacey Werth-Sweeney

Norfolk Regional Center

Judith Anderson

Diane Hassler
Jyl Hochstein
Kristi Kortje
Steven Lindstadt
Rose Prather
Anthony Uttecht
Donna Young

Northern Service Area

Terri Brown
Sarah Carnahan
Melodee Drenkow
Peggy Garrod
Myra Hoffart
Linda Musser-Rumsey

Stacey Oakes

Rebecca Shaw
Patricia Sparks-Freemont

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Linda Frank
Steven Hult
Cheryl Morse
Ann Richter
Terrin Schroeder
Anna Simpson
Julie Ward

Operations

James Hatheway
Darrell Klein
Susan Kotas
Robin Mauseth
Kathryn Miller
Jeffrey Rozendal
Tsai-Chin Sun

Southeast Service Area

Kimberly Adams
Michael Baumfalk
Evelyn Burrage
Karen Dehart
Diane Hill
Pamela Hirschmann
Judith Kovar
Sandra Payne

Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

Alphonso Hernandez
Nancy Marez
Elva Neuharth

Western Service Area

Dawn Anderson
Jerrilyn Crankshaw
Michelle Eby

Patsy Juedes-Fulk
Dennis O'Brien
Janet Rempe
Catherine Studt

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva

Kathryn Burback
Holly Davenport

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney

Mick Stagemeyer

15 Years of Service

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Cindy Barnes
Lorie Drake
Debra Fralin
Carrie Haake
Jane Harms
Laura Helms
Aldene Linder
Harold McPherson
Donnie Meyer
Scott Parker
Amy Schroeder
Barbara Smethers
Joan Snell
Jamie Snyder
Marc Thyfault
Kevin Weichel

Central Service Area

Jaunita Briseno
Wanda Frink
Debra Stone-Haga
Julie Wood

Division of Children & Family Services

Barbara Beran
Jill Dahlgren
Juanita Ewers
Teresa Fritton
Sondra Cluck
Rita Krusemark

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Suzette Blakely
Charlene Blakeman
Nancy Campbell
Nancy Chapman-Heiser
Jane Cleveland
John Cronican
Carol Kralik
Paul Piper

Lori Sabata Richard Voss	Ellen Weed	10 Years of Service	Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care	Nancy Stutzman	Trudy Neinaber Mary Upp Leo Vestecka
Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care Tammie Scholz	Northern Service Area Karen Denaeyer Marlene Pabian Vickie Chirstiansen Nancy Schmitz John Ullrich Stephanie Zoubek	Beatrice State Developmental Center Ronald Black Hope Brown Craig Garner Luisa Genrich Anthony George Patricia Hinton Robert Ideus Ronald Jobman Timothy Johnsen Doris Kerr Kent Korinek David Kruger Tracia Lattimer Diane Mayer Steven McCarthy Dianna Mohr Catherine Ray Nikki Reisen Amy Sturm	Margaret Booth Sheila Harms John Naujokaitis Jacquolyn Rapier	Hastings Regional Center Mary Haberman Tony Martin Danny Pendergast Mildred Powell Kathryn Stack	Southwest Service Area Randy Agena Janet Apfelbeck Anna Barragan Paul Chapman Mary Ann Davis Roxanne Fanders John Pry Thomas Ross Teri Stukenholtz Darcy Thege Susan Wahlstrom Laura Weatherby
Division of Public Health Thomas Christopherson Dawn Freiberg Terri Holman Brian Miller Jacquelyn Miller Susan Riepe David Sizer	Norfolk Veterans' Home Janell Schramm	Central Service Area Carol Bennett Abby Weber	Division of Public Health Lori Altmaier Sharon Bartak Tracy Beranek Marcia Cederdahl Susan Chocholou Patricia Delancey Steve Drda Carrie Erickson Craig Erickson Nancy Foral Andrew Kahle Eve Lewis Jacqueline Pelley Mary Poe Ming Qu Carol Rasmussen Amy Turek April Varga Larry Wallace Patricia Wilke	Lincoln Regional Center Trudy Bakesz Susan Childress Scott Collier Larry Dedrickson Vera Friesen Timothy Kennedy Kyle Malone Yancey Moore Ika Obradovic David Otto Lori Rasmussen Jeffrey Van Lent	Western Nebraska Veterans' Home Terry Dasher Jeanette Fisher
Eastern Service Area Christine Batiste Jerry Burrus Gregory Kosmicki Joseph Manley Michell Onken Candice Pappas Vicki Parsons Linda Torres Anne Vasilisin Sheila Wagner Ellen Wilkins Maryland Williams	Operations Brian Covault Rebecca Inness Lawrence Jones Debra Lipovsky Donald Losh Douglas Meek Daniel Meier Darlene Nordby Ellen Novak Marie Pope Diann Schmidt Joseph Schmieder	Division of Behavioral Health Lawrence Shaffer	Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home Pamela Bechtolt	Norfolk Regional Center Janice Oswald Loren Ransen Julie Redwing Carol Ruge Shirley Stearns Daryl Stephenson Marilyn Stromberg	Western Service Area Karen Boysen Holly Brandt Donna Carmichael Theresa Davis Debra Demilt Daniel Dickman Michael Hazledine Peggy Lohr Marilyn Luna Teresa Morland Linda Pirog Cynthia Sample Roxanna Skidmore Tara Rasmussen Linda Post
Grand Island Veterans' Home Karon Bussinger Vicki Lepant Linda Quandt Jeri Thiede	Southeast Service Area Linda Dohmen Jenise Erikson Deanna Ewing Janae Phillips Mary Seip Lisa Wheat	Division of Children & Family Services Brenda Anderson Carmen Dunlap Chris Lovorn Tanya Rhodes Rosana Stearns Tracy Webb	Eastern Service Area Rebecca Beck Solape Dada Cora Davis Nancy Frederick Naomi Goodwin Carrie Hauschild Karen Hawthorne Ernest Johnson Melissa Kratky Amy Reed Cipriana Robles April Sipp Linda Taylor Angela Ulrich Kimberly Zueter	Northern Service Area Jacqueline Amos-Baden June Baier Mary Barrett Tammy Henery William Howes Sharon Mickelson Debrah Orton Douglas Stanton	Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva Loneal Beck Cortney Lichti Carol Mathiesen Pam Rose Mamie Salmon
Hastings Regional Center Lesla Armstrong Douglas Bonham Robert Fines Russell Meyer	Western Nebraska Veterans' Home Barbara Jacobs Nora Moreno Nadine Wearne	Division of Developmental Disabilities Sara Beans Kathryn Brown Michele Coover Lannie Doffin Debra Herbel Michele Jack-Love Amy Jelinek Robert Mathena June McClure Rebecca Meseraull Michelene Nissen Heather Otte Theresa Palacio Deborah Peterson Tammy Scholte Kelly Stoddard Keith Van Drew Marni Vaught	Grand Island Veterans' Home Joanne Badura Pamela Deal Billie Derr Virginia Hostetler Cindy Kelley Florence Matthiessen Dorothy Menke Larry Molczyk Brenda Paro	Norfolk Veterans' Home Shirley Brudigan Deborah Cattell Donna Crist Megan Halsey Diane Jacobson Jolene Johnson Judy Kopejtko Daniel Morse Cynthia Throener Donna Wagner Elaine Wessendorf	Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney Ilene Anson Linda Heapy Russell McCartney Dustin Trosper Linda Veeder
Lincoln Regional Center Dennis Connolly Charles DeGrave Sandra Findley Dale Huddle Sarah Johns Sandy Rodriguez Shawn Schwartz Coral Wagner	Western Service Area Riva Coulter Esther De Los Santos Tracy Fornander Laurie Orr Yvette Troyer			Operations Emily Claussen Ronald Sanchez Suzann Langner Michael May	
Norfolk Regional Center Barbara Buettgenbach Larry Emory Jeanne Jensen Lori Nuttelmann Susan Reifenrath	Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney Cynthia Krolikowski				



The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services mission:
Helping people live better lives.