

# 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](mailto: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

*(continued on page 8)*

## 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.



*(continued from page 7)*

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.

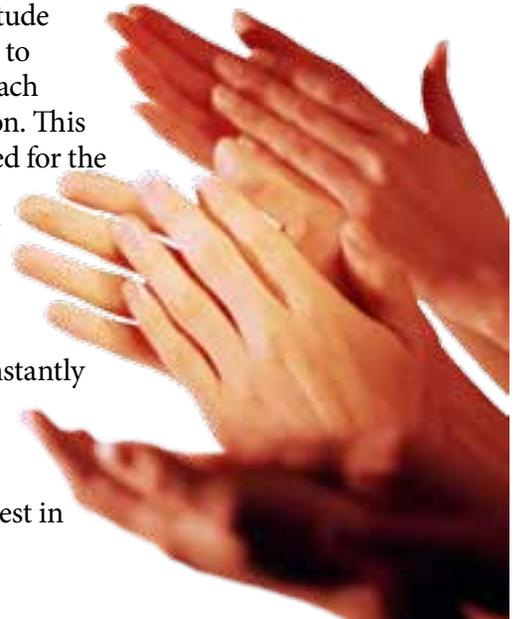


As the Disability Services Coordinator in the Division of Developmental Disabilities, **Don Severance** and his staff touch the lives of every person with developmental disabilities served in community-based services in Nebraska. He directs the Quality Improvement (QI) Committee that gathers data to

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](http://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](mailto: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  
Lesla 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 Stagemeier

**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	<b>10 Years of Service</b>	<b>Division of Medicaid &amp; Long-Term Care</b>	Nancy Stutzman	Trudy Neinaber Mary Upp Leo Vestecka
<b>Division of Medicaid &amp; Long-Term Care</b> Tammie Scholz	<b>Northern Service Area</b> Karen Denaeyer Marlene Pabian Vickie Chirstiansen Nancy Schmitz John Ullrich Stephanie Zoubek	<b>Beatrice State Developmental Center</b> 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	<b>Hastings Regional Center</b> Mary Haberman Tony Martin Danny Pendergast Mildred Powell Kathryn Stack	<b>Southwest Service Area</b> 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
<b>Division of Public Health</b> Thomas Christopherson Dawn Freiberg Terri Holman Brian Miller Jacquelyn Miller Susan Riepe David Sizer	<b>Norfolk Veterans' Home</b> Janell Schramm	<b>Central Service Area</b> Carol Bennett Abby Weber	<b>Division of Public Health</b> 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	<b>Lincoln Regional Center</b> 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	<b>Western Nebraska Veterans' Home</b> Terry Dasher Jeanette Fisher
<b>Eastern Service Area</b> Christine Batiste Jerry Burrus Gregory Kosmicki Joseph Manley Michell Onken Candice Pappas Vicki Parsons Linda Torres Anne Vasilisin Sheila Wagner Ellen Wilkins Maryland Williams	<b>Operations</b> Brian Covault Rebecca Inness Lawrence Jones Debra Lipovsky Donald Losh Douglas Meek Daniel Meier Darlene Nordby Ellen Novak Marie Pope Diann Schmidt Joseph Schmieder	<b>Division of Behavioral Health</b> Lawrence Shaffer	<b>Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home</b> Pamela Bechtolt	<b>Norfolk Regional Center</b> Janice Oswald Loren Ransen Julie Redwing Carol Ruge Shirley Stearns Daryl Stephenson Marilyn Stromberg	<b>Western Service Area</b> 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
<b>Grand Island Veterans' Home</b> Karon Bussinger Vicki Lepant Linda Quandt Jeri Thiede	<b>Southeast Service Area</b> Linda Dohmen Jenise Erikson Deanna Ewing Janae Phillips Mary Seip Lisa Wheat	<b>Division of Children &amp; Family Services</b> Brenda Anderson Carmen Dunlap Chris Lovorn Tanya Rhodes Rosana Stearns Tracy Webb	<b>Eastern Service Area</b> 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	<b>Northern Service Area</b> Jacqueline Amos-Baden June Baier Mary Barrett Tammy Henery William Howes Sharon Mickelson Debrah Orton Douglas Stanton	<b>Youth Rehabilitation &amp; Treatment Center-Geneva</b> Loneal Beck Cortney Lichti Carol Mathiesen Pam Rose Mamie Salmon
<b>Hastings Regional Center</b> Lesla Armstrong Douglas Bonham Robert Fines Russell Meyer	<b>Western Nebraska Veterans' Home</b> Barbara Jacobs Nora Moreno Nadine Wearne	<b>Division of Developmental Disabilities</b> 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	<b>Grand Island Veterans' Home</b> Joanne Badura Pamela Deal Billie Derr Virginia Hostetler Cindy Kelley Florence Matthiessen Dorothy Menke Larry Molczyk Brenda Paro	<b>Norfolk Veterans' Home</b> Shirley Brudigan Deborah Cattell Donna Crist Megan Halsey Diane Jacobson Jolene Johnson Judy Kopejtka Daniel Morse Cynthia Throener Donna Wagner Elaine Wessendorf	<b>Youth Rehabilitation &amp; Treatment Center-Kearney</b> Ilene Anson Linda Heapy Russell McCartney Dustin Trosper Linda Veeder
<b>Lincoln Regional Center</b> Dennis Connolly Charles DeGrave Sandra Findley Dale Huddle Sarah Johns Sandy Rodriguez Shawn Schwartz Coral Wagner	<b>Western Service Area</b> Riva Coulter Esther De Los Santos Tracy Fornander Laurie Orr Yvette Troyer			<b>Operations</b> Emily Claussen Ronald Sanchez Suzann Langner Michael May	
<b>Norfolk Regional Center</b> Barbara Buettgenbach Larry Emory Jeanne Jensen Lori Nuttelmann Susan Reifenrath	<b>Youth Rehabilitation &amp; Treatment Center-Kearney</b> Cynthia Krolikowski				



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