

INSIDE



Aging Services Workers Honored at 2002 Annual Nurses Conference

At the Aging Services Division Annual Nurses Conference, Director Howard H. Hendrick presented statewide honors to, from left, Debbie Hampton, LeFlore County, State Control Worker of the Year; Deborah Klein, Washington County, State Social Worker of the Year; Sherri Funburg, RN, Adair County, State Long-Term Care Nurse of the Year; Eunice Cox, RN, Lawton, State Area Nurse of the Year. Director Hendrick also presented other ASD workers with area and county honors.



Jason Emo spent September 11 carrying the American Flag throughout the State Capitol complex. He was asked to join in the OKDHS observance. See photos on pages 4-5.

More than 150 people participated in the Aging Services Division 2002 Annual Nurses Conference in September at the National Center for Employee Development in Norman.

The three-day conference culminated in an awards luncheon honoring outstanding service in state, area and county categories.

Those honored are:

**State Area Nurse of the Year
Eunice Cox, RN
Lawton, Area II**

In her 25 years of service to OKDHS, Eunice Cox has made her mark through her philosophy, philanthropy and dedication in long-term care services to

Oklahoma seniors. She is well respected within the community of OKDHS, her home community and the families she serves. She is unique in style, honest in character and generous in sharing her knowledge. She is a true advocate for providing services to those in need.

Eunice supports efforts locally and statewide that benefit public organizations, faith-based services and individuals. A few examples of her service are 15-year membership on the Lawton Council on Aging, membership in the St. Vincent DePaul Society supporting Catholic charities, a member of the board of directors of the St. Anthony School of

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New Blaine County Office to Reflect Main Street

By Dustin Pyeatt
Public Information Officer

A shovel full of red dirt signaled a new beginning for the Blaine County Oklahoma Department of Human Services when local OKDHS staff joined city, county and state officials on a warm September day for the official groundbreaking of the new Blaine County OKDHS office.

After spending more than 30 years in a 3,570 square foot metal building on A Street in Watonga, next fall the Blaine County OKDHS staff will move into their new 8,400 square foot brick building on Main Street.

“This new building represents the many years of dedicated service of past and current Blaine County staff,” said Ross Maupin, Blaine County OKDHS Director. “None of this would have been possible without the hard work, vision and commitment of Kay Hagerman, former Blaine County Director. Without her we wouldn’t be breaking ground, and next fall her hard work will become reality.”

According to Mario Tur, Project Architect, the new Blaine County OKDHS office will feature a play area, reception room, five interview rooms, an EBT viewing room, family room, public and staff meeting rooms, six supervisor offices, a mobile file room, copy room, break room, storage room, two sets of restrooms for staff and clients and an open work area for 20 staff work stations.

Although the new office’s



Breaking ground for the new Blaine County office are, from left, Ross Maupin, Blaine-Kingfisher County Director; Kelli Stewart, Area 1 Child Welfare Liaison; Kay Hagerman, Custer-Dewey County Director and formerly CD at Blaine County; Brenda Hawkins, Area 1 Director; Mario Tur, Project Architect, Facilities Management Services; Mary Reznicek, Administrator, Property Management; Shaun McCarty, Project Manager, Property Management; Larry Johnson, Programs Administrator, Field Operations.



Architecture and Engineering Unit’s rendering of the new county office.

interior will bring the Blaine County staff into the 21st Century, the exterior will be purposefully stuck in the late 19th Century. “The exterior building design is characteristic of the turn of the century masonry craftsmanship with corbel brick cornices and large glass windows,” said Tur. “The design was developed in

cooperation with the City of Watonga’s Main Street Program of downtown revitalization, with input from the Oklahoma Main Street Center.” Tur added, “Although the building design reflects the 1900’s historical features, the building materials and systems are 21st Century, cutting-edge technology.”

ASD Workers Honored at 2002 Annual Nurses Conference

Nursing, and a member of the board of two community home health agencies.

Her natural leadership ability helps her get along with county staff in Area II. She is an excellent trainer and is very supportive of the nurses she supervises and other OKDHS staff. She takes her job seriously, but also enjoys life and is fun to be around.

**State Long-Term Care
Nurse of the Year
Sherri Funburg, RN
Adair County, Area V**

Sherri tirelessly labors for her community's food bank. She helps clients find needed resources. Sherri explores



Sherri Funburg

churches, pharmacies, retail and grocery stores until the person's needs are met. Sherri helped a man find a home after his house was destroyed in a fire. Without housing, the man, a person with developmental disabilities, was spending hours at Wal-Mart and community businesses. Sherri spent many hours talking to housing authorities, diligently searching for a home for him. When an apartment was located, she helped him with the contracts, furniture donations, and in finding a provider to assist him. This is just one example of her contributions to her community.

**State Social Worker of the Year
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Washington County**

Deborah is known for her customer service within the agency and with community part-

ners. Her co-workers say she will do anything to help a client who has a problem. A



Deborah Klein

strong advocate for the elderly, during last winter's ice storm she called all her clients to make sure they were warm, safe and had enough food and medicine to get them through the emergency. A graduate of the Oklahoma Aging Advocacy Leadership Academy, she stays informed about new policies, programs and laws that may affect her clients, and she shares this information with other workers in her county. She works tirelessly with professionalism and concern that enables clients to maintain their dignity and self worth.

**State Control Worker of the Year
Debbie Hampton
LeFlore County**

LeFlore County's Best of the Best winner for 2002 is this year's Outstanding Control Clerk Award winner.

Debbie is known for her ability to work in partnership with others to improve service delivery and to continu-



Debbie Hampton

ously juggle several different responsibilities with efficiency. The outcomes of her work are of the highest quality. According to



State Area Nurse of the Year, Eunice Cox, Area II, receives congratulations from ASD Director Roy Keen following awards ceremonies at the 2002 Nurses Conference.

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ASD Workers Honored at 2002 Annual Nurses Conference

Sevilla Vance, LeFlore County Director, "Debbie is an exemplary employee who fulfills the DHS mission through her quality, timely service delivery to our customers."

Control Clerk of the Year Pat Easter Custer County

During the past year, Pat has kept referrals on track for six Area

I nurses from six different counties. Pat helped get referrals to each of the nurses who pitched in to help cover for



Pat Easter

another nurse with a family crisis. She ensured the referrals were made in a timely manner, routed and answered phone calls from the nurses, and kept everything running smoothly so clients could continue to receive services.

Area I Social Worker of the Year Charla Ashcraft Custer County



Charla Ashcraft

Charla is a take-charge person who frequently demonstrates a willingness to go the extra mile. During the past year, she has worked with six nurses who were helping out a fellow nurse who was dealing with a seri-

ous illness in her family. Charla deals professionally with the different wants of the nurses by providing prompt responses to questions in person, by phone or via e-mail. No matter what the problem, Charla takes care of it and does it promptly, courteously and professionally.

Area II Social Worker of the Year Steve Murphy Cleveland County

Steve is an Adult Protective Services worker who is thorough and understanding in his investigations. Steve exhibits decency, compassion and a positive attitude toward those he serves: the sick, the elderly and those with need or crisis in their lives. His co-workers also describe him as a genuinely nice person who is reliable and conscientious in his work; always looking for innovative ways to assist; and effective in his ability to defuse difficult situations.

Area III Social Worker of the Year Sylva Ryan Canadian County

Sylva is not only the area's outstanding social worker, but also its outstanding control clerk. She handles not only the supervision of the county's medical unit, she is also the supervisor of six long-term care and Aged, Blind and Disabled program workers. She also serves as the control clerk for the long-term care program, maintaining excellent records and ensuring that all

requests are assigned and logged correctly and in a timely manner. Her co-workers describe her as a social worker in every sense of the word, giving 110 percent of her time to clients, her fellow workers and her family.



Sylva Ryan

Area V Social Worker of the Year Tina Jenner Okmulgee County

Tina works with both the ADvantage Program and nursing home programs and has a comprehensive knowledge of the policy for both. She has an extraordinary ability to relay policy and program information to clients and their families. She is patient and understanding with families,



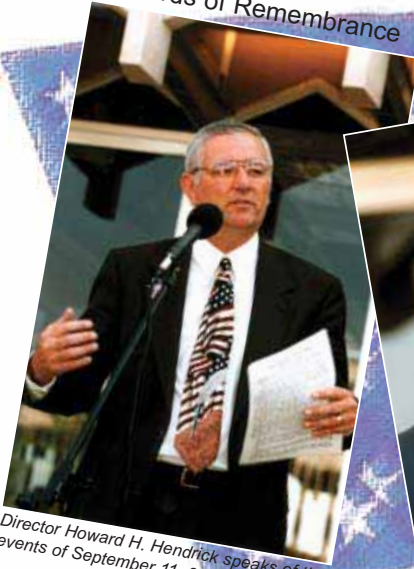
Tina Jenner

she makes sure they understand the process, and helps them to feel they are not "just a number" in the system. She is frequently asked to make speeches about DHS programs and is a volunteer in the Senior Health Information Counseling Program (SHICP) operated through the Oklahoma Insurance Commission.

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An Observance of September 11

In Words of Remembrance



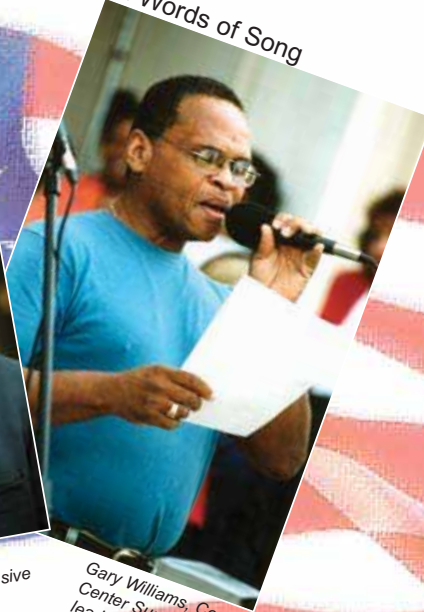
Director Howard H. Hendrick speaks of the events of September 11, 2001.

In Words of Faith



Marq Youngblood, Chief Information Officer, takes part in leading a responsive reading of Psalm 91.

In Words of Song



Gary Williams, Copy Center Supervisor, leads those assembled in singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

In Words of Reflection and Sharing



Mikki Gutierrez, a Human Resources Management Specialist and a native New Yorker, speaks of the strength, determination and genuine caring shown by the people of New York City and Oklahoma City in times of crisis.



Joyce Carolina, an Administrative Assistant in Children and Family Services, speaks of the loss of a cousin from injuries received in the bombing of the Murrah Building. She talked about tragedies bringing people together and her belief that we should care about each other every day.

and sometimes in silence

In Words of Allegiance



Those assembled join with gusto in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Jason Emo pauses for a moment of reflection at the Tribal Flag Plaza on the north side of the State Capitol. Emo, a Del City security guard, observed September 11 in a "daylight to dusk" mission carrying the American Flag throughout the State Capitol complex. He accepted an invitation to participate in the OKDHS observance.

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Mary Hayes

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Doris Taylor

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Louise McMennamy

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Nancy Ray

**State Control Worker of the Year
Debbie Hampton
LeFlore County**

Rob Eden Promoted to County Director III

By Dustin Pyeatt
Office of Communications

Rob Eden, a 24-year veteran of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, has been named



Rob Eden

Director of the OKDHS Office in Tulsa County, located at 3666 N. Peoria.

Eden has served as County

Director II for the past two years, overseeing Child Welfare and Family Support operations for the office. Eden replaces former County Director Stanley Riggs who retired in December 2001.

“I’m honored to have been selected as the County Director III

for Tulsa 72-B,” said Eden. “I’m anticipating a smooth transition into the position as I’ve been in Tulsa B for two years. We have an excellent group of employees who want to provide excellent customer service.”

Eden began his career with OKDHS as a Social Worker in Woods County. He later served as County Director in Major, Woods and Washington counties before serving as the Area VI Administrative Field Liaison.

Eden graduated from Freedom High School and earned a bachelor’s in social work from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva.

Eden serves currently as Chairman of the Board for the Oklahoma Homeless Network.

Eden has two children, Reagan, 26, and Natalie, 18. Eden is also a proud grandfather and spends his free time with his grandson Rylan.

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