



DHSS SNAPSHOT

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DHSS Receives PHAB Accreditation



*Peter Lyskowski, acting director,
Missouri Department of Health and
Senior Services*

Congratulations! You may have already heard the good news that the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services received national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) on March 8, 2016. It is a huge achievement and will mean great things for our department. DHSS is one of 16 state health departments that have thus far achieved accreditation through PHAB since the organization launched in 2011.

Many of you put in countless hours compiling and reviewing documents. For most people involved, it was another duty added to your daily workload. Thank you!

Receiving accreditation means that our department has been rigorously examined and meets or exceeds national standard that promote continuous quality improvement for the public and we can be sure that we are meeting the public health needs of those we serve as effectively as possible.

With accreditation, the department will demonstrate increased accountability and credibility to the public, funders, elected officials and partner organizations with which we work. In addition, being accredited will help our department assess our strengths and areas for improvement so that we can continually improve the quality of our services and performance.

For more information on accreditation and next steps, view the Accreditation Update and other accreditation resources on the intranet's Performance Management page at <http://dhssnet/qualityimprovement/index.php>. Scroll down to Accreditation.

Moving Forward

As part of the accreditation process, in 2013, DHSS initiated a joint effort to conduct a State Health Assessment (SHA) and to develop a State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). A diverse group of over 30 public health system partners from across the state was identified to support these activities. Using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process, four assessments were completed that identified strengths and weaknesses of Missouri's public health system. Using these findings, DHSS and partners identified key issues that converged into three priority areas (access to health care, modifiable risk factors and public health infrastructure) forming the basis for Missouri's first SHIP. The SHIP is updated annually through an assessment process conducted by DHSS and partners. [Click here](#) for most current SHIP evaluation report. It provided the impetus to bring the SHIP into its third year. The SHIP is updated annually and can be found [here](#).



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Light It Up Blue

Gov. Nixon designated April as Autism Awareness Month in Missouri. On April 6, DHSS employees decked out in blue and gathered for an awareness event. Presentations were heard from the Special Learning Center, Day Solutions and Thompson Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders. Acting Director Peter Lyskowski spoke on awareness, acceptance and action. Julie Herrigon, DHSS Office of Human Resources, and Tammy Maasen, Division of Administration, each gave personal testimonials about raising a child with autism.

“We noticed Grady wasn’t progressing like our two older children,” said Julie. “By the age of two he wasn’t saying mommy, daddy, papa or mama.” Two months before Grady turned three, he was diagnosed with non-verbal, low-moderate autism. At age three, he started attending the Special Learning Center where teachers worked with him on identifying colors and members of his family.

Tiara Maasen was diagnosed with pervasive developmental disorder – not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). PDD-NOS is on the autism spectrum characterized as an autism spectrum disorder, but with not all the classic symptoms for a full-autism diagnosis. Today with recent changes to the DSMV, all children diagnosed today are just said to have autism.

Tiara, now age 11, is functioning well at school. She requires the assistance of a part-time aide, but also receives support from her classroom peers.

“Tiara is on the B honor roll and spelling is her best subject,” said Tammy, Tiara’s mom. “She continues speech therapy services through school with the primary focus being on social skills, peer interaction and pragmatic language, which is social language skills. Tiara helps me clean the local church rectory, and that is helping her start to build those basic independent living skills that will be necessary as she continues to grow up and transition to adulthood.”

Tammy adds that Tiara continues to make great strides towards independence with the help and support of family, friends, school faculty and the local community.

For more information about autism, visit the Missouri Department of Mental Health’s website at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/>.



Julie Herrigon with son, Grady, says autism diagnosis is not the end, but a new beginning to see the world from a new perspective.



Tammy Maasen hugs daughter Tiara, age 11. Tiara was diagnosed with autism, but today continues to make strides towards independence.

Cape Girardeau Region 2 shows their support for autism awareness. Children from the Special Learning Center releases balloons at the DHSS autism awareness event on April 6.

**Click here for
additional photos**



MSPHL Designated as a Zika Virus Testing Laboratory

The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) was recently approved by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to test for Zika virus. It was the culmination of many weeks of planning, training and conducting validations to meet the CDC analytical requirements. This capacity will help facilitate accurate and more rapid testing results for Missouri's public health system.

Identifying Zika virus is difficult in that depending on the timing of sample collection it can require a series of molecular and serological tests and those tests include additional examination to rule out Chikungunya and Dengue. Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika are viruses that are closely related. Scientists in multiple MSPHL Units collaborate each day to analyze the surge of samples that are approved and submitted from across Missouri for Zika testing. The MSPHL works closely with state and local epidemiologists to coordinate sample approval, receipt and reporting.

The Zika virus response at DHSS is a great example of how local, state and federal partners work together through preparedness and response activities every day to promote, protect and partner for the health of Missourians.

Mosquito Bite Prevention

Mosquito bites can be more than just annoying and itchy, the bite of an infected mosquito can make you sick. The best way to prevent diseases spread by mosquitoes is to protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites. Steps you can take to avoid mosquito bites while outdoors include wearing EPA-registered insect repellent with DEET, wearing pants and long sleeves when the weather permits, or remaining indoors in an air conditioned environment at the time of day when mosquitoes are active.

As of April 6, 2016, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services confirmed three cases of Zika virus. All three patients have recovered from their illnesses. The first case was a Missouri man who had travelled to Haiti; the second case involved a pregnant Missouri woman who had travelled to Honduras; and the third in a Missouri man who had travelled to Colombia. All three areas are known areas of Zika transmission. Zika virus has not been spread by mosquitoes in Missouri.

"If you are traveling to a location with a tropical climate, check the CDC's website for travel information about Zika to see if your destination has any travel health notices," said Dr. Howard Pue, state public health veterinarian. "Because the mosquitoes that spread Zika virus are found throughout the tropics, outbreaks are likely to continue. Pregnant women should not travel to an area with ongoing Zika transmission. If travel to an area with Zika virus is necessary, pregnant women should first talk to their healthcare provider. If a pregnant woman does travel, she should strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip."

Nearly 80 percent of people infected with the virus will have no symptoms. Typically, symptoms are mild and include fever, rash, joint soreness and/or redness of eyes. People usually don't get sick enough to go to the hospital, and they very rarely die of Zika.

International health officials are examining the connection between pregnant women contracting the virus and a birth defect called microcephaly in their newborn infants. According to the CDC, babies with microcephaly often have smaller head sizes and brains that might not have developed properly. Zika virus has the potential to be spread through a mosquito bite, through unprotected sexual contact, through blood transfusion and an infected pregnant woman can pass Zika virus to her fetus during pregnancy or around the time of delivery.

"As the weather warms up and we head outdoors, always take precautions," said Dr. Pue. "Mosquitoes are pesky little creatures that can have a huge impact on your health. They typically lay eggs in standing water in things like buckets, animal bowls, flower pots, and vases. A simple way to reduce the number of biting mosquitoes is to look for and eliminate these kinds of containers around the home."

In additions to the well-known repellent active ingredient DEET, other EPA-registered insect repellents that CDC recommends are those with picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or para-menthane-diol. Choosing an EPA-registered repellent ensures the EPA has evaluated the product for effectiveness.



MSPHL scientist, Jessie Bauer, conducts testing in a biological safety cabinet.

Public Health: The Future of Nursing

Recruiting the next generation of public health nurses

On February 16, the Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing and Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), in collaboration with the Missouri Nurses Association (MONA), held an event called the *Future of Nursing: Generation Public Health*, to educate nurses and nursing students on how the changing healthcare environment is affecting nursing. The event highlighted the role of the public health nurse and the importance of utilizing public health nursing concepts in all nursing positions.

There was a focus on how, as the healthcare delivery system is changing, the role of nursing is changing as well. We are seeing nationwide efforts to improve access to healthcare and quality of healthcare. New regulations, such as the Affordable Care Act, are changing the way healthcare is paid for, while regulations around healthcare coverage are effecting how health systems function. These efforts are leading to a shift toward a more community and prevention focus in the area of health. With this, there is also an increased demand for nurses in community focused roles and demand for all nurses to understand and incorporate population health/public health concept.

To demonstrate the role of nurses in this healthcare system transformation, the Institute of Medicine's Future of Nursing report recommendations were discussed. These included:

- 1) Nurses as leaders and key partners in inter-professional collaborations and healthcare system transformation.
- 2) Nurses should practice to the full scope of their education and training.
- 3) Nurses should attain higher levels of education through a seamless system of academic progression.
- 4) Improved data collection, to demonstrate nurses' impact on healthcare and the healthcare workforce.
- 5) Nurses should strive for diversity, to represent the populations they serve.

These recommendations also served to highlight the fact that public health nursing roles typically meet most of these recommendations and are a great vehicle for nurses who want to make a significant and sustainable difference in the health of individuals and communities.

One of the major objectives of this event was to inform nurses about public health nursing career options and recruit new public health nurses for many of the hard to fill positions at both DHSS and local public health agencies (LPHAs). DHSS had eight sections/programs participate by both speaking about their services/programs and bring materials to display in booths. DHSS Human Resources was there to assist participants in the application process and speak to nurses about job opportunities. The Future of Nursing event drew participants from nursing schools around the state, as well as nurses in the current workforce. With the success of this event, the Missouri Council for Public Health Nursing intends to make this an annual event to ensure nurses and the next generation of nurses understand the important role of public health and career options for nurses in this highly rewarding field.



Traci Hadley, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control & Prevention



Valarie Seyfert, Center for Local Public Health Services



(L. to r.) Kristi Luebbering, Kathy Sluyter and Carla Jennings



Anna Long, Bureau of HIV, STD & Hepatitis

Engaging Community Health Workers

Within the Section for Community Health and Chronic Disease Prevention is the Missouri Actions to Prevent Chronic Disease and Control Risk Factors (MAP). One of the projects within MAP is focused on Community Health Workers. Funding for the project is through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Community Health Workers are lay individuals trusted within the community who assist individuals with overcoming barriers, connect resources and support individuals to improve health outcomes. They are utilized within health centers, community organizations, local public health agencies and housing authorities. Community Health Workers are not a new concept. Within the last decade, there has been increased attention on how Community Health Workers can improve health outcomes.

There are many Community Health Worker activities being conducted throughout the state. To ensure a standard of knowledge, a common Community Health Worker curriculum is being implemented by community colleges. A Statewide Community Health Worker Advisory Committee is working to provide recommendations on curriculum core competencies, Community Health Worker standards and other infrastructure considerations. The Department of Social Services has a pilot project utilizing Community Health Workers within Primary Care Health Homes. Individuals hired through this pilot project must either enroll in the current curriculum or attest to having the competencies taught within the curriculum. In addition, DHSS management is participating in an Aspen Institute Project to utilize Community Health Workers targeting individuals over the age of 55 with diabetes.

To learn more about Missouri Community Health Workers, three videos are available. To view the videos, click on <https://vimeo.com/131212043> for Springfield, <https://youtu.be/nHGbWqpQzGU> for Randolph County, and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro6H76iH3fk> for Kansas City.

Grants Management Training – First Pilot Session

by Pat Bedell, Division of Administration

The Division of Administration recently conducted a grants management training pilot. In the photo are the trainers and representatives from each Division, along with the training mascot – Ugg the Bulldog (named for the Uniform Grant Guidance). Based on feedback from the attendees, the training will be finalized and rolled out department-wide beginning in April. With recent changes to federal grant guidance and increased emphasis on accountability, the training series was developed to combine information on federal regulations with the corresponding department policies and procedures. Information will be presented in two or three hour sessions with topics such as risk assessments, contract language compared to the grant guidance, monitoring, indirect costs, and related issues. The training is designed to provide an overview of the federal uniform grant guidance so program staff have a general understanding of the purpose of department policy and contract language pertaining to grant funds. Registration information for this training will be sent out soon through each Division's Fiscal Liaison.



Front Row (l. to r.) Diana Farmer, Lori Riehn, Sybil Schlater, UGG, Renee Godsey, Sharon Odom and Jeff Zoellner. Second row (l. to r.) Tammy Maasen, Sandra Hentges, Nicole Massey, Sharon Helton, Melissa Van Dyne, Karen Kliethermes, Mulima Walusiku-Todd, Samantha Farthing and April Fazekas. Back Row (l. to r.) Scott Patterson, Ralph Poettgen, Marcia Mahaney, Janett Walker, Nanci Grannemann, Shalonda Graham, Haroun Kamara, Brett Ruckers and Pat Bedell

Heart Transplant Gives a Second Chance at Life

Tanya Dixon was one of many employees who placed a heart on the Tribute Wall outside the entry of the Division of Senior and Disability Services in recognition of families and friends diagnosed with heart disease. Tanya's son, Larry, was diagnosed with a virus that attacked his heart.

"I recall asking Larry if he felt OK," said Tanya. "It was flu season and my husband was in the hospital at the time with H1N1 and Larry came to visit. His wife, Cara, mentioned Larry had been battling a cold."

After seeing a doctor and spending three days in the hospital, the doctor diagnosed him with pneumonia. Weeks went by and Larry's health was not improving. After seeing many doctors, Larry went to a cardiologist at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis who diagnosed Larry with an enlarged heart.

"Larry would arrive at work an hour early because he just didn't have the energy to get out of his car and walk across the parking lot," said Tanya.

The next surgery Larry would face was the insertion of a defibrillator. A year and a half after receiving the defibrillator, his left side of his heart was not pumping blood, so the doctors inserted a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) to help maintain the pumping ability of his heart. Weeks later, Larry developed an infection. He was then placed on antibiotics which he became immune.

"The medical staff could not find where the infection was hiding and it kept showing up," said Tanya. "Several times a year, the medical staff would check his chest cavity to make sure the infection wasn't reaching his heart."

In June, 2012, Larry had a stroke and the infection was back once again. Because of his critical condition, he was placed to the front of the heart transplant list.

"On New Year's Eve in 2013, I recall wishing that this would be the year that Larry would receive a heart transplant," said Tanya.

Her wish came true two days later, Larry and Cara received a call from Mid-America Transplant. Larry and his family later learned that a young gentleman about Larry's age, height and weight was tragically killed near the Missouri – Illinois state line.

Larry was in the hospital for eight weeks. When the doctors removed the LVAD during the transplant surgery, they found the infection that was making Larry ill. It was the first time the medical staff experienced an infection where the LVAD had been located.

"We thank Larry's donor family every single day for the life giving decision that they made," said Cara. "Because of them, Larry and others have been able to live. Organ donation is truly a lifesaving gift."

"I believe that a part of the young man that donated his heart lives within Larry," said Tanya. "After his surgery, Larry insisted that he wanted his hat. Larry never wore a hat before, but we learned that the young man wore a baseball cap that was found at the scene of the accident. There have been other occurrences that lead me to believe that a heart is more than an organ," said Tanya.

In October 2015, Larry and Cara became parents to a baby boy. Larry graduated from Saint Charles Community College with a degree in computer science. He works for the Office of Administration's ITSD.

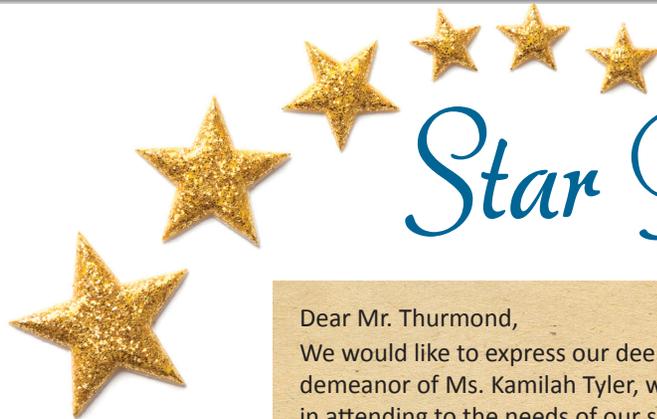
"If you haven't signed up to be an organ donor, please do so" said Larry. "Talk to your loved ones about your wishes of being an organ donor. It will be one of the best decisions you will ever make!"



Tanya Dixon and her son, Larry are advocates of organ donation. Larry received a heart transplant after a virus attacked his heart. Tanya works in the Division of Senior and Disability Services.



A "Tribute Wall" displayed names of loved ones diagnosed with heart disease.



Star Performance

Dear Mr. Thurmond,
We would like to express our deep appreciation for the gracious demeanor of Ms. Kamilah Tyler, who interviewed us regarding our roles in attending to the needs of our son - in particular - our son's allegation that as his representative payee that I had misapplied his SSDI income. As we discussed facts relevant to the situation, Ms. Tyler had the duty to question us to determine the truth of our son's allegations. Ms. Tyler's careful attention to detail, her appropriate questions to us, and her understanding of our son's torturous illness, as well as our own consequent suffering, were exemplary! It is reassuring to us that Ms. Tyler has not become hardened by the daily expressions of a multitude of deperate situations that demand investigation.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Olsen



*Kamilah Tyler, Section for
Child Care Regulation,
Independence*

“We would like to express our deep appreciation for the gracious demeanor of Ms. Kamilah Tyler...”

“Thank you and the LPHAs who provide services under the contracts with the Child Care Consultation Program.”

Nola Martz,

A daycare provider contacted the Center for Local Public Health regarding the tips she learned from an autism training developed by you. The provider saw many signs that could indicate a child in her daycare had autism. She didn't try to diagnose the problem, but tried to point out to the mother that his development was a little different than other children his age. The result was the child was tested at the Thompson Center and diagnosed with autism. Thank you and the LPHAs who provide services under the contracts with the Child Care Consultation Program. In the 2015 contract year, the program gave 2,070 hours of training and 1,256 consultations to workers, and 3,144 children's health promotions impacting 65,054 children.

Regards,
Daycare provider-in Chariton County



*Nola Martz, Center for Local
Public Health*

Trailblazers Who Achieved Their Dreams Late in Life

Learn their stories during Older Americans Month in May

Many people achieve their dreams or success later in life. That's one of the messages of Older Americans Month, an annual nationwide event that pays homage to older people every May.

Laura Ingalls Wilder was 65 when she started to write the Little House on the Prairie series. Nelson Mandela became the oldest elected president of South Africa in 1994, when he was 74 years old. Ben Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence at age 70, making him the oldest signer. Those three trailblazers and others who made significant contributions to the world after age 60 are being recognized during Older Americans Month. Visit the department's website or Facebook page to learn their stories.

Older adults are a growing and vital part of our state and world. Our department provides services to older adults year-round, but this month we focus on how older adults lead and inspire us, and how we might follow their examples to blaze trails of our own.

John F. Kennedy first proclaimed May as Older Americans Month in 1963. U.S. presidents ever since have designated the month as a time to honor older people for the important role they play in passing on their experience, wisdom and understanding to other generations. This year's theme is "Blazing a Trail."



HR Corner

Every year, MOSERS provides Annual Benefit Statements to covered employees. These personalized statements provide useful information regarding your salary, benefits and projected income in retirement.

This year, the documents will be available online on the MOSERS Document Express. These are expected to be available to all employees by mid-April.

Your personalized statement is designed to help you decide things like:

- Are you saving enough for retirement in your State of Missouri Deferred Compensation account?
- Should you make any changes to your cafeteria plan, health insurance, or life insurance coverage?
- When will you be financially ready to retire?

For more information, visit the MOSERS website at <https://www.mosers.org/Members/Newsletters/Spring-2015/2015-Annual-Benefit-Statements.aspx>.

Public Health in Action!

“Senior Advocacy Day” activities took place in House Hearing Room 7 at the Missouri State Capitol on March 1. The activities were hosted by the Missouri Silver Haired Legislature, a statewide group of volunteer citizens 60 years of age and older that promote conscientious legislative advocacy for Missouri’s older adults. More than 70 seniors were in attendance for the program, which featured speakers from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Attorney General’s Office, the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging and more. Those in attendance received information on senior-related legislation, Missouri’s “Sunshine Law,” and pointers on how to communicate with legislators when advocating for bills aimed at helping seniors.

“We are an aging nation,” said Wendy Bruemmer, Constituent and Emergency Services Coordinator, Division of Senior and Disability Services. “The Missouri Silver Haired Legislature and DHSS are committed to raising awareness about critical issues facing older Missourians. During ‘Senior Advocacy Day’, Missouri’s SHL are not only advocating for today’s seniors, they are paving the way for future generations.”



Wendy Bruemmer and Kayla Curry, Division of Senior and Disability Services, join the Missouri Silver Haired Legislature in “Senior Advocacy Day” at the Missouri State Capitol.

Show us
your public
health
activity!

If you have a suggestion for a *Public Health in Action* article, email Lori Buchanan at Lori.Buchanan@health.mo.gov.

Brain Injury Awareness



Pictured is the Brain Injury Unit, along with Melinda Sanders, front, left, showing support for March Brain Injury Awareness Month. The Unit consists of Ellen Whittington, Venice Wood, Deloris Hubner, Dean Andersen and Sam McElwaine.

In Memory of Jeanie Werner

Jeanie Werner passed away on March 15. She bravely battled ovarian cancer since December. Jeanie worked in Region 5 in the Springfield/Lebanon area. Her working years were a mission of service to others. She worked for the State of Missouri for 35 years at Lakeland Behavior Hospital, Missouri's Division of Family Services and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Jeanie joined DHSS in 2005 as a member of Region 1's Rev team, and then to Region 5 in 2008 as a member of the Green Team.

Jeanie is survived by three daughters Barbara, Emma and Alisha. She also has one grandson. Her family was extremely important to Jeanie and she has often been described as the caretaker of her family. She was a very compassionate and caring person.

"Jeanie will be missed by many," said Celesta Hartgraves, director of the Division of Senior and Disability Services. "I hope you'll join me in keeping her family, friends, and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers."



Jeanie Werner, Division of Senior and Disability Services.

In Memory of Peggy Hader

Peggy Hader, administrative office support assistant in the Office of Human Resources, passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer on February 7. A celebration of her life was held February 12 at the Riechmann Indoor Pavillion in Columbia.

Peggy is survived by her son, Wesley (KayMaree) Hader and daughter Leah Hickam all of Columbia.

Carrie Haley, Office of Human Resources wrote:

"Such a sweet lady, great friend, and dearly loved by all who knew her. She was always right there willing to help however she could with any project. She had that witty sense of humor that would make you laugh out loud because it would catch you off-guard and you never knew what she would say next. She could always put a smile on your face, no matter how crazy or hectic the day was.

Her grandchildren were the light of her life. She talked frequently about spending weekends cuddling up with them after a long day of chasing the little guys around. They would completely wear her out and she'd look forward to rest at work on Mondays, but she could hardly wait until the next time she would see them and get to do it all over again."



Peggy Hader, Office of Human Resources.

DHSS Employees of the Month



Robyn Carter

Robyn Carter has been selected as the Department's January Employee of the Month. Robyn is an adult protective and community worker II, Dunklin County, Bureau of Home and Community Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services.

Robyn received a hotline report on an elderly woman in Cardwell, MO that had fallen on the floor and wasn't able to get up. When EMS arrived, they discovered that the woman was hypothermic from lying on the cold floor. They found the home to be in extremely poor condition. The client lived in this home with her son, his wife, and his children. Robyn helped the elderly woman and her son's family move into a three bedroom home in public housing.

Four months later, Robyn received another hotline report on a disabled gentleman living in the same home but now with no water or electricity. He was a relative of the family that previously lived there His only income was a very small Supplemental Security stipend. He did not receive food stamps or Medicaid as he had no transportation to get to the Medicaid office, no phone or form of identification. He had previously supplemented his income by mowing a few yards but his mower had broken down and he was unable to afford to replace it. Robyn attacked the problems one by one. She helped him fill out Medicaid and Food Stamps applications. She also helped him apply for housing but soon realized he was unable to afford the deposit of \$260 for utilities. Furthermore, he had to travel approximately 20 miles to apply for the utility connection in person. Robyn made many phone calls and was eventually able to find transportation and services that covered his utility deposit. Due to Robyn's persistence and willingness to work for her client, this disabled man was able to move into his new apartment.



Karen Thomas

Karen Thomas was nominated as the Department's February Employee of the Month. Karen is an adult protective and community worker I-II, Linn County, Bureau of Home and Community Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services.

Karen notified her supervisor when she saw some of the images of elderly adults being taken out of their flooded apartment complex in the bucket of a front end loader during a recent flood in Brookfield, MO.

Phone contact was made with law enforcement and the American Red Cross to follow up on sixteen displaced senior adults. Due to Karen's quick response, a meeting was set with the American Red Cross, law enforcement, housing personnel, tenants and their families within 24 hours. Prior to meeting with the tenants and their family members, the team discussed the most immediate needs of those affected. Housing of course was the top priority, so Karen started making telephone calls and in a two hour period, she located 11 available apartments all within a 25 mile radius of Brookfield. She had phone and fax numbers, applications and contact names before we ever met with the tenants.

Karen worked days specifically with the flood victims and their families to ensure they had temporary lodging and food while each person evaluated their situation. Information changed by the hour the first couple of days and Karen went out of her way to make sure the tenants were kept updated. She monitored each tenant's progress on finding sustainable housing. Karen also encouraged each resident to make sure their utilities were out of their names because the clean-up crews were using fans, air conditioners and cleaning equipment and the tenants were going to be responsible for this usage if they didn't transfer their names.

DHSS Employees of the Month



Alicia Jenkins

Alicia Jenkins has been selected as the Department’s March Employee of the Month. Alicia is a child care program specialist with the Division of Regulation and Licensure in the Section for Child Care Regulation.

Alicia is responsible for the section’s professional development plan for staff, ensuring the section’s policy and procedure manuals are up-to-date, and the oversight of the section’s rule revision process. On November 20, 2015, emergency rules went into effect related to safe sleep practices for infants in licensed child care facilities. In addition to other requirements, the emergency rules require child care providers and staff to receive department approved training on safe sleep practices for infants every three years, including a requirement that currently licensed providers/staff receive the training within three months. Because of a vacant position, Alicia assumed the role of ensuring the new rules were implemented and that child care providers had a variety of training sources and training delivery methods from which to choose to meet the new requirements related to safe sleep.

Alicia also recognized the need for online training to meet the needs of the child care workforce. She worked with SIDS Resources, Inc. to transform a PowerPoint presentation into an online training. Alicia has worked with outside stakeholders to coordinate information about the new safe sleep training. She developed a Frequently Asked Questions document, made needed revisions to forms, and developed a sample safe sleep policy to assist child care providers to comply with the new requirements.

Alicia’s positive spirit and “can-do” attitude are always on display. She is always willing to step in where needed. She is a self-motivated individual who prides herself on her work and work product.



[Click here to checkout what's been happening around DHSS!](#)

The DHSS Snapshot is published by the Office of Public Information.
Suggestions for future articles can be sent to: Lori.Buchanan@health.mo.gov ● phone: 573/751-6062
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