



OKDHS Area III Realigns: Crossroads Office Created

Oklahoma Department of Human Services' Area III – Oklahoma and Canadian counties – continues to grow closer to the people served.

Oklahoma County B in Midwest City will divide into two offices late this year with the new neighborhood office becoming Oklahoma County J, the Crossroads office.

Vicki Williams is new Director of the Midwest City office. She replaces David Reeves who retired Feb. 1. Williams has been with the Department 20 years and had previously served as Director of Oklahoma County A, the Capitol Hill office, and as Lincoln County Director.

Glen Gerber will serve as acting Director of the Crossroads office during the

transition. Gerber, a veteran of 19 years with the Department and formerly Assistant Area Director for Area III, will retain his position as County Director of the Mayfair office and the Bethany office.



Vicki Williams

The zip codes assigned to these offices are shown on the Area III InfoNet site under "Realignment" at <http://county/foarea3/realignment.htm>.

Area Director Debbie Sexton said the Area office was fortunate to lure Sherri Kyle out of retirement temporarily, and she will be Acting County Director for the Capitol Hill office. After serving the Department for 33 years, Kyle retired three years ago as Assistant Division Administrator for Family Support Services Division.



Glen Gerber

OKDHS to Recognize Volunteers



National Volunteer Week is April 21-27, and the OKDHS state ceremony honoring volunteers will be April

24 at 2 p.m. in the Concourse Theater of the Sequoyah State Office Building, 2400 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City.

Area ceremonies showing support and appreciation for volunteers are scheduled as follows:

Area II

April 19 at 2 p.m. in Simmons Center, 800 North 29th Street, Duncan.

Area III

April 19 at 2 p.m. at Langston University - OKC Campus, 4205 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City.

Area IV

April 12 at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Baptist Church, 123 N. Mississippi, Ada.

Area V

April 19 at 1 p.m. at Muskogee Civic Center, 4th and West Okmulgee, Muskogee.

Two OKDHS Employees Volunteer at Olympics

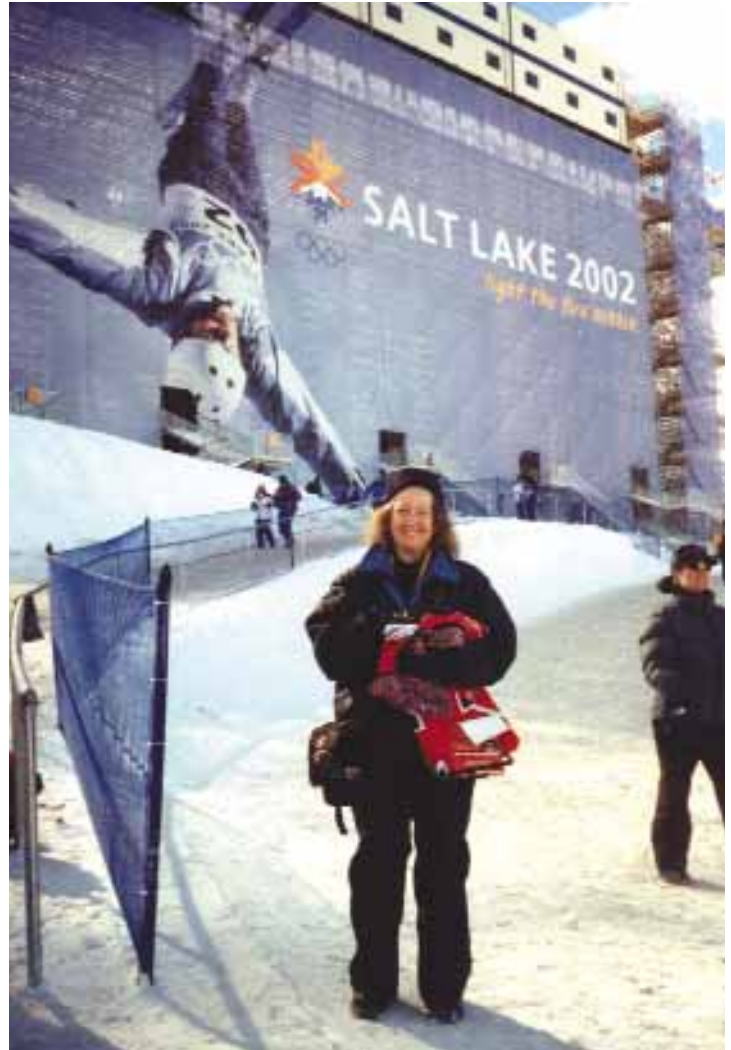


Lloyd Colston, Claremore, stands on the steps of the Utah State Capitol beside the cauldron that would top the tower at Olympic Stadium and house the Olympic flame throughout the games.

Two OKDHS staff members took time off to volunteer at the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Connie Beaver, volunteer coordinator at Oklahoma County 55C, spent most of February as a volunteer at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. She was an event service host, which, she said, required her to rip tickets, wave, welcome, smile, direct, search bags, wand people, and help them through a “magnetic sensor thingie.” She worked the opening and closing ceremonies; the Snowbasin ski area, venue for the downhill and slalom; and Deer Valley ski area.

Lloyd Colston, social services supervisor in the OKDHS Mayes County Office and also Mayes County Emergency Management Director, spent two weeks on Olympic duty in February. Colston was assigned to the Utah Olympic Public Safety Command in Salt Lake City. Colston manned a variety of posts in the state-of-the-art Joint Information Center including answering media calls, tracking traffic gridlock around the area, and monitoring reports from police, fire and emergency medical services.



Connie Beaver, Oklahoma City, is ready for business at one of her Olympic work sites, the Deer Valley ski area, which was the venue for moguls, aerials and slalom.

If you would like to be a volunteer at the Olympics, the starting point is:

**Athens, Greece 2004
The Summer Games
www.athens.olympic.org**

Connie Beaver said start applying now. She said the application process requires “patience and persistence.” She said you fill out and return forms, and then wait. When you think they have forgotten you, you get a letter. Then you wait some more.

Lloyd Colston said a person who has skills, knowledge or abilities that are needed should network with individuals or organizations that are often tapped for volunteers.

Coleman Named Risk Management Administrator

After more than 34 years of service in the Army, retired Col.

John Coleman is taking on a new task: working to ensure the safety of Oklahoma Department of Human Services employees as the new Programs Administrator for Risk Management.

According to Coleman, his new mission is three-fold: to provide employee safety, local disaster preparedness

and agency-wide disaster planning in the wake of Sept. 11.

“People have a right to feel secure at



John Coleman

“People have a right to feel secure at their work.” John Coleman, Risk Management Programs Administrator

their work,” said Coleman. “I plan to use common sense, care and concern. Everything we do will be subtle and non-obtrusive.”

New to the job, Coleman is still settling in and getting up to

speed on OKDHS. However he does think that the agency is already off to a good start with safety. “Generally the people here

are attuned and aware. And I’ve found that if people in this agency have an issue, they’ll voice it and that’s important.”

Coleman is a graduate of Oklahoma State University where he earned both a bachelor’s in Business Education and a master’s in Adult Education.

Premier Photographers Contribute to Waiting Child Exhibit

The Oklahoma Department of Human Services is joining with its long-time partner KTUL-TV Channel 8 in Tulsa and the Waterworks Photography Association to develop an exciting



art exhibit, Waiting Child.

Fifty of Oklahoma’s premier photographers have donated their time and talent to create portraits of some of the hundreds of children



in our state waiting for a loving adoptive home.

The Waiting Child Exhibit is intended to increase awareness of the need for more adoptive homes in Oklahoma. The revealing and thought-provoking exhibit will tour the state over the next year.

The exhibit debuts March 21 at the Reynolds Center on the University of Tulsa campus and will be on display from March 22 - 29 at Woodland Hills Mall, Tulsa. Waiting Child will be on display at Tulsa’s Mayfest, May 16-19. The exhibit will open June 3 at the Omniplex in Oklahoma City and will remain on display there throughout the month of June.

This type of

exhibit was done in New Mexico with great success. One of the photographers who helped launch it there is traveling to Oklahoma to take one of the Waiting Child photos.



Oklahoma County F Shows Firefighters Appreciation

The staff of Oklahoma County F (Juvenile Justice Center) held a brunch in March to show their appreciation to Oklahoma City firefighters who have assisted them in the past and continue to support staff efforts on behalf of clients.

County Director Jeri Poplin said, "Firefighters first came to our rescue in December when Christmas gift donations for children were low. They have continued to assist on an on-going basis by providing toys, diapers, and other goods needed by the children and families we serve."

The men and women of one station even volunteered to build a fence for a foster family so that a child with developmental disabilities can be placed in their home.

Poplin said the brunch was a means of saying thanks to the firefighters and fostering a relationship with valuable community partners.



Following the County F brunch, OKDHS workers get a tour of a fire truck and pause for a photo. In the center of the photo, with his foot on the curb, is Rick Kernes, Major, Oklahoma City Fire Department, and to his left are OKDHS County Director Jeri Poplin; Julie Whitaker, Child Welfare Specialist II; Lynn McCloud, personnel; Tommy Lawrence, Corporal, OCFD; Nona Aska, CWS II; and Joe Roberts, Corporal, OCFD. Beside the fire truck are Stuart Eldridge, left, Lieutenant, OCFD, and Ed Koch, Lieutenant, OCFD. In front of them are Cindy Reneau, CWS II, left, and Misty Nelson, CWS I. Standing on the back of the truck are, from left, Leslie Austin, CWS IV; Dyan McGee, CWS I; Robin Weatherly, payroll; Heather Franz, CWS I; and Frona Musgrove, CWS II. On top of the truck are Candice Hilburn, left, CWS I, and Michelle Boyer, CWS I.

Considering Quitting Smoking? Check This

According to the American Cancer Society more than 400,000 deaths in the United States each year are attributed to smoking-caused illnesses. Here is a list of short-term and long-term benefits of quitting smoking from the American Lung Association:

Short-Term Benefits

Immediate: Air around you is no longer a danger to children, other adults and pets.

20 minutes: Blood pressure, pulse rate and temperature in hands and feet all drop to normal.

8 hours: Carbon monoxide level in blood drops to normal.

24 hours: Chance of heart attack decreases.

48 hours: Senses of taste and smell improve.

2-12 weeks: Circulation and

breathing improve, walking becomes easier, and lung function increases up to 30 percent.

1-9 months: Coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue and shortness of breath decrease. Lungs increase ability to self-clean and reduce infection.

Long-Term Benefits

1 year: Excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of someone who smokes.

5 years: Stroke risk is reduced to that of a nonsmoker.

10 years: Lung cancer death rate is about half that of someone who smokes. Risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas decrease.

15 years: Risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker.

Inside OKDHS is published for the employees and retirees of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services as a joint effort of the Office of Communications, the Publications Section and the Print Shop.

Howard H. Hendrick

Director, Department of Human Services

George Earl Johnson Jr.

Director of Public Relations

Alice Carrillo

Publications Section Supervisor

Bob Ferguson

Print Shop Supervisor

Editorial Team:

Bill Leitner, Editor

Carla Garrett

Jim Gumm

Dustin Pyeatt

Tony Hennigh

Stephanie Bond

OKDHS S02045

Issued 3/2002

Publication of Inside OKDHS is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Human Services at a cost of \$2,000.00 for 5,000 copies. Copies have been deposited with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries Publications Clearinghouse. Contents are not copyrighted and may be freely quoted unless otherwise noted.