

Connections

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

Bringing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services employees closer together

October 2010
VOLUME 10, ISSUE 10



The October 12 ribbon cutting for the first Customer Service Center in Lincoln celebrated another successful component of ACCESSNebraska, which modernizes how economic assistance services are provided.

Staff will begin taking calls from clients in mid-November as they pilot using a universal caseload, where clients call an 800 number for assistance instead of having an assigned caseworker. By 2012, the other three Customer Service Centers will be up

and running in Fremont, Lexington and Scottsbluff.

From left, **Susan Kissler**, Anderson Auto Group and Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Co-Chair; **Clay Smith**, Speedway Motors and owner of the building; **Todd Reckling**, Division of Children and Family Services Director; **Kerry Winterer**, DHHS CEO; **Wendy Birdsall**, President, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; **Paul Miloni**, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; and **Josh Barker**, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel.

Photo: Mike Wight

DHHS now on and

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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. You can read and subscribe to all DHHS news releases from the DHHS [Newsroom](#). You can also listen to [sound bites](#) issued with releases.

[Fight the Stigma, Fight the Illness](#) September 28, 2010

[DHHS Receives Incentive Bonus for High Number of Successful Adoptions](#) September 16, 2010

[Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home Receives Perfect Score](#) September 13, 2010

Go to [DHHS In The News](#) on the Employee Home Page for links to *Omaha World-Herald* and *Lincoln Journal Star* articles involving DHHS programs and services.

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

make the connection . . .

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DHHS Employee Website: www2.dhhs.ne.gov

DHHS Helpline: 1-800-254-4202, (402) 471-6035 in Lincoln, or via e-mail at dhhs.helpline@nebraska.gov

Chief Executive Officer:

Kerry Winterer

Behavioral Health

Division Director:

Scot Adams, Ph.D.

Children and Family Services

Division Director:

Todd Reckling

Developmental Disabilities

Division Director:

Jodi Fenner

Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Division Director:

Vivianne Chaumont

Public Health Division

Director/Chief Medical Officer:

Dr. Joann Schaefer

Veterans' Homes Division

Director:

John Hilgert

Chief Operating Officer:

Matt Clough

Connections is published monthly for employees of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services by Communications & Legislative Services (CLS) in collaboration with the Graphics & Layout Unit in Support Services:

CLS Administrator:

Kathie Osterman

Editor:

Jerry Crisp

Graphics and Layout

Maisun Allahi

Judy Barker

Robby DeFrain

► Readers are invited to submit news, photos & story ideas to the editor via:

Phone: (402) 471-3995 **Fax:** (402) 471-3996 **E-mail:** jerry.crisp@nebraska.gov

Interagency mail: Nebraska State Office Bldg. 3rd Floor **U.S. mail:** P.O. Box 95026, 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026

INSIDE

(Click on headline to jump to story)

[The Good Life](#) Page 3

[DHHS Directions](#) Page 4

[Employees of the Year](#) Page 5

[Supervisors/Managers of the Year](#) Page 7

[Cancer Registry](#) Page 10

[NRC's 125th!](#) Page 11

[LRC Wellness](#) Page 12

[Front Liner Heather Sidders](#) Page 13

[National Guard Support](#) Page 14

[IS&T Tribute](#) Page 15

["In Their Own Words"](#) Page 16

[BSDC Fun Day](#) Page 18

[Artist Soars](#) Page 19

[Years of Service Honorees](#) Page 20

Department of Health & Human Services



The Good Life: A reminder of what we all share and hope to provide to our fellow Nebraskans



Kerry Winterer

Photo: Bill Wiley

CEO Kerry Winterer shared the following with DHHS Employees/ Supervisors-Managers of the Year at a recognition ceremony in Lincoln on October 27th.

I'd like to welcome you here today as we recognize and honor the Department's employees and supervisors of the year.

I want to begin by sharing with you comments that I have made to some 1000+ people during the various speaking opportunities I have had over the past year.

Being new to state government when I began some 15 months ago, I did not know what to expect from DHHS employees. As is the case with

our Department in general, the public and the media is not always flattering when it comes to state employees. I had questions like what motivates them, how hard do they work, what are their values?

I can say today, as I do in my public speeches, that from day one I have been impressed with the level of commitment

I thank you for what you do everyday, and, more importantly, thank you for being who you are everyday.

and dedication I see in our department's employees. I see people who do things day in and day out that require patience, perseverance, and dedication. And that is true of those on the "front lines" as well as those who may be working at some other job, supporting those on the front line.

I have to tell you that I don't know that I could do what so many of our employees, you, do routinely.

My description of our employees is that they are "mission driven" which makes you different in my view from those in the private sector. Your motivations are not money or status or recognition so much as serving your own personal mission.

You have pride in what you do, and you believe the work you do makes a difference.

So now we come to today's events and honoring you who have been recognized as employees or supervisors of the year. Each of you was nominated by a peer, someone you work with who noticed your energy, enthusiasm and desire to do your best. Each of you epitomizes what I have said about our employees, being mission driven and motivated by the desire to do good for other people.

You exemplify our mission of helping people live better lives. You're the face our partner organizations, our clients, our contractors and everyone who does business with us, sees. You are an inspiration for all other employees in the department.

Your recognition today is certainly an honor and you ought to enjoy it. But at the same time I want you to know that you are role models for other employees in the department.

With that role comes a responsibility to your fellow employees to continue to do your best work, to be a motivator,

and to help your fellow employees to do their best work.

I am sure that I speak for all your colleagues for whom you are models when I thank you for what you do everyday, and, more importantly, thank you for being who you are everyday.

DHHS DIRECTIONS

The world is changing. It's fast-paced and people get their news in bits and pieces. DHHS *Directions* provides quick info about current work of one or two Divisions in each issue.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DBH)

- Developed Network of Care, an online information place for individuals, families and agencies concerned with mental and emotional wellness, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities. This site provides critical information, communication and advocacy tools with a single point of entry.
- The last Norfolk Regional Center psychiatric patients left in June, effectively ending general psychiatric services at NRC.
- Improved the Substance Abuse Capacity and Data Management System, which allows the DBH to collect information on available substance abuse capacity, individuals waiting for substance abuse treatment and the provision of interim services. This helps ensure timely access to substance abuse treatment and to monitor provision of interim services for those waiting to receive treatment.
- The Norfolk Regional Center celebrated its 125th anniversary in October. NRC has evolved from a center that serves persons with mental illness to one that serves a



Scot Adams

Photo: Bill Wiley

smaller population of civilly committed sex offenders.

- To meet its goals of providing more services in communities and reducing emergency protective custody situations, DBH improved data collection on crisis response programs and emergency system diversion rates. This will help the Nebraska

Psychiatric Emergency Systems Team measure effectiveness of the emergency system.

- DBH is working with local providers on the SOAR program (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) which helps homeless individuals with mental health problems access benefits administered by the Social Security Administration. DBH is partnering with Children & Family Services for SOAR implementation.
- Completed the federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment block grant review and scrutiny with flying colors.
- Since its opening on January 1, in the first six months, the Family Helpline handled 1,461 calls. The most frequent reasons cited by families calling the line had to do with family relationship issues, including children not follow rules, aggression and anger, and arguing and lying.
- The Family Helpline referred calls to the Family Navigator Program, and 182 families enrolled in the first six months. The goal is to help families remain intact by assisting them in navigating the community-based behavioral health system.

Winter Weather Awareness Day is Nov. 4

LINCOLN - The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is appealing to Nebraskans to be particularly watchful and aware as the winter weather season approaches. Severe Nebraska winters can paralyze wide areas and result in extensive damage to property, economic hardships, injuries and even death.

In an effort to remind Nebraskans to prepare for winter weather, Gov. Dave Heineman declared Nov. 4 as Winter Weather Awareness Day at the request of the National Weather Service and NEMA.

"Nebraskans are familiar with the challenges severe weather can present our state," Gov. Heineman said. "This observance is an opportunity for

individuals and families to take steps now to better prepare for winter."

By being prepared and taking proper precautions, the people of Nebraska can reduce the effects of blizzards, snow and ice-covered roads, extremely low temperatures and other hazards of life-threatening weather developments.

The NEMA website lists tips for preparing for winter weather at www.nema.nebraska.gov. Click on the Disaster FAQ/Info tab to find tips on winter preparedness for homes and vehicles and other information.

Another good source for information is the Nebraska Department of Roads 24-Hour Weather and Travel Information

available online at www.511nebraska.org, or by calling 511 from a cell or landline. Those outside Nebraska should call 1-800-906-9069.

In addition, the National Weather Service has put together a [Winter Weather Awareness Packet](#).

"Almost every year we see the harsh conditions that can threaten life and safety, particularly as we travel during the winter months," said Al Berndt, NEMA assistant director. "People who must be on the roads in severe winter conditions should have the supplies and equipment needed to survive in the event of an emergency situation. While local officials and state agencies will respond to emergencies, people must also be prepared to help themselves. That means each family should have a plan that will enable them to operate for up to 72 hours without any outside help."

DHHS Employees & Supervisors-Managers of the Year!

DHHS is proud to announce the 2010 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. *Congratulations!*

Employees of the Year



Brooke Greenough
Child & Family Services Specialist,
Northern Service Area
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

In the past year Brooke has diligently worked on several cases that have led to prosecution of the perpetrators. She has gone above and beyond on these cases by providing thorough narratives,

creating spread sheets and obtaining all records needed to make the prosecution's case air tight. In several of the cases, both prosecutors and law enforcement have commended Brooke on the "up front work" she has done on the cases that made their jobs easier. One said he would like to clone her.



Megan Halsey
Staff Care Technician II
Norfolk Veterans' Home
Division of Veterans' Homes

Megan creates a positive working relationship with members, their families, Veterans' Home departments and outside health care providers. She

is attentive to meeting the needs of members. She enjoys being able to help out both members and employees and understands the facility's mission of "members living well." Her skills include outstanding communication, dedication and organization. Megan's smile is infectious, and she always demonstrates kindness and compassion.



Marg Hipp
Staff Assistant II
Norfolk Regional Center (NRC)
Division of Behavioral Health

Marg is always willing to help others, from a simple task to complex computer issues. Marg will do so with compassion and dedication to NRC employees,

patients, her work and the hospital. She works hard every day to ensure that all of the administrative functions of the hospital run smoothly, ensuring that patients' medical referrals are made on time and that fiscal responsibilities are handled as well. Marge has a wonderful personality, a lively spirit and a kind heart.



Marilyn Jackson
DHHS Program Specialist-RN
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

Marilyn's duties center around providing consultation to approximately 120 local waiver services coordination staff across the state to assist them in keeping adults with physical disabilities and frail elders safely in their own

homes and communities, rather than in nursing facilities. She works with staff in determining if clients meet program requirements and can be served safely at home or with assisted living, and explores options when a waiver is no longer able to meet a client's needs. She led the development and testing of algorithms of a new level of care tool to be implemented in 2011. She maintains several data sources used in waiver quality assurance for evidentiary reports on their assurances.



Steve McNulty
Environmental Engineer II
Division of Public Health

Steve reviews plans and specifications for water systems projects, swimming pools, mobile home parks and other projects to determine compliance with Department regulations. He is responsible for the Department's activities related to the Drinking Water

State Revolving Fund. He was a major force in developing protocols and daily administration for determining eligibility and priority in which public water systems were to receive Drinking Water State Revolving related funds. Steve works with engineers, water systems, and regulatory partners, both state and federal, to meet these requirements. In partnership with NDEQ, DHHS received the EPA Region 7 DWSRF Award for Sustainable Public Health Protection.



Jerra Pester

Licensed Practical Nurse
Western Nebraska Veterans' Home
Division of Veterans' Home

Every time you see Jerra, she is smiling. If a member needs something, she meets that need immediately. If the team following her shift has an issue, Jerra works to resolve issues. She is eager to perform her job well. She is busy her entire shift and never hesitates to help anyone.



Charlie Ponec

Resource Developer
Central Service Area (CSA)
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Charlie is committed himself to make the Out-of-Home Child Welfare Reform successful. He helps monitor the contract that the CSA has with the Boys and Girls Home. On snowy days, he clears sidewalks, makes paths to and through the street, and offers to stay to help keep the office open. In the spring, he plants flowers and keeps them beautiful during the summer. Co-workers are glad to have Charlie as a part of their team.



Marie Pope

Training Coordinator
Human Resources & Development
Operations

Marie single-handedly coordinates the training program for Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva employees that meets the real needs of workers and helps them succeed in challenging jobs. She schedules herself to work all shifts to meet employee needs and keeps up-to-date on procedures followed in direct care areas. Employees at all levels respect Marie's positive attitude, work ethic and decision-making abilities.



Henry Potts

Mental Health Security Specialist II
Hastings Regional Center (HRC)
Division of Behavioral Health

Henry adjusts his schedule to help meet needs of the youth and co-workers and help HRC avoid overtime costs. He is a CPR instructor for the facility and is flexible to provide training for the night shift. He enjoys his job and is always smiling. Youth in the

program at HRC connect with Henry and seek him out when they need someone to help them problem solve. Henry always takes the time to make himself available for whatever the youth need.



Doug Raney

Developmental Disabilities Service
Coordinator
Division of Developmental
Disabilities, Omaha Office

Doug volunteers to take individuals with challenging issues and works effortlessly to see their needs are met. CFS caseworkers request Doug be the Service Coordinator assigned, aware of his determination to get the services the individual needs. A parent/guardian reported how grateful they were to have him as their Service Coordinator. If parents or guardians ask him something and he says he will do it, he follows up and they don't have to wait for an answer. "He is good at his job," one said. "He's our lifeline."



Lelia Razey

Staff Assistant II
Division of Developmental
Disabilities

The amount of work and technical assistance Lelia provides to Central Office and Service Coordination staff statewide is astounding. She enters over 15,000 records each year for provider organizations, program cases, service authorizations and suspended claims processing. She helps with input on forms that determine the amount of funding provided for individuals in developmental disability services. Without Lelia's support, coordination staff would not receive timely information on amounts.



Stefanie Sellers

Child & Family Services Specialist
Eastern Service Area

Division of Children & Family Svcs. Stefanie has been managing an inordinate caseload, as many as 11 family cases in December alone. She is an essential element in the Juvenile Drug Court in Sarpy County. She successfully monitors all delinquent and status offenders assigned. The respect and admiration from Judge to youth is evident when one observes proceedings. With her involvement, detention averages in Sarpy County are

approximately eight days per youth as opposed to 35 day per youth in other areas.

Supervisors/Managers of the Year



Mike Walters

Developmental Technician II
Beatrice State Developmental Center
Division of Developmental
Disabilities

Mike has done a fantastic job working with individuals and supporting the other staff at BSDC. He is willing to work extra hours to ensure coverage

and continuity of support and care. He has a calming demeanor and soothing gentleness with people who demonstrate challenging behaviors. Although relatively new to the facility, his actions are well seasoned.



Sue Adams

DHHS Administrator I
Division of Behavioral Health

Sue supervises a team that manages six statewide contracts with the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (Regions) for network administration and service delivery. It also manages contracts with Native American Tribes, ensuring

contract compliance and providing statewide technical assistance. Sue ensures the system supports consumers who use behavioral health services in their recovery and knows how day to day work impacts consumers' ability to live better lives.



Michael Wolverton

Accountant II
Child Support Enforcement (CSE)
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Mike has a strong commitment to providing financial support to children. He goes above and beyond to provide exceptional levels of customer service to all. He is a valuable member of the

CSE Finance Unit and supportive of his team members. Mike has established positive working relationships with representatives of CSE agencies nationwide and has been named as a point of contact for other states on the US Dept of HHS Administration of Children & Families website.



Roxie Cillessen

DHHS Administrator I
Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care

In addition to an adult and children's behavioral health supervisory role, Roxie recently added pharmacy, durable medical equipment and medical transportation. She supported the Department during managed-care

contract negotiations. Her unflappable, up-beat attitude energizes her staff and creates quality outcomes with Medicaid's customers, clients, contractors and providers. She leads by example and communicates a clear philosophy: to assure compliance with regulations, provide Medicaid clients with the right service in the right amount at the right cost to meet their medical needs.



Greg Votava

Public Information Officer II
Communications & Legislative
Services

Greg is the PIO Webmaster for DHHS. He works with about 60 web content providers across the agency making sure updates, changes and new information for the website are made.

Greg is proactive and suggests options to programs to make sure the best information possible is available to the public. The DHHS website was one of the earliest and best state sites on H1N1 in the country, earning the 2009 Gold Award for Excellence from the National Public Health Information Coalition in In-house Internet sites. Greg responds quickly when important information is needed on the website.



Lori Eurek

Associate Director of Nursing
Grand Island Veterans' Home
Division of Veterans' Home

Lori sets a great example as a leader, ensuring that members receive the highest quality care, using funds wisely, and never giving an assignment she wouldn't do herself. She motivates her

team with enthusiasm and makes each person, whether it be staff, member or guest, know they are important. Her positive outlook creates a positive work environment where anything seems possible. One of her staff said, "Lori is a very personable, approachable and knowledgeable supervisor, thinks outside the box to accomplish a desired result, and makes us feel part of the solution."



Carrie Haake

DHHS Treatment Team Leader
Beatrice State Developmental Center
Division of Developmental
Disabilities

Carrie is instrumental in leading the BSDC QMRP Committee. She worked hard to prepare an updated Individual Program Plan format, representing all QMRPs in the process. As QMRP at 413 State Avenue on campus, she strongly supports the individuals. She creates meaningful activities and challenges for individuals to learn self-sufficient skills. Carrie is also respectful of her colleagues and will do whatever she can to support BSDC on its road to recertification.



Greg Hood

DHHS Safety & Emergency
Preparedness Responses
Coordinator
Operations

Greg is willing to take on difficult tasks and gives special attention to details in customer service. DHHS previously used the Building Div/State Patrol

ID access card system which charged for each card, and through research and cost analysis Greg was able to purchase equipment which allowed us to produce these cards at great savings. He converted all building leases to a file for easy access to share with area administrators and the Building Division. He also generated a spreadsheet for all DHHS buildings, landlords, cost per square feet, lease expiration date and county-provided space obligation.



Kim Johnson

DHHS Service Coordination
Supervisor
Division of Developmental
Disabilities

Kim volunteered to work with Service Coordinators place individuals from BSDC. She worked with hospitals and providers to develop services and do

transitions for individuals from hospitals and BSDC. She was the first supervisor to be involved with the DD Commitment Act and worked with Central Office in outlining a plan and quarterly reports for the courts. Her attention to detail has been invaluable in allowing for placement and services with community providers for individuals from institutions.



Loretta McCrimon

Housekeeping Supervisor
Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home
(ENVH)
Division of Veterans' Homes

Loretta is a "roll up your sleeves" supervisor who treats cleanliness as her mission in life. Visitors say, "It doesn't smell like a nursing home." She

encourages her team to think for themselves and display the highest level of professionalism. She gives her team the tools and skills needed to be successful and provides ongoing training at weekly meetings. Loretta has created a flexible and productive work environment for her employees and established monthly "Birthday Pot Lucks" to help build teamwork.



Cheryl McMurry

Director of Nursing
Lincoln Regional Center (LRC)
Division of Behavioral Health

Cheryl was instrumental in ensuring nursing coverage during the December 2009 blizzards and other weather-related emergencies. Her commitment to patients and loyalty to staff is

outstanding. She brought vision and structure to the role of Nursing Services at LRC, enabling the hospital to successfully transform into one work unit and provide consistent care to patients. She has helped the Leadership Team develop new Team Leader positions and finds ways for employees to advance in their roles.



Deb Moravec

Youth Security Supervisor
Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment
Center-Geneva (YRTC-G)
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Deb has been recognized for her contributions to the Gender Responsive Planning Team, presented at the Western States Conference and the

Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference, been an active member of the facility's Accreditation Committee, and developed meaningful activities for youth served at YRTC-Geneva. She has also been commended for her accreditation file preparation. She receives consistently high ratings from her supervisors for her level of commitment and involvement in the program on campus.



Danielle Jones
Paralegal II
Legal and Regulatory Services
Division of Veterans' Homes

Danielle sets an example to all she supervises by the way she supports each person. She helps out when someone is out and is appreciated by all of the staff to know that, when they return, she has taken care of urgent items. Danielle helps out at the Hearing Office when support staff are absent. She makes sure that hearings are scheduled, notices are mailed, files are set up and rules are followed. She has assisted Legal staff with presentations, a large claims project and anything that is asked of her.



Denise Prohs
Social Services Supervisor
Western Service Area (WSA)
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Denise acted as the lead contact for the transfer of approximately 8,500 program cases from the ESA to the Western Service Area (WSA). She organized the process of using spreadsheets and other tools to track case files and reassignment within the WSA. She paved the way for changes with ACCESSNebraska and universal caseloads and encourages all staff to embrace transfer cases as an opportunity to learn and grow. She gathered and organized resource information into a handbook for other Service Areas managing cases transferred from Omaha.



Carole Steffen
Social Services Unit Manager
Southeast Service Area
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Carole played an integral part in moving Economic Assistance programs to the ACCESSNebraska model of service delivery and serves on the statewide ACCESSNebraska Transition Team. She co-chairs several workgroups providing front-line input and information essential to developing a universal caseload model critical to ACCESSNebraska. She helped strong Social Service Worker staff, mentoring supervisors and providing quality service delivery during this transition period. Carole liaisons with many community partners to provide critical information, training and collaboration to meet the needs of clients.



Kathy Ward
Administrator II
Division of Public Health

Kathy has guided the Office of Women's and Men's Health to model outstanding public health practice. Her enthusiasm contributed to a number of successful initiatives, such as the Stay in the Game campaign that promotes colon cancer screening. Kathy helped Nebraska receive a federal colon cancer screening grant. She has been recognized nationally as a reviewer for Evidence-Based Prevention Programs and Services for the Texas Cancer Prevention Research Institute, helping the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention develop curriculum, and co-teaching a course for its Office of Workforce and Career Development's Program Consultant Certification Training.



Tamara Weichel
DHHS Treatment Team Leader
Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC)
Division of Developmental Disabilities

Tammy is responsible for Home Manager and QMRP duties at 202 Sheridan on the BSDC campus. She maintains a calm demeanor and uses a problem-solving approach to new situations that arise almost daily. She works to ensure that a team approach is used to find meaningful opportunities for individuals who call BSDC home.



Mary Wright
Food Service Director
Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney (YRTC-K)
Division of Children & Family Svcs.

Mary leads staff members who work in the Food Service Department that provide three nutritious meals a day to youth at the facility. In addition to preparing and serving 160,000 plus meals per year, the Food Service Department provides GED graduation cakes, picnic supplies and special requests to various departments throughout the year. All this extra effort is appreciated by the entire campus.

Public Health Division staff earn Nebraska admiralships for contributions to national Cancer Registry



Dr. Joann Schaefer gives Health Section Administrator **Ming Qu** with an admiralship in the Nebraska Navy for Cancer Registry work. Also earning admiralships were **Carla Becker, Jill Krause, Ge Lin, Bryan Rettig, Janis Singleton** and former employees **Xiaojuan Mi** and **Victor Filos**.

Photo: Bill Wiley

Several employees within the [Division of Public Health](#) were honored for meeting the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) national standards for data completeness, timeliness and quality—data that aids in cancer prevention and control. In recognition of this accomplishment, group members were made “Admirals” in “Nebraska’s Navy”—the state’s highest civil award bestowed by the Governor.

“The Cancer Registry enables us to look at cancer data statewide,” says **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Director of the Division of Public Health and the state’s Chief Medical Officer. “When it’s joined with other states’ cancer registries, it gives an accurate picture of the burden of cancer in the nation.”

This data contributes to the national system of cancer surveillance, which can be used to plan and evaluate cancer control programs, conduct research and monitor cancer trends.

In a letter to DHHS CEO **Kerry Winterer**, **Dr. Marcus Plescia**, Director of the CDC’s division of cancer prevention and control, said, “National partners, such as your state’s cancer registry, are crucial to the success of cancer surveillance in the United States. Many advances in cancer surveillance would not have been possible without the tireless efforts and many achievements of these organizations.”

The Cancer Registry was also recognized by the National Association of Central Cancer Registries with its “Gold Standard” award for the 13th consecutive year. Nebraska is among only seven of 66 cancer registries in the U.S. and Canada so honored.

DHHS garners public information honors

Three awards for excellence were received by Public Information Officers within Communications & Legislative Services (CLS) for efforts to inform others about DHHS.

Picking up a gold for in-house newsletters is the team that produces the Connections newsletter for 6,000 employees, state senators and scores of others across the state. The team includes editor **Jerry Crisp** and members of the CLS section, Graphic Artists in Support Services who lay out the publication in-house, photographers, proofreaders, reviewers and readers who offer input and story ideas.

Also earning a gold award is **Leah Bucco-White** for an in-house opinion/editorial piece, “H1N1 Flu Vaccine: Why Physicians Need To Start the Conversation,” for the

Nebraska Medical Association newsletter.

Sharing a silver award are Bucco-White and Webmaster **Greg Votava** for use of social media by posting information on Facebook and Twitter during the June flooding emergency.

The awards were conferred by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC). Entries in the NPHIC awards competition are judged by a panel of public relations professionals. NPHIC members include nearly 400 public health and risk communication professionals from state, tribal and territorial local health agencies and nonprofit organizations.

“It’s rewarding to know that our work is highly regarded by professionals in our field,” said CLS Administrator **Kathie Osterman**.

Norfolk Regional Center celebrates 125th anniversary



The Norfolk Regional Center (NRC) celebrated its 125th anniversary this month. In 1885, with an appropriation from the Nebraska Legislature, NRC was established to meet a need for a place to go for those with mental illness. With the addition of new ward buildings, NRC's census gradually rose to 1,366 by 1955—the highest ever. NRC has evolved over the years from a center that serves persons with mental illness to one that serves a smaller population of sex offenders. There are no psychiatric beds left there. In 2006 NRC became the first of three phases of treatment in the Nebraska Sex Offender Treatment Program. Today, the census is less than 100.

Photos: Marla Augustine



On October 15, a dignitary tea was held in honor of NRC's anniversary. Attending were **Scot Adams** (center), Director of the Division of Behavioral Health; **Bill Gibson** (left), Administrator of the three regional centers at Norfolk, Hastings and Lincoln; State Senator **Mike Flood** (right), and (not pictured) Norfolk Mayor **Sue Fuchtmann**. Adams thanked NRC employees saying, "It's your hard work that makes his place run so well. You are the reason that so many people feel their lives were turned around by a stay here."

NRC will soon have a new heat plant. The current system was meant to supply heat and hot water for the facility when there were many buildings to heat. Now that the number of buildings has been reduced, the old system is costly and inefficient. At left, the work that is currently going on to finish the heat plant. Another development is that, through a joint cooperative effort with the City of Norfolk, NRC will soon be on the city's public water supply system. This will mean that NRC will no longer need to do its own testing. The city will test for contaminants, as required by law. This also focuses all work and support functions to the south end of the campus.

LRC committee earns Governor's award for wellness efforts



The LRC Wellness Committee has good reason to celebrate success. Seated (L-R): **Leslie Guthrie, Nina Anderson-Trumble, Courtney Hall, Diana Walker**; Standing (L-R): **Gordon Tebo, Scott Rasmussen, Anng Regelean, Sharon Ziers, Marc Ostrander and Emily Rokusek** (not shown, **Stephanie Stewart**)

Photo: Linda Ziskra

By Jerry Crisp

The [Lincoln Regional Center \(LRC\)](#) Wellness Committee has dedicated the past two years organizing a health fair, blood pressure screenings, blood drives, golf and sand

volleyball tournaments, bowling, on-site yoga, walking programs and other activities—all aimed at providing enjoyable educational programs that enhance employee health. Employees have also been invited to complete a WorkWell survey that allows the committee to determine measurable outcomes for areas of improvement.

“For example, it was determined in the 2009 survey that 31% of LRC employees use tobacco products, so the committee set a goal of decreasing that percentage to 29% by the next survey.” Committee chair Courtney Hall explains. “Thanks to education and promoting a healthy lifestyle, that percentage went from 31% to 24%!”

Based on this success, the Wellness Committee applied for the Governor's Excellence Sower's Award and won. **Governor Dave Heineman** presented the award at a WorkWell Banquet at Lincoln's Rococo Theatre on October 21st.

“The work the Wellness Committee does is outstanding,” says **Bill Gibson**, Administrator of the three DHHS regional centers. “This group really cares about the LRC community, and everyone at LRC should be thankful for their efforts.”

LRC employees walk to reduce stigma, enhance hope



A group of employees starts their wellness walk on LRC grounds.

Photo: Stacey Werth-Sweeney

By Marla Augustine

The Lincoln Regional Center sponsored a walk around October 1 on the grounds for Mental Health Awareness Week (October 3 - 9). Food, fun were available, a band played, and more than 200 people participated.

“The purpose of the walk was to reduce stigma associated with mental illness and recognize the shared vision of hope for recovery,” said **Scot Adams**, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health.

One in four adults experiences a mental health problem in any given year. One in 17 lives with serious, chronic disorders, such as schizophrenia, major depression and bipolar disorder, according to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Stigma is a major barrier to people seeking when they need it.

“We want people to understand mental illness and not tip-toe around it,” Adams adds. “The more people know, the better they can help themselves or their loved ones get the help and support they need.”

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.



Heather Sidders

Photo: Corinne Jensen

By Jerry Crisp

Heather Sidders, Youth Counselor Supervisor at the [Hastings Regional Center](#) (HRC), has worked with young people for more than a dozen years. That's why, when working with young men paroled to HRC's Chemical Dependency Program from the [Youth Rehabilitation Center at Kearney](#) (YRTC-K), the boys always come first.

Heather has come full circle from her days as an intern at the YRTC-K. After her internship, she worked with girls at [YRTC-Geneva](#), and from there to HRC. Through all of these experiences, for Heather the young people come first.

When she came to HRC in 1999, Heather was involved in planning for the Chemical Dependency Program she now oversees. From the outset, the aim was to help 40 young men

committed to YRTC-K to realize that they could become productive citizens of their communities by living free from addiction to drugs and/or alcohol.

That's just what Heather has been doing for nearly a decade. In addition to supervising a dozen HRC Youth Counselors, overseeing work schedules and vacation requests, and serving as on-call supervisor one week each month, she co-chairs the "Learning Committee" that meets three times weekly to enhance program goals and strategies. She oversees responses to and management of crisis and interventions. She instructs Mandt classes that train employees how to deal with youth who are aggressive toward others or themselves. Heather also works on Performance Improvement Committees, which identify problems

and seeks solutions in all areas of service.

She also struggles to keep services within budget guidelines—always a special challenge but particularly so in a sluggish economy.

"My motto has always been that the boys come first," she says, "but providing quality services that make a difference and staying within budget constraints is an ongoing battle. That means we have to think creatively."

According to Heather, rewards might be few and far between but worth waiting for.

"When a youth, a parent, a Juvenile Services Officer or caseworker contacts us to say that a young person is still sober, has found employment and doing well," she explains, "then we know we improved someone's chance of leading a better, fuller life."

One of Heather's most memorable experiences came three years ago when she was named one of 13 DHHS Supervisors of the Year — "a high point not only because our efforts were recognized but because I got to network with co-workers across the state who are as committed to their work as I am," says Heather. Another high point came during an HRC cook-off when supervisory staff had their favorite chili recipes judged by youth treated at the facility.

"Our team didn't win, but the boys who felt isolated and ineffectual sure won," she says. "They learned that by coming together and using teamwork, being interested in something outside themselves, and having their judgments considered worthy was both enjoyable and therapeutic."

We're told that nothing is certain but death and taxes, but as Heather Sidders and people like her continue to demonstrate daily, commitment to helping young people live better lives might be added to that list.

DHHS supervisor honored for supporting employee serving in the military



(L-R) **Jennifer Feldt**; **Julie Reno**; **Dr. Joann Schaefer**, Division of Public Health Director; Major General (retired) **Walter Zink**, Nebraska ESGR field committee chair; and State Command Sergeant Major **Eli Velanzuela**. *Photo: Bill Wiley*

Julie Reno, Health Program Manager within the [Division of Public Health](#), received the Patriotic Employer award for contributing to national security and protecting freedom by supporting employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve Force from the National Committee for Employer

Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).

Reno was nominated by Community Health Educator **Jennifer Feldt**, who was also working as an engineer with the 623rd Engineering Company out of Wahoo, Nebraska, preparing to deploy in October. Feldt recently learned that she would not be part of that mission

and will return to work as a Drill Sergeant for the Recruit Sustainment Program in Ashland,

“Preparing for a deployment is very time-consuming, and I’ve been out of my DHHS office one to three weeks every month from January to August of this year,” Feldt explains. “Julie worked to ensure that I was able to go without lingering stress about this job being done and done correctly, so I was able to maintain and balance both careers. Julie stepped up to meet the challenge and is a model supervisor and employer of a service member.”



Established in 1972, ESGR promotes cooperative understanding among Reserve component members and civilian employers and operates with a network of thousands of volunteers throughout the nation and Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

November Observances

You don't have to be perfect to be an adoptive parent

Last year, caring families adopted 494 children who were state wards and free for adoption. November's Adoption Awareness Month is a time to celebrate those families and to remember that many other children still need a permanent home and loving family.

You don't have to be perfect to be an adoptive parent. You don't have to be married, childless, rich, or own a house. You just have to be willing

to provide a stable, loving home, and open your heart to a child who needs a 'forever family.'

Children of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities are waiting for parents to make a difference in their lives.

To 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>.

Watch for *Connections'* annual coverage of Adoption Day activities across the state in the next issue!



Annual get-together offers opportunity to thank IS&T customer service reps



Pictured are IS&T employees in DHHS Service Areas, 24-hour facilities, Central Office & State Office Buildings. *Photo: Bill Wiley*

By Jerry Crisp

Each year, Customer Service Representatives within [Information Systems & Technology](#) (IS&T) meet in Lincoln. Started five years ago by IT Manager **Joe Homan** to team build and thank staff for their hard work, the annual meeting also serves as a reminder of all IS&T does to keep the rest of us working more productively all year long.

IS&T's "Level 1" Help Desk offers phone support, trouble-shooting, password resets and security services, just to name a few. Among other things, "Level 2" Help Desk resolves escalated incident tickets, monitors PC maintenance, and offers 24-hour support.

The work of IS&T's "Hardware" section includes providing direct warranty and repair work for 6,600+ network PCs, 800+ laptops, 790 networked printers and 1,200 attached printers, 300+ PDAs and Windows Mobile Devices, as well as being responsible for administering the PC replacement plan of 1,000+ computers annually.

IS&T's Facility Coordination unit provides on-site support to the ten DHHS 24-hour facilities, ensuring security, maintaining user IDs and access to data, doing front line PC trouble-shooting and preventive maintenance, maintaining

servers and patient care applications, and liaising and serving as point-of-contact for all IS&T projects.

IS&T's Warehouse receives all computer assets and coordinates their surplus and destruction, ships computers and parts across the state, and is responsible for inventory, control and administering of an annual inventory of all assets.

The Email Support section administers and supports more than 6,100 email accounts, Lotus Notes applications and group lists, collaborates with other state agencies on email exchange, and provides Efax and RightFax support.

The Dispatch/Quality Assurance unit analyzes, monitors service level agreements, dispatches of field technicians and ensures customer care.

IS&T's Help Desk System supports 320 Support Representatives, generates 496,000 C.Support tickets since implementation (110,000 last year), and implemented automated surveys in August 2007 with a 50.6% response rate.

"I'm lucky to be associated with this fine group of professionals and am truly thankful for all the great work they do on a daily basis," says IT Manager Joe Homan.

Next time you see your IS&T Customer Service Representative, be sure to let them know you appreciate all they do.

In their own words

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

Dear **Memory Unit and Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home staff:**

My mom and I would like to thank the nurses and care technicians for the loving, kind, thoughtful care that my dad receives at the [Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home](#) (ENVH) at Bellevue. We appreciate everything you do and know how hard it must be to do your jobs day after day.

Even though my dad can't communicate as well as he used to, I can tell he is more relaxed and feels safer than he did at his previous nursing home. We think your system for keeping track of the members is very good, and I have never seen anyone display a bad attitude toward members. Thank you, and God bless all of you!

Lynne Roh and Janice Swanson
Karl Swanson's family

Dear **Melodee Drenkow** (Social Service Supervisor, DHHS Norfolk office):

I wanted to write you regarding the excellent service received by me and a shared client of our hospice and your agency. I recently had the opportunity to speak with **Laura Vanek** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Columbus office) regarding a client who is now under care by our hospice.

During the last five years that I have practiced social work, there has not been an individual with the professionalism and skill exhibited by Ms. Vanek. Her kindness and efficiency have tremendously helped our patient and her spouse to access much needed resources. Additionally, Laura's ability to communicate far exceeds that of any I have run into prior to this time. Her timeliness in returning phone calls, clear communication regarding needs and positive attitude make her a truly phenomenal case worker.

Dru McMillan
Hospice Social Worker

Dear **Howard Shuman** (Health Physicist, Office of Radiological Health, Regulation & Licensure):

Thank you for taking time to inspect our site, as well as educate us on the control of radiation regulations. We always appreciate learning from our inspectors to improve our practices so we can provide excellent care to our patients.

We appreciated having you as our inspector. You are very patient and extremely knowledgeable. You made the inspection feel more like a visit than a stressful event.

Josie Abboud
Vice President, Ancillary & Clinical Support Services
Methodist Hospital, Omaha

Dear **Joedy Burton** (Service Coordinator, DHHS Omaha Intake Center, [Division of Children & Family Services](#)):

Just wanted to drop you a note with a quick update. One of the triplets is still doing really well. We still struggle with weight gain, but I think he is quite a little guy!

We are finally moving to a bigger house that will fit our family better. Thank you for all of your help with making sure he had all the help he needed. The boys will be three years old soon, and there were times I wasn't sure he would get there.

A Grateful Parent

In their own words

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

Dear **Denise Walker** (Child Support Enforcement Specialist, DHHS 202 Building, Lincoln):

Thank you for your personal commitment to serving all of us "in the system." I really appreciate your efforts on my behalf, and I would like to make my sentiments known to your management. Best regards!

A Grateful Client

Dear **Jana Peterson** (Administrator, [Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney, Division of Children & Family Services](#)):

On behalf of the Leadership Kearney Adult Class #19 and myself, thank you for your time at our session at the YRTC. This was by far one of the best presentations and tours I have had this whole year.

Your personal leadership and facility structure is very apparent throughout your staff and youth at the YRTC. Also a special thanks to the youth who gave us our tours; they were very well-spoken.

A Member of the Leadership Kearney Adult Class #19

Hello **DHHS Employee Homepage** (Fresh content for the employee homepage is created daily by [Communications and Legislative Services](#) in Lincoln):

You have done a great job posting new, fun, valuable information for employees to read. I am a big time believer that one has to take care of him/herself to be able to care for others, so the wellness tips are priceless. It's easy for most of us to think of wellness tips as only diet and exercise, but you have done a great job of reaching out far beyond those two areas. I am passionate about raising breast cancer awareness and helping with the fight to end it, and you have included good information about ovarian cancer and information about protecting yourself from the sun. "Neat To Know" is a wonderful spot that's easy for staff to add a quote, the numbers on their pedometer, etc.

The Employee Homepage is educational, fun and presented in a way that everyone can understand, enjoy and "click here" if they want more information. Thanks, and keep it up!

A Grateful Employee

Dear **Bernice Russell** (Social Service Worker, DHHS Sidney office, retiring after 50 years of service!):

I'm missing you already! You taught me so much about Medicaid. I believe I'm almost to the finish line with settling my client's affairs and certainly could not have done any of it without your help.

I wish you a happy retirement. God bless you and happy days ahead for you!

A Client's Representative

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.

BSDC Fun Day “Block Party BBQ” blends tradition with a twist of spice



FUN DAY FACES:
Just two of the faces enjoying themselves at the Fun Day “Block Party BBQ” event held at the Beatrice State Developmental Center.
(Left) **Martin Anderson** utters an “Aarrrrgh” or two as a would-be pirate. Formerly living at BSDC, Martin now lives in Lincoln.

(Right) An unidentified youngster pops out of the “Obstacle Course,” one of three inflatable entertainments helping ensure that a good time was had by all.



The [Beatrice State Developmental Center](#) (BSDC) is a place many people call home. It’s a special place where people come together, helping each other achieve the most independence and the best quality of life possible. The annual “Fun Day” reunion allows individuals who used to call BSDC home to come back and interact with current residents, families, and the people who work there. It’s an exciting event, looked forward to every year. This time around, the event featured live music, carnival games, train and hayrack rides with a new block party theme and catered barbeque picnic lunch for added spice.

Deb Swoboda, who spearheads the Fun Day Planning Committee, says special credit goes to the Recreation Department, which “makes our planning come to life.”

“Fun traditions help hold us all together,” says Recreation Director **Julie Belding**. “All of the hard work that goes into Fun Day is much appreciated by all who attend.”

“Reunions of old friendships between individuals living here and those who have moved away made many of us happy and proud, knowing they are well-adjusted, healthy and successful in the community,” added Active Treatment Program Supervisor **LuAnn Faris**.

(Below) Third time’s a charm for Bill Lux to par one of nine miniature golf challenges for Fun-Dayers.

Photos: Nancy Sedlacek



Up, up and away! BSDC “Artist in Residence” soars again

By Jerry Crisp



(Above) David Courtney (seated) gathers with his family before taking off. From left, David's sister, Nancy Young, David's sister-in-law Amy, and brother Steve. *Photo: Jordan Bender*

(Below) David studies the instrument panel and listens intently as pilot **John Cox** explains the plane's operation. *Photo: Kary Rash*



Maybe it's just in his blood, but **David Courtney**, who is considered by many as the [Beatrice State Developmental Center's](#) “Artist in Residence,” recently took to the skies for a flight over Beatrice. His dad, Tom, and his brother, Steve, were both Navy pilots, and Steve is now a commercial pilot for a national airline.

“For several years, our family has talked about getting David into an aircraft, and on September 15, we finally made it happen,” says David's sister, **Nancy Young**. “It was a total surprise for David. **Steve** and his wife, **Amy**, were visiting from Virginia, and we all met David at the Beatrice Airport to watch him enjoy a 30-minute ride.”

David enjoyed an aerial view of the community and the BSDC campus.

“He was so excited,” says his sister. “He'll be talking about this experience for a long time.”

This might be David's first flight, but it's not the first time he has ever soared. Considered by many as BSDC's “Artist in Residence,” David won first place in an international art competition several years ago, and more recently illustrated a calendar with sketches of historical sites in Gage County.

Many of David's artworks also are found around the BSDC campus. Anyone who knows him wouldn't be the least surprised to find an aerial view of the BSDC campus soon join the drawings already there.

Celebrating long and loyal service. . .

CEO Kerry Winterer and some Division Directors have attended ceremonies across the state recognizing employees for years of service to DHHS customers and clients. A few examples:



(Left) In North Platte, **Bobbie Carpenter**, Children & Family Services Specialist, was honored for 10 years of service. With her (L-R) are DHHS CEO **Kerry Winterer** and Lt. Governor **Rick Sheehy**.

Photo provided



In Lincoln, **Bob Kane** (second from left), an Administrator within the Medicaid program, was recognized for 10 years of service. (L-R) Governor **Dave Heineman**, Kane, CEO Winterer, and **Vivianne Chaumont**, Director of the Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care.

Photo: Bill Wiley



In Omaha, **Pat Hopp** (center), Activity Supervisor at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home at Bellevue, was honored for 30 years of service by (L-R) Developmental Disabilities Director **Jodi Fenner**; **John Hilgert**, Director of the Division of Veterans' Homes; **Dr. Joann Schaefer**; and CEO Winterer.

Photo: Bonnie Engel

DHHS services help people live better lives. Thanks to employees for delivering those services! See lists of DHHS employees honored for years of service across the state on the following pages.

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](#), 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 & Family Services](#).

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

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

[Beatrice State Developmental Center](#)

RoJane Meyer

[Western Service Area](#)

Bernice Russell

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

[Southeast Service Area](#)

Frances Gallardo

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

[Beatrice State Developmental Center](#)

Greg Butler
Carol Kujath
Rhonda Phillips
Norma J. Pike
Joyce E. Porter
Judith A. Schmidt
Gary Scott

[Division of Children & Family Services](#)

Ruth A. Grosse

[Division of Public Health](#)

James L. Allgood
Mary K. Weatherfield

[Eastern Service Area](#)

Kathleen A. Dewispelare
Linda A. Hart
Victoria O. Newhouse

[Grand Island Veterans' Home](#)

Kenneth N. Jensen
Deanna L. Meedel

[Information Systems & Technology](#)

Celesta S. Armknecht
Jayne Draper

[Lincoln Regional Center](#)

Paul L. Day
Robert F. Whitaker

[Northern Service Area](#)

Marilyn K. Kudera

Thelma A. Moeller

[Norfolk Veterans' Home](#)

Mary L. Christensen

[Operations-Financial Services](#)

Joyce K. Zimmerman
Janet Stephens

[Operations-Human Resources & Development](#)

Victoria Blome

[Operations-Support Services](#)

Susan G. Schatz

[Southeast Service Area](#)

Susan Trabert

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

[Beatrice State Developmental Center](#)

Lorin L. Bartels
Irene K. Fronning
Pamela S. Mick
Elizabeth K. Weinman
Janet L. Whitehead
Rhonda M. Yost

[Central Service Area](#)

Kristine K. Fegter

[CEO's Office-Communications & Legislative Services](#)

Jerry Crisp

[Director's Office-Legal & Regulatory Services](#)

Joyce K. Davidson

[Division of Children & Family Services](#)

Jo B. Forst
Sandra L. Scott

[Division of Developmental Disabilities](#)

Leroy C. Schafersman

[Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care](#)

Roxie Anderson
Roxanne Giebelman
Patricia L. Flurry

[Division of Public Health](#)

Janet M. Blackman
Nancy L. Borchers
Thomas G. Borden, Jr.
Robert F. Czerwinski
Patricia Infield
Christine M. Newlon
John T. Smyth

[Eastern Service Area](#)

Linda R. Aadland
Sharon A. Bant
Carol A. Citta
Dorothy L. Dancer
Tom F. Grahek
Susan M. Kelly
Mary J. Krance
Carol J. Schmid

[Grand Island Veterans' Home](#)

Colleen K. Deleon
Joseph M. Karner

[Hastings Regional Center](#)

Carol A. Kindig

[Information Systems & Technology](#)

Dian K. Carroll
James B. Maney
Joyce A. Merck

[Lincoln Regional Center](#)

Klaus Hartman
Stephen Hincker
Joanna R. Johnson
Tu Van Nam
Thomas M. Schmitz

[Norfolk Regional Center](#)

Lois A. Brenneman
Sharon K. Peter

[Northern Service Area](#)

Mary L. McHugh
Ellyn P. Waters

[Operations-Financial Services](#)

Connie J. Johnson
Julie E. Reineke
Norman Nelson

[Operations-Human Resources & Development](#)

Pamela J. Bretos
Sandra K. Carmichael
Linda J. Gerner
Patty A. Trainer

[Southeast Service Area](#)

Suzanne G. Cochennet
Michale D. Cruthers
Rosemary A. Harnley
Ruth N. Hefner
Jean M. McNeely
Christine Gail Stefkovich
Marlene M. Stege
Kathleen M. Stemper
Western Service Area
Della M. Baker
Pamela K. Warner

[Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney](#)

Richard E. Wetjen

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

[Beatrice State Developmental Center](#)

Dianna Andrew
Natasha G. Bartles-Lieneman
Pamela J. Garton
Cindy L. Hersh
Barbara J. Hudson
Delvin Koch
Deborah M. Lantz
Clifton E. Lindell
Kari A. McPeck
Jolene A. Pike
Michael W. Powell
Patrick G. Ramsey
Debra J. Turman
Randy L. Yurka

[Central Service Area](#)

G. Janelle Bertrand
Lavonne N. Hansen
Fawn L. Hoit
Phyllis J. Steiger

[CEO's Office-Communications & Legislative Services](#)

Jeanne Atkinson

[Division of Children & Family Services](#)

Phillip M. Mitchell

[Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care](#)

Margaret R. Ahola
Jane J. Hans
Gary W. Richards
Mary E. Sukovaty

Division of Public Health

Mary E. DaLancey
Kathy A. Hickox
Mary K. Kulhanek
Jana Lynn McDonough
Sheryl L. Mitchell
Duane Newland
Jo Ann Ragan
Emil M. Swanda

Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home

Patricia J. Hopp
Lori Richardson
Linda G. Turner

Eastern Service Area

Sondra R. Brown
Fylis L. Falk
Vicki D. Faulkner
Mary P. Guier
Sharon L. Hathaway
Lesley A. Jimerson
Joletta M. Kuhn
Christina O. Liebentritt
Julie A. Shanklin

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Lenetta J. Haines
Gregg A. Wiesman

Hastings Regional Center

Robin L. Adams
Corinne I. Jensen
Carolyn V. Johnson
Mary A. Koch
Jillanne L. Kramer

Information Systems & Technology

Linda R. Weber

Lincoln Regional Center

John M. Bruns
Daniel J. Dilla
Judith D. Grabow

Stephen A. Petersen

Charles A. Wooldridge

Norfolk Regional Center

Ronald N. Hampton
Margaret A. Hipp

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Yvette S. Vetsch

Northern Service Area

Karen M. Berg
Jennifer M. Schultz
Judy M. Spale

Operations-Human Resources & Development

Vicki L. Borden
David W. Cornwell
Sharon McVay
Debra A. Moon
Sharon Ziers

Operations-Support Services

Jeanette L. Miller

Southeast Service Area

James E. Armstrong
Cynthia G. Corey
Linda A. Cox
Harriet Ann Delay
Pamela D. Evans
Caryl McKenzie
James P. Scdoris
Linda E. Soukup
Janice M. Wittwer
Diana K. Younker

Western Service Area

Manuel R. Escamilla
Elizabeth M. Warburton

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva

Kay F. Carlson

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Julie A. Bratt
Wayne E. Erickson
Lesa R. Fahrnbruch
Jane Lobner
Alvin R. Martin
Cynthia A. VanBoening
Mary E. Witulski
Juanita Woltemath

Central Service Area

Marcia R. Drudik
Mary J. Ekhooff
Mary A. Eman
Melissa A. Hajny

CEO's Office-Legal & Regulatory Services

Judith D. Auman
Roger S. Brink

Division of Children & Family Services

Sherry L. Haber
Suzanne C. Shied
Betty J. Toelle

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Lance D. Njos

Division of Public Health

Krystal K. Baumert
Marjorie J. Blankenship
Lynne L. Brehm
Ronald C. Briel
Colleen F. Cassada
Kathleen J. Eberly
Mary J. Gordon
Jeann E. Granstra
Terence P. Jones
Debra K. Kuhn
Kim L. Mai
Jolene M. Pfeiffer
Jo Ann C. Wagner

Rebecca L. Wisell
Sherri R. Wren

Eastern Service Area

Marilyn J. Atwood
Martha L. Fountain
Colleen Gray
Bob A. Johnson
Michaela M. Kotlarz
Brenda J. Melton
Linda M. Miner
Joan M. Schakat
Robert J. Tlustos
Barbara A. Wolcott

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Connie S. Beck
Kristine M. Demuth
Shirley K. Wilson
Hastings Regional Center
Sherry G. Block

Information Systems & Technology

Alene L. Siebert

Lincoln Regional Center

Ted E. Bailey
Roger L. Buhmann
Bradley V. Campbell
William B. Jennings
Richard A. Miller
Gayle L. Resh
Patricia A. Sullivan
Rhonda K. White

Norfolk Regional Center

Bryan K. Bretschneider
Janice K. Bruckner
Daniel J. Divis
Corrine L. Janovec
Susan A. Kohlhof
Beverly J. Lueshen

Tim J. Mastny
Monte R. Middleton

Gregory A. Sterner

Norfolk Veterans' Home

Janice Hallberg
Linda Sparr

Northern Service Area

Lori Lee Aman
Shawn R. Doht
Beverly J. Goodwin
Jeanette R. Hastings
Karen A. Tikalsky

Operations-Financial Services

Kim S. Nore
Collins

Operations-Human Resources & Development

Sandra J. Wiler

Southeast Service Area

Thomas L. Dayton
Nancy Anne Habron
Barbara K. Palmer
Merrilee J. Rader
Debbie L. Strudl
Margaret L. Thoms
Sharon A. Webb

Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

Norberta Murillo

Western Service Area

Kelly A. Case
Kimberly K. Messman
Kathleen M. Schweitzer
Cynthia L. Skala

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Geneva

Diane L. Jansky

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center-Kearney

Kimberlee A. Frink
Rosalie M. McCurry
John P. Murphy
Kelly E. Murr

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Marilyn M. Adam
Julie A. Belding
Alice Blaser
Linda Coon
Chad Frerichs
Joanne Gaylord
Angela Gonzales-Dorn

Operations-Human Resources & Development

Larry Hadorn
Arlene M. Harper
Cynthia Lytle
Michele R. Miller
Marsha L. Parrish
Pamela Poole
Kim Tietjen
Patricia Zabokrtsky
Mark Zabokrtsky

Central Service Area

Cynthia K. Ashmore-Blunk
Marylyn Christenson

Colette A. Evans

Sara S. Frederick

Sharon J. Kuss

Sherene L. Morris

Ricky L. Moses

Diane E. Pavel

Lavonne R. Schmitt

CEO's Office-Legal & Regulatory Services

Pamela S. Hahaman

Division of Children & Family Services

Garry D. Duggan
Carolyn A. Hogg
Karen J. Swenson

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Lori Harder

Division of Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Jodie D. Gibson

Division of Public Health

Dennis M. Berens
Barbara A. Eickmeier
Sharon S. Fitts
Carol J. Gabbert
Michael S. Gould
Michelle L. Heffelfinger
Susan L. Jensen
Richard A. Koenig
Dawn M. Kozak
Judy A. Martin
Marie McClatchey
Janell E. Miller
Ralph N. Naber
Bruce T. Rowe
Thomas J. Safranek
Mary S. Semerena
Kathleen M. Vonseggern
Douglas L. Woodbeck

Eastern Service Area

Jesse C. Aragon
Socorro Carrera
Murrayetta Gill
Dianne L. Jones
Lori A. Sperry
Dianne Stewart
Susan A. Willig

Grand Island Veterans' Home

Joseph V. Dembowski

Lisa A. Eickhoff
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