

CONNECTIONS

October 2012 VOLUME 12, ISSUE 10

Bringing Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services employees closer together

DHHS Employees Celebrate Special Anniversaries with State

This issue of *Connections* is dedicated to the employees of DHHS, the people who have devoted their careers to serving Nebraskans and making such a difference in the lives of so many people.

CEO **Kerry Winterer** and Division Directors attended ceremonies across the state recognizing employees for years of service. These are just a few examples.

[read more >](#)



Here's **Kerry Winterer** with **Marian DeBuhr**, Social Services Supervisor, Beatrice, with her 45th anniversary clock. *Photo: Bonnie Engel*

[read more >](#)

Recognition for Years of Service 2012

Many employees have been with DHHS for a number of years and are celebrating special years of service awards this year. See pages 11-14 for a complete listing of employees and their years of service (starting with 10 years.)

[read more >](#)

Employees from the Norfolk Regional Center got together for a group photo to celebrate the many, many years of devoted service to the Department. That's Division Director **Scot Adams** to the right.

Photo: Bonnie Engel

[read more >](#)



On page 10 we're introducing a new column called "Making Courtesy Common in the Workplace." Check it out for some good ideas.

[read more >](#)



Employees /Supervisors of the Year 2012

Pages 4-8 list the 2012 Employee and Supervisors of the Year, complete with photos and a short write-up from their nominators about why they received their honor.

[read more >](#)

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make the connection . . .

DHHS Public Website: www.dhhs.ne.gov
DHHS Employee Website: <http://dhhsemployees/>
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	Medicaid and Long-Term Care Division Director: Vivianne Chaumont
Behavioral Health Division Director: Scot Adams, Ph.D.	Public Health Division Director/Chief Medical Officer: Dr. Joann Schaefer
Children and Family Services Division Director: Thomas Pristow	Veterans' Homes Division Director: John Hilgert
Developmental Disabilities Division Director: Jodi Fenner	Chief Operating Officer: Matt Clough

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DHHS' Awesome Employee Website . . .

Looking for exclusive information about DHHS? Try the DHHS employee website! Here are some recent posts on the DHHS employee website and the dates they appeared. Got an idea or a photo you'd like to share for the employee homepage or *Connections*? Send it to Dianna.seiffert@nebraska.gov.

LRC's Walk for Mental Health Awareness, Oct. 4, 2012

These walkers took advantage of a beautiful fall day and walked for mental health awareness, Friday, Sept. 28, at the Lincoln Regional Center. Their bright yellow t-shirts, sponsored by the Network of Care, say, "Lincoln Regional Center, Helping People Rebuild Their Lives." In addition to the arboretum walk, activities of the day included tours of the LRC museum, the labyrinth walk, and various exhibits. This was LRC's third annual walk, and it celebrates the unity of mental health professionals, consumers and community supporters in their shared vision of hope for recovery and ongoing mental health treatment reform.



A Super Good Time was Had by All, Sept. 27, 2012



From Left: **Alison Dillon** (Captain America Shirt), **Nancy Klimek** (World's Best Comics), **Edith Soper** (The Avengers), **Joanne Badura** (Super Hero's The Green Lantern, Batman, The Flash & Superman), and **Joe Ballou** (Superman).

The Grand Island Veterans Home celebrated National Comic Book Day on Sept 25, 2012. GIVH Recreation Staff wore Super Hero/Comic T-shirts to promote the event, and the American Legion Auxiliary sponsored Bingo prizes for the Members which were coupons to the GIVH Fox Hole Canteen.

Additional donated items were used for prizes including Archie Comic Books, bright lap robes and bed pillows. A packet which included comic book facts, comic book word searches, match the "Super Hero" to the name, and instructions on how to draw a comic character were given to each Member.

WOWS! Picnic Fun for Everyone at the Fremont Customer Service Center, Sept. 18, 2012

The WOWS committee at the Fremont Customer Service Center organized its first annual picnic for Fremont CSC staff! WOWS stands for Watch Our Work Soar.

Committee members soared indeed with a fun picnic for employees, their families, and even their families' dogs.



Elora Smith, 5-year-old daughter of **Kindra Smith**, Fremont. Elora is pictured here with new friend, Amp, **Jill Aksamit's** dog

Angie Bubak, Social Services Supervisor, Fremont, says, "The picnic turned out to be a huge success. We had face painting, volleyball, a cake walk and there was a dog park so people were encouraged to bring the dogs."

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



Governor Dave Heineman, Bonnie Engel (Administrative Assistant to the CEO) and **Kerry Winterer** celebrate Bonnie's 35th year of working in state government.

By Kerry T. Winterer, CEO

October is state employee recognition month as proclaimed by Governor Heineman, so I want to take this opportunity to thank all DHHS employees for the work you do every day.

The Department provides important and, oftentimes, life-sustaining services. Our mission, "Helping people live better lives," provides the motivation for

making a difference for so many people.

It's what you do every day, whether you're educating and protecting people through public health efforts; assisting the elderly, the poor or those with disabilities; providing safety to abused or neglected children or vulnerable adults; serving those in need of 24-hour care; or otherwise supporting this work.

When I came to the Department over three years ago, I didn't know what to expect from all of you, and media reports aren't always flattering.

I can say that from day one, I've been impressed with the level of commitment and dedication I see in our employees. You do things day in and day out that require a great deal of knowledge, diplomacy, patience, and empathy. I don't know that I could do what so many of our employees do, routinely.

You have pride in what you do and personalize our mission of helping people live better lives.

Special recognition

During October, state government pays special tribute to its Employees of the Year and Supervisors or Managers of the Year and state employees who reach their milestone years of service to the state. This issue of *Connections* focuses on these DHHS honorees.

According to Gov. Heineman, this year more than 1,800 state employees received special recognition for over 37,000 years of service to the state. He said that as he travels the state, citizens routinely thank him for help they have received from state agencies and their positive encounters with state employees.

In DHHS alone, 524 employees received a milestone recognition totaling 11,350 years of service and experience.

I was able to attend all of these ceremonies across the state and celebrated these achievements with employees. It was an honor and each time, I came away with an even greater appreciation for you, your knowledge and commitment.

I also had the privilege to recognize the 14 DHHS Employees of the Year and 13 Supervisors/Managers of the Year on October 24. These employees were nominated by a peer, someone who noticed their knowledge, enthusiasm, positive attitude, and focus on doing their best. These people are all leaders within DHHS and it was truly special to spend the day with them. They are an inspiration.

The bottom line is that you, DHHS employees, are the face of our organization, whether your interactions are with each other, partner organizations, our clients or our neighbors. We, too, hear from satisfied customers and some of those comments appear each month in *Connections* as well as in the "Kudos" section of the DHHS Facebook page, and they are gratifying to read.

Congratulations, again, to the honorees, and thank you all for the work you do every day.

Employees of the Year 2012

DHHS is proud to introduce the 2012 Employees and Supervisors/Managers of the Year. It's such an incredible honor! These employees were recognized for their achievement at a ceremony at the Lincoln Country Club on Oct. 24, 2012.

State agencies are allowed to select one employee and one Supervisor/Manager of the Year for every 500 people employed by the agency. The following write-ups were taken from the nomination forms. Pictures were provided by the Department of Administrative Services. Congratulations to all!



Mary Barrett
Community Support Specialist, Children and Family Services, Central Service Area

Mary does a fantastic job of contacting and engaging community partners.

She supports the critical need for ACCESSNebraska to have community partners as a resource by being a necessary link for communication with the partners. Mary supports ACCESSNebraska and partnership development through accurate, thoughtful, and well done presentations. The number of contacts and range of different partners that Mary has developed is impressive. The quality of service which Mary puts into her work exemplifies our continued commitment to clients we service.



Donna Baumann
Staff Assistant I, Norfolk Regional Center

Donna is competent, thorough and well organized. She helps coworkers get their job duties

done on a timely basis. She initiates and completes tasks that add value to the performance improvement and risk

management programs. She organizes activities for several multidisciplinary committees. Donna readily helps document discussions and findings and prompts coworkers to follow through on assignments. She is very knowledgeable of computer software programs and is always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Donna is an asset to the Norfolk Regional Center.



Margene Boyce
Social Services Worker, Children and Family Services, Lincoln Customer Service Center

Margene is a dedicated employee

who does her best each and every day. Her abilities, extensive knowledge, professionalism and care for clients and coworkers are impressive. She is more than willing to help fellow coworkers enhance their knowledge to better serve the citizens of Nebraska. Margene shows compassion and understanding to internal and external customers. She truly cares about getting clients every benefit they may be entitled to and receive

accurate information about their cases. Margene's positive attitude in moving forward and making ACCESSNebraska a success shows through in everything she does.



Sondra Cluck
Child Support Enforcement Worker, Children and Family Services, North Platte

Sondra is dedicated to her work, coworkers and customers. She is always looking for ways to improve case processing by sharing shortcuts or techniques she has found to make work more efficient. Sondra is very involved in the Nebraska Child Support Enforcement Association. She plans an outstanding fall conference each year which provides valuable training to county attorneys, clerks and caseworkers in the child support field. Sondra uses her positive attitude and sense of humor to approach any challenge. Sondra has definitely made

a positive impact in Nebraska for child support enforcement.



Paula Gutierrez
Housekeeper, Western Nebraska Veterans' Home

Paula has a true passion for making a difference and being a team player. She always comes

to work with a very positive attitude and enjoys putting a smile on everyone's faces. Paula willingly accepts additional duties and does so with a "can do" attitude. She is the first to volunteer anytime extra work needs completed. Paula also has a true passion for caring for our members. She is frequently found interacting with our members. Paula has a caring spirit and is definitely one of a kind. She takes great pride in her work and routinely passes inspections with flying colors. Paula is a wonderful role model for other staff.



Joan Hult
Quality Assurance
Coordinator,
Norfolk Veterans'
Home

Joan has devoted much time and energy into restructuring the

Quality Assurance process at the NVH. She is always looking for ways to improve the process and shows a willingness to accept suggestions for more effective and efficient ways to utilize resources. Joan understands customer service and routinely adjusts her schedule to meet the needs of new employees needing flu vaccines or TB testing. Joan has shown the ability to multi-task through monitoring member and staff health issues, preparing for survey, and ensuring Quality Assurance practices are in place. Due in no small measure to Joan's Quality Assurance programs, NVH received a deficiency-free survey in 2012.



Heather Leschinsky
Program
Coordinator,
Medicaid and Long-
Term Care, Lincoln

Heather is responsible for the Medicaid Managed Care Program which

entails multi-component coordination, extensive knowledge of policies and

regulations, and the ability to engage and respond to multiple stakeholders. She developed and implemented a plan for the expansion of the Managed Care Program from a three county area to a ten county area. The expansion resulted in a costs savings and has improved the quality of the services provided to Medicaid clients. Heather demonstrates integrity, patience, and admirable dedication in each new challenge. Her attention to detail and thoroughness in everything she does is recognized by her peers, Medicaid clients and Medicaid providers.



Janice McHale
Staff Assistant II,
Developmental
Disabilities, Hastings

Jan brings enthusiasm, professionalism, efficiency and a positive work

ethic to the workplace every day. Her experience and interpersonal skills are the foundation of her ability to support the work of Service Coordination across the state. Jan treats individuals in service, Service Coordinators and Administration with dignity and respect. She provides support to staff with policies and procedures, budget worksheets, statewide forms development, computer access and training, and Priority One Tracking for

all individuals with DD with emergency needs. Jan is an invaluable asset, and her daily contributions to making the systems and processes more effective are immeasurable.



Kathryn Pinkley
DHHS Policy/
Regulation
Coordinator, Legal
Services, Lincoln

Kay has served as the agency's sole coordinator in the

rulemaking process since the number of Regulation Coordinators for DHHS was reduced from four to one in 2010. This fundamental restructuring of the process required substantial effort by Kay. The process had to be reevaluated and streamlined. New guidelines and forms and a training presentation were developed to help DHHS Divisions and programs transition to the new procedures. Throughout this stressful and demanding period, Kay maintained a positive and professional attitude. Her contributions have been invaluable in helping make this complicated process more efficient while also ensuring that the resulting regulations are consistently high in quality.



Derek Rusher
Teacher, Youth
Rehabilitation and
Treatment Center,
Kearney

Derek is creative and he is educating the youth to be creative. He has worked very

hard over the past year to engage youth in activities they may not get to do anywhere else. He taught them skills on how to design a rock garden and do the manual labor. He had poster contests and a Valentine's Day contest where youth could complete art work and earn an incentive for their work. Derek designed the YRTC-K logo and then had youth design billboards that are now displayed in the gym. Derek has used his art background to help make the facility a warmer, soothing place for the youth to live.



Janis Singleton
Administrative
Assistant I, Public
Health, Lincoln

Janis has a positive attitude, strong work ethic and courteous and helpful manner. Her professionalism

and friendliness to other employees is impressive. Janis is a very respectable and positive role-model. She has trained

and assisted new employees to keep contracts and projects on schedule, while still covering her own workload. Her coworkers have great respect for her and rely on her input heavily. Recently, Janis was asked to help with a special project. She jumped right in, working long hours and sharing ideas, to create a very professional looking document. Janis is someone you can count on for assistance, support, research and information at any time.



Carolyn Stuczynski
Human Resources
Officer, Operations,
Bellevue

Carolyn exemplifies the DHHS Values and Core Competencies with her dedication and

commitment to the Veterans' home and filling vacant staff positions. Carolyn started an ENVH walking club. She has been instrumental in keeping the group organized and on track. Carolyn's upbeat attitude and coaching positively impacts ENVH employees. Her dedication and passion to support the Veterans' Home reflects on the quality of care provided to the Veterans. Carolyn is a very valued and well respected Human Resources Officer. She always exhibits esprit de corps and is willing to go above and beyond the call of duty.



Cherri Trump
Developmental
Technician II,
Developmental
Disabilities, Beatrice
State Developmental
Center

Cherri has a positive attitude and constantly has a smile on her face. She is dependable and can be counted on to get the job done. Her dedication is evident in her willingness to work when she is needed. Cherri continuously goes above and beyond to support the people who live within the entire area in which she works, 420 Solar. She selflessly puts the needs of the people that live at 420 Solar before her own. She is supportive of her co-workers as well as the individuals she works with. Cherri is truly an asset to the BSDC.



Ying Wang
Statistical Analyst III,
Behavioral Health,
Lincoln

Ying has an unparalleled talent for creating, analyzing and making sense of any dataset. She has an incredible grasp of the Behavioral Health data and manages to quickly complete any report needed. Ying's quality work makes the jobs of others easier. She exceeds expectations on a daily basis by completing reports

before deadlines and addressing multiple requests with ease, intelligence, and a positive attitude. She has the ability to make complex data understandable to any stakeholder. Ying's attention to detail, improvement of data integrity, and astute analysis allows Behavioral Health to be data-driven so that a positive difference can be made in the lives of the consumers we serve.

Supervisors of the Year 2012



Troy Bailey
Office Manager,
Medicaid and Long-
Term Care, Lincoln

Troy manages staff in the MLTC Call Centers, Electronic Data Interchange Help Desk, Medicaid Inquiry Line, Medicaid Screening Desk and Data Entry Team. He shows leadership and professional courtesy in meeting the daily needs of staff, an expanded Data Entry Team and a growing call center. He maintains a highly professional and courteous demeanor in the midst of daily routine and emergent challenges. Troy has a strong ability to problem-solve and display "grace under fire." Troy demonstrates a willingness to listen, an ability to meet multiple challenges head on and serves as an outstanding resource to his staff, coworkers, and everyone serving with him in the Medicaid Claims Unit.



Katherine Batt
CFS Service Delivery
Administrator I,
Children and Family
Services, Western
Service Area

Kate supervises CFS workers who focus on adoption and guardianship cases. She also led the Permanency Planning Team. Her innovative, assertive and dedicated leadership has resulted in 185 children achieving permanency in a "forever home." Kate is very organized and helps her staff develop organizational skills which contributes to their success in reaching permanency for children and families. Kate consistently reviews work load, helps staff prioritize tasks, facilitates use of available resources, and always remembers that safety, permanency, and well-being for children are the top priorities. Kate is an excellent role model for her staff.



Karry Bloomquist
Nurse Supervisor,
Grand Island
Veterans' Home

As the Restorative Department Supervisor, Karry has initiated many positive changes. She has developed unit-based restorative programs to provide additional therapy for members, improving their level of

functionality and quality of life. She holds her staff accountable to ensure that the members receive the best care possible. She shares proper techniques with nursing staff on all three shifts to help provide consistent quality care. Karry works diligently to put appropriate measures in place to ensure members comfort and safety. Karry has a wonderful “can do” attitude and is a tremendous asset to the Grand Island Veterans’ Home.



Dawnette Bredberg
Director of Nursing,
Eastern Nebraska
Veterans’ Home

Dawnette has created a strong sense of team work at ENVH. She encourages staff to learn and

grow. Dawnette is approachable, fair and reasonable. She has made tremendous contributions toward the improvement of the facility and member care. She has implemented necessary changes to ensure higher safety standards, improved quality of care and created more productive and satisfied employees. Dawnette demonstrates professionalism and is admired for her ease at which she is able to connect with co-workers to provide a positive, fun working environment. She is highly motivated to make ENVH a great place to live for the veterans and a great place to work for staff.



Brenda Chase
Child/Family
Services Specialist
Supervisor, Children
and Family Services,
Eastern Service Area

Brenda is an excellent supervisor who cares about her employees.

She is very organized and has the ability to present information in an effective way. When Brenda started supervising in Initial Assessment, she had no Initial Assessment experience. She put forth a tremendous amount of effort to learn from her staff and other supervisors. Brenda actively engages in casework and goes out on cases with her employees in order to keep a current understanding of the work being done. Under her leadership and direction, her team has strengthened their relationships with each other and improved their quality of work.



Vera “Ellie” Friesen
Associate Director
of Nursing, Lincoln
Regional Center

Ellie has responsibility of the overnight staff for the entire LRC campus. She is a

dependable and reliable supervisor with a genuine, compassionate manner. She has extremely high standards for patient care and is continually looking for and giving input on ways to improve care

and services. She has been instrumental in providing leadership to the campus on 3rd shift where there are the fewest people available to help in times of crisis. Her ability to have staff work as a team has been instrumental in ensuring the patients have calm and peaceful nights. Ellie promotes the mission and vision of the agency and is a key member of the LRC Leadership Team.



Libby Hanzel
Social Services
Supervisor, Children
and Family Services,
Fremont Customer
Service Center

Libby is a great supervisor who constantly

encourages her team to succeed and build self-confidence. Her inspiring words and fantastic resources have helped her team reach number one in the state for calls and work tasks on several occasions. She recognizes achievements and accomplishments made by her team. Libby is very approachable and is more than willing to answer questions or provide clarification. She is always there to help her employees and does so in a professional way. She has a phenomenal attitude and her constant bubbly personality keeps her team’s spirits high. Libby makes the job exciting, challenging and rewarding for her employees.



Karen Harker
Federal Fiscal
and Performance
Manager, Behavioral
Health, Lincoln

Karen has a positive attitude, strives for excellence and works diligently to improve

the fiscal network reporting and federal fiscal reporting for Behavioral Health. She has the ability to make complex fiscal concepts easily understood. Karen is an effective supervisor with a caring and supportive supervision style. She developed a fantastic and talented team that is cohesive, effective and efficient. She is very patient and takes every opportunity to teach and mentor individuals which results in improved outcomes and performance. Karen promotes the value that each individual brings to Behavioral Health and leads by the example of the DHHS mission, helping people live better lives.



Deborah Johnsen
Program Manager,
Developmental
Disabilities,
Beatrice State
Developmental
Center/ Bridges
Program

Deb shows unyielding dedication to the individuals and staff she supports at Bridges. She takes time to talk with employees about their accomplishments and concerns. She shows a genuine appreciation for the time and effort put forth by staff in difficult situations. Deb is quick to provide positive feedback to staff in an effort to build staff morale and a team mentality. She is a great role model and strives to make Bridges a healthy, supportive, and successful working environment. Her extensive knowledge and experience has bettered the lives of not only the individuals who reside at Bridges, but the lives of the employees as well.

in the millions and services provided to thousands of people, she never loses sight of the importance of every individual client.



Jillion Lieske
Service Coordination Supervisor,
Developmental Disabilities, Lincoln

Jillion is a dedicated supervisor who enjoys challenges and looks for ways

to improve the provision of service delivery. She supports her assigned service coordinators by staffing each situation appropriately and attending team meetings and court hearings. She has modified and enhanced training with service coordinators to ensure they understand that service provision is no longer a choice but an order of the court. Jillion's passion for accurate and detailed information has helped guarantee a smooth delivery of services focused on outcomes desired by individuals while also meeting the needs of the courts and ensuring the safety of the community.



LaDene Madson
Human Resources Manager II,
Operations, Hastings

LaDene is a very dedicated employee and supervisor.

She is responsible for providing HR support to many areas. She does an excellent job at staying on top of what is going on in each area she supports. Her management skills are outstanding. She makes her expectations known and encourages her staff to do their best. The quality of work that her staff produces is high. She works very hard to make sure everything is running smoothly and according to the rules established. LaDene is highly respected and her employees are grateful for the opportunity to grow under her direction.



Sandra Renken
Business Manager II,
Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Geneva

Sandi is a fair and consistent supervisor. She always takes time

to listen to any concerns her employees may have. Sandi chaired the American Correctional Association committee to the very successful result of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva being accredited again this year. Sandi keeps the best interests of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva in mind in all that she does.



Melissa Leypoldt
Health Program Manager II, Public Health, Lincoln

Melissa sets an example of a strong work ethic for her staff and perseverance in

adversity. Melissa looks for creative ways to make work fun and healthy. She seeks feedback from staff and makes adjustments accordingly. In her role as a Health Program Manager, Melissa has developed protocols, innovative data systems, partnerships, and outreach strategies. She is highly creative and does an exceptional job of adapting to new conditions. Despite the fact that Melissa manages programs with budgets



“Courtesy is the shortest distance between two people.” ~Anonymous

By Richard Metler, System Consultant
Staff Development

Welcome to “Making Courtesy Common in the Workplace.” This column will address workplace courtesy from a variety of topics to raise our awareness of the importance in how we treat one another at work.

It’s startling to consider that most of us spend one half of our awake life either at work, getting ready for work, going to and from work, or thinking about work. Incredible isn’t it? When thought of in these terms, what goes on at work takes on a whole new level of significance.

The environment in the workplace plays a major role in how productive and effective any of us are at work. It’s also a major factor in our personal health, well-being, and satisfaction. In a positive work environment, people are much more likely to give their best efforts and feel personal satisfaction.

What makes a positive work environment?

Unfortunately, a positive and rewarding workplace culture is not something that can be done for us or handed to us by anyone. Positive workplace culture where we enjoy being at work with our co-workers is something each of us can

have only through persistent effort. Positive work culture is created only when we each individually make efforts to be the kind of person we want to be around while we are at work.

The good news is that it’s easy. Deep down we already know how to take personal ownership of feeling positive at work. So how can we each do our part?

1. Treat every single person we encounter at work with dignity, respect, and courtesy.
2. Make the commitment to take good care of our relationships with co-workers in all we say and do.
3. Be kind and courteous: smile at people and say *Good morning, Hello, Please, Thank you, You’re welcome.*

Most of the time, people treat us the same way we treat them. The consistent habit of courtesy will positively influence the actions of others. Courtesy at work can be contagious as others follow your lead. As the saying goes, “A rising tide lifts all boats.”

Working together, we can create a workplace where kindness, courtesy, and respect define our every interaction.

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Please email me your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions about workplace courtesy and workplace relationship at: Richard.Mettler@nebraska.gov. I will email you a response, and perhaps anonymously feature your thoughts, concerns, or questions in a future column.

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Making Courtesy Common in the Workplace

Recognition for Years of Service 2012

“I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

This year more than 1,800 state employees received special recognition for their 37,000+ years of service to the state. In DHHS alone, 524 employees received a milestone recognition totaling 11,350 years of service and experience.

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 and Treatment Centers and Service Areas are in the Division of Children and Family Services.

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

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

Lincoln Regional Center

Rolando Bretos, Jr.
Gerold Lindsay
Jo Price

Children & Family Services - Southeast Service Area

Marian DeBuhr

Beatrice State Development Center

Rosalee Reedy

Operations - Support Services

Pamela Raecke

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Director’s Office – Communication & Legislative Services

Mike Wight

Director’s Office – Legal Services

Kathryn Pinkley

Hastings Regional Center

Steve Breault

Marjorie Colburn
Pamela Schwabauer
Teresa Wynn

Lincoln Regional Center

Richard Friel
David Nicklas

Children & Family Services

Chris Hanus
Michael Kelly

Children & Family Services - Central Service Area

Beverly Enderle
Jean Seely

Children & Family Services - Eastern Service Area

Robert Kubat
Susan Schunk
Phyllis Wachtler

Children & Family Services - Southeast Service Area

Charlie Bennett
Nancy Bettin
Linda Franzen
Carole Steffen

Developmental Disabilities

Elizabeth Cartwright

Beatrice State Development Center

Susieann Eichenberger
Stephen Marmon
Lynette Reinke

Public Health

Howard Isaacs
Dannie Kossmann
Vicki Sue Nelson
Rita Thalken

Grand Island Veterans Home

Toni Saltz

Operations - Financial Services

Vicki Bauer
Deborah Bishop

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

Director’s Office

Bonnie Engel

Director’s Office - IS&Ts

Gayle Bachman
Evelyn Lyons

Director’s Office - Legal Services

Lee Brawner

Behavioral Health

Jim Harvey
Kelly Ostrander

Hastings Regional Center

Patricia Adrian

Norfolk Regional Center

Kathy Arends
Tracy Cullin-Culligan
Verlin Redlinger

Lincoln Regional Center

Kelley Champion
Teresa Haynes
Bradley King
Corinne McCoy

Children & Family Services

Jean Brandl
Debra Steidley
Byron Van Patten

Children & Family Services - Central Service Area

Ann Kawata
Kathryn Mankin

Children & Family Services - Eastern Service Area

Teresa Allen-Williams
Donald Eckley
Terri Hennig
Denise Hoffman
Robert Owens
Ruth Roedel
Vicky Wright

Children & Family Services - Northern Service Area

Michael Puls
Cindy Williams

Children & Family Services - Southeast Service Area

Linda Brennan
Brenda Coonrod
Sue Gilbert
Cindy Sullivan
Laura Yoakum

Children & Family Services - Western Service Area

Theresa Deckert
Lynn Fitzgibbon

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center - Geneva

Carol Fox
Ralph Sedelmeier
Mary Stofer

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Mary Buss
Bobbie Carel
Douglas Corey
Connie Doyle
Connie Mahloch
Janice Martin
Howard Nelson

Lynn Pomajzl
Susan Yates

Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Mary Suzanne Clark
Emil Spicka
Jon Sterns

Public Health

Joann Erickson
Debra Firman
Sandra Klocke
David Micheels
Patricia Nave
Roger Rhylander
Kathryn Ward
Michael Wentink

Grand Island Veterans Home

Kathleen Kroeger

Operations - Financial Services

Glenda Lawson

Operations - Human Resources and Development

LeeAnn Zach

Operations - Support Services

Denise Cobb

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Director’s Office - IS&T

Dawn Longwell
Mark Nelson

Hastings Regional Center

Shelly Cantrell
Janet Schueler

Lincoln Regional Center

Robert Fahrnbruch
Charles House
Casey Sanders

Norfolk Regional Center

Kandice Lange
Patrick Weich

Children & Family Services

Marsha Baumfalk

Children & Family Services - Central Service Area

Brenda Bender
Michael Zgud

Children & Family Services - Eastern Service Area

Marjorie Cook
Linda Soukup

Children & Family Services - Southeast Service Area

Linda Bryceson
Cheryl Frederick
Patricia Heng
Lois Thiel
Brian Wolesensky

Children & Family Services - Western Service Area

Mary Martinez

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center - Kearney

Don Purvis

Developmental Disabilities

Michael Crawford
Carla Crook

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Ronald Ackerman
Rhonda Bohling
Judith Braun
Thomas Graham
Terry Hersh
Dixie Kimes

Darrell Larson
Alecia Stevens

Medicaid & Long-Term Care

Barbara Joy
Lowell Sedlacek

Public Health

James Balk
James DeFrain
Margie Sutej

Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home

Gwen Jones

Grand Island Veterans Home

Diana Buhrman
Nancy Klimek
Linda Rickard-Eddy

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Cheri Delay

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Julie Anderson
Denise Den
Sandra Holmes
Jeffrey McCain
Sandra O'Meara
Karen Thaut
Diannia Young

Norfolk Regional Center

Caroline Baumann
Dale Clark
Penny Clausen
John Kelly
Darlene Sunderman

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Alice Stoner-Stimson
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Darniece Amos
Kathy Anstine
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Sharon Clausen

Roy Hammond
Nancy Klug
Vicki Victor
Charlene Young

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Verdell Bohling
Roberta Castillo
Victoria Dudley
Janet Duncan
Kathryn High

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Nancy Gamboa
Jennifer Lynn

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Stan Miller

Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center - Kearney

Susan Divan
Daniel Leffler
Kerry Thompson
David White
Mick Woodside

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Todd Johnson
Fritz Nuffer
Gayle Pierce
Carol Torres
Jan Wagner

Beatrice State Developmental Center

Monica Gowen

Deborah Husa
Ronald Leitschuck
Librado Lopez
Ellen Mohling
Tammy Schmit
Edwin Seidel
Lori Van Eperen
Melissa Haecker
Cathy Jo Truax
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Susan Dempsey
Jacqueline Fosler
Janice Hake
Ann Larimer
Suzette Moeller
Patricia Urzedowski

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Christine Falldorf
Lynn Ficken
Daniel Fox
James Kaslon
Donna Warburton
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Kathie Brower
Ray Mohlman
JoDeen Swartz

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Jana Deines
Renee Greunke
Jane Lindsay
Kate Mathias
Janice McHale
Christina Reece
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Tammy Reeves
Tamera Reynoldson
Josephine Rodriguez
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Jeffrey Soukup
Rita Tiedt
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Kathrine Zabel

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Kerry Held
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Gary Madison
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Kristine Hanefeldt
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LaDonna Mead
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Amber Sterkel
Mechele Witt

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Shirley Kamler
Connie Reinsch
Sandra Renken

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Janet Irlmeier
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Jeff Blunck
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Margaret Cole
Amy Sharpnack
Naomi Sweet Orehek
Mark Vetter

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Deneta Hahn
Sami Harms
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Sonja Horst
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Tamara Weichel
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Candace Stevens
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Jeanie Winter

Grand Island Veterans Home

Rick McKimney
Wanda Reimers
Edith Soper
Sandra Thinnis

Norfolk Veterans Home

Jerie Hansen
Michael Sukup

Western Nebraska Veterans Home

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Corey Stefkovich

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Judy Kussman
LeeAnn Schutte

Lincoln Regional Center

Ann Alberico
Juanita Brock
Despina Gallardo
Suzanne Hart
Kris Hoover
Michael Johnson
Luanne Jones
Kimberly Kilgore
Zeb Moseman
Carolyn Nash
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Laree Kubes
Cami Long
Bonnie Long
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Becky Lentz
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Olga Jenkins
William Manhart
Sarah Markuson
Corissa Ulane

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Sheila Sawatzky
Kathy Weiland
Bobbie Zalme

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Kimberly Johnson
Jeanette Malone
Adrienne Pettigrew
Jennifer Runge
Bertha Topp
Starlet Ware

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Bethany Monnahan
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Treatment Center - Geneva**

Angela Peppie
Joy Williams

**Youth Rehabilitation &
Treatment Center - Kearney**

Brandon Pierce

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Amanda Anderson
Emory Haynes
Jillion Lieske
Joyful Stoves

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Center**

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Kenneth Belz
Jesse Bjerrum
Elizabeth Bond
Jolene Burmeister
Kathryn Chace
Karen Engelman
Brandy Holling
Vince Knee
Michelle McAtee
Alla McBride
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Linda Novak
Micheal Pangborn
Yvonne Parde
Dean Rademacher
Sandra Reed
Marcia Regier
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Michelle Parker
Nancy Taylor

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Dianne Harrop
Edilma Him-Osorio
Tasha Jedlicka
Donna Jobman
Patricia Lemke
Diane Lowe
Justin Nelsen
Patricia Owens
Barbara Remmers
Eunice Sexson

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Home**

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Patti Howe
Oksana Korotkikh
Elaine Thiemann

Grand Island Veterans Home

Jocelina Calhoun
Jerel Geren
Amanda Jenneman
Trish Kelly
Kathleen Payne
Betty Peterson
Ardis Sullivan
Lucinda Urwiller
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Norfolk Veterans Home

Jennifer Last
Daniel Reding
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John Hayden
Linsey Yokley



Working with Nebraska Tribes to Improve Health Data Collection

By *Josie Rodriguez, OHDHE*

The Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity (OHDHE) is working with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board and the Nebraska Tribal leaders to improve public health data collection for Nebraska's federally-recognized Tribes. Public health data collection among tribal communities in Nebraska is vital in identifying health disparities and improving health outcomes for culturally-diverse populations in Nebraska.

OHDHE participated in the "Prevention of American Indian Morbidity and Mortality" meeting held in Grand Island on Sept. 26, 2012, by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board and the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center. The meeting was held to help coordinate efforts among Nebraska tribal leaders to improve tribal public health data collection efforts in the state.

OHDHE presented information to tribal leaders on recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys completed in collaboration with the office and Nebraska Tribes. Information was also presented regarding a recently released "Health Status of American Indians in Nebraska" report. This report is the first of its kind released by the state for Nebraska American Indians.

At this event, **Anthony Zhang**, OHDHE Epidemiology Surveillance Coordinator was recognized and

honored by the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board for his outstanding work for Tribal Public Health Data. Anthony Zhang worked very hard in providing public health data to the Board and Nebraska tribal leaders.

OHDHE would like to thank Anthony for the great work he does. Another thank you goes out to **Dr. Tom Safranek** (State Epidemiologist, Public Health) for his guidance and support in minority data collection across the state and to **Norm Nelson** (Statistical Analyst, Public Health) for his help and support with data for this meeting and the work he does to provide minority data for the office.

For more information regarding the report, please contact OHDHE at 402-471-0152 or visit [www.http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/healthdisparities_index.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/healthdisparities_index.aspx)



Anthony Zhang receives honor and recognition gift from Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Health Board.

WNVH Medical Director Recognized as Nebraska's Family Practitioner of the Year

Dr. Kent Lacey, medical director for the Western Nebraska Veterans Home in Scottsbluff, was recently recognized as the Family Practitioner of the Year for the state of the Nebraska. The award was presented to Dr. Lacey by Gov. Dave Heineman at the State Capitol in September.

In a nomination letter, **Lonnie Starke**, WNVH Facility Administrator wrote, in part:

"Dr. Lacey has been the Medical Director for WNVH for over 25 years. During this time, Dr. Lacey has provided excellent medical care coupled with excellent customer service. Dr. Lacey's friendly and professional approach has fostered excellent customer relations with the residents and their families. Dr. Lacey has always been willing to take the extra time necessary to spend with the residents and their families so they may fully understand their medical options."



WNVH has enjoyed three deficiency-free annual USVA Surveys, in great part due to Dr. Lacey's excellent care and management of the medical needs of the residents.

Dr. Lacey is a great asset to this facility and always demonstrates a positive approach when performing his duties. He is very deserving of this honor."

Congratulations, Dr. Lacey!

DHHS Budget Submitted. Here's What to Expect Next. . .

Putting together a budget is hard work; most of us know this from personal experiences and can relate to the challenges of anticipating income and expenditures and making compromises. It's not easy and, in fact, sometimes it's easy to put off.

When it comes to the DHHS budget, we look years ahead in requesting the funding necessary to administer DHHS programs. As with all state agencies, DHHS' budget request for the fiscal year 2013-2015 biennium was submitted to the State Budget Division in September.

The work surrounding DHHS' budget request is a significant task and began early in the year. Each Division Director, COO **Matt Clough** and CEO **Kerry Winterer** take this responsibility seriously and spent many hours with division administrators and Financial Services section staff doing their best to anticipate issues, trends, program needs and other considerations.

The importance of the budget request is illustrated in the State of Nebraska Budget Instructions (a 147-page document), in part: "The budget request process is used...to assist in the development of the most significant

State public policy statement and plan for the use of public human and financial resources – its budget. The State budget embodies the policy and financial priorities for State government." And, "Now as much as ever agencies must appreciate the critical link that exists between agency strategic, results-based planning and the allocation of finite public resources."

Now that DHHS' budget request has been submitted, here are the next steps:

The budget requests from all state agencies will be reviewed over the next several months by Gov. Heineman and the State Budget Division. Questions will be asked and information will be provided. This is significant because the needs of all state agencies are being considered against the funding that will be available. The result will be the Governor's Budget Request which will be submitted to the Legislature in January. The Legislature's Appropriations Committee will then submit a budget that will have a public hearing followed by floor debate.

You can see the entire budget request on the State Budget Division's website at <http://budget.nebraska.gov/>

You can scroll down and click on Agency Number 025, Dept. of Health & Human Services. There you will see all of the documents that have been submitted as part of our budget request, totaling more than 2,000 pages. The budget instructions specified that no requests should be included for annual increases or decreases in employee salary or health care benefits. This doesn't necessarily

mean that there will be no increases, only that it will be an issue that will affect all state agencies.

The total budget (federal, state and cash funds) for DHHS this year is \$3,083,280,811. DHHS' budget request for the next biennium is \$6,900,293,976 (\$3,359,791,938 for FY 14 and \$3,540,502,038 for FY 15).



In Gratitude

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

From **Erin Noble** (Social Services Worker, Lincoln):

I got a call from a client the other day. She was very complimentary of **Krissa Richards**, (Social Services Worker, Scottsbluff). The client said that Krissa was very patient and answered all of her questions. She said Krissa "made her day" and explained exactly what she would need to do to report and verify her SE. The client also complimented the customer service that she has received as a whole, stating that each person she has gotten when she calls is very nice and always helps her out.

Dear **Dan Scarborough** (Facility Administrator, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in Geneva),

I would like to thank you, your staff and youth for participating in the Discover Geneva Summer Celebration events.

The community support that this event receives each year is very impressive. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer with the "inflatable games" in the Fillmore County courthouse square.

Again thank you for your support.

Mayor Rodney Norrie

To **Lisa Maddock** (Child Support Enforcement Program Specialist, Lincoln),

My wife and I would like to say a big thank you for the class that you and Mr. Hinds put on in McCook. We appreciate the time and effort from both of you and your dedication to your job. It is very apparent that you both care very much about what you do. Keep up the good work.

A local business in McCook

Byron Van Patten, Lisa's supervisor, says...Lisa and an employee of the Treasurer's State Disbursement Unit provide outreach and training to NE Employers regarding issues pertaining to remitting child support.

From **Sara Gilbert** (Child and Family Services Supervisor, Lincoln)

A client's father wanted to tell me what a great job **Josh Price** (Children and Family Services Specialist, Lincoln) did handling his son's case. This father said he came to Nebraska from Oregon to support his son and provide stability and structure in his son's life. That father said that Josh did a great job working not only with his son but with him as well, and he appreciated Josh being firm, but fair, with his communication and expectations.

From **Doug Gillespie** (Program Manager, Office of Environmental Health Hazards & Indoor Air, Lincoln)

I received a call from a teacher and supervisor at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln who had just talked with **Sara Morgan** (Health Program Manager, Public Health) He had questions about radon which Sara was able to help him with. He was very complimentary of the fact that she took her time explaining the radon requirements, and how easy it was to get the answers he wanted from a state program.