



## The Oklahoma Department of Human Services

### Director Named One of State's Top Public Administrators

DHS Director Howard H. Hendrick has been named one of the top three administrators in the state by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

Director Hendrick was presented the society's Distinguished Public Service Award at an awards luncheon May 7 at Tinker Air Force Base.

The Distinguished Public Service Award recognizes public administrators in Oklahoma whose careers exhibit the highest standards of excellence, dedication and accomplishment. The

award is given to public service practitioners whose work has achieved the recognition and admiration of their fellow workers and colleagues within the public service community.

Jerry Regier, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services, was named 2001 Administrator of the Year, and Michael A. Deihl, Administrator of the Southwest Power Administration, received a Distinguished Public Service Award. The SWPA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Energy based in Tulsa.

Several DHS employees nominated Director Hendrick without his knowledge.

Upon learning of his selection as a recipient of a Distinguished Public Service Award, Director Hendrick said, I am humbled and surprised. It has been such a delight to see the



Howard H. Hendrick

enthusiasm breathed throughout DHS as we give serious attention and focus to the individuals and families we serve.

We have a GREAT statewide team. It is really exciting to see the progress being made in every division. Thank you to all our employees for doing an awesome job.

#### May Is Foster Care Month

#### **Quality Foster Homes Needed for Oklahoma**

Sometimes families fall apart because of addiction, abuse or neglect. Though many means are used to keep them together, the efforts sometimes fail. That's why on any given day more than 6,500 Oklahoma children are in out-of-home foster care placements. Still, there are hundreds more who can't be placed due to a shortage of quality foster homes.

Gov. Frank Keating has proclaimed May 2001 as Foster

Care Month, and wants all Oklahomans to consider investing in Oklahoma's future and becoming a foster parent.

These are great kids who are born into circumstances that are beyond their control, said Midge Woodard, DHS foster care programs manager. No matter how hard we try, the state is the worst parent a child can have. That's why we need loving, nurturing people to serve as

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# Ginger Hoch Named Director of Panhandle Counties

Ginger Hoch, a 10-year veteran of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, has been named director of the DHS offices in Beaver, Texas and Cimarron counties.

Ginger is a native of western Oklahoma and began her career here in Area I, said Brenda Hawkins, Area I Director. We're glad to have her back home with the Area I family.

Hoch began her career as a social worker in Blaine County. She moved to Oklahoma County as a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families worker; a TANF supervisor; and supervisor for TANF One Stop programs in Oklahoma County.

I'm very excited and looking forward to meeting all the great folks here in the panhandle and becoming familiar with this beautiful part of Oklahoma, said Hoch. I want folks to know that I plan on working hard to give them the best possible service.

Hoch graduated from Watonga High School. She earned an associate's degree in arts from Redlands Community College, El



*Taking care of the Panhandle are, back row from left, Mary Ann Blue, Social Services Supervisor, Texas Co.; Kathy Evans, Administrative Tech, Texas Co.; Elaine Rundle, Child Welfare, Texas, Beaver and Cimarron counties (TB&C); Tisha Duncan, Child Welfare, TB&C; Barbara Rapp, Administrative Tech, Texas Co.; Nancy Kline, SSS, Cimarron Co. Middle Row: Joyce Fenton, Adult Protective Services, TB&C; Consuelo Reynoso, SSS, Beaver Co.; Summer Dietz, Child Welfare, TB&C, Ginger Hoch, County Director, TB&C; Donna Gift, Child Welfare, TB&C; Elana Gloude, Child Welfare, TB&C; Rowena Nickelson, Administrative Assistant, Texas Co. Front Row: Charlotte Shrock, SSS, Texas Co.; Neal Cook, SSS, Texas Co.; Shirley Cole, SSS, Cimarron Co.; Jerry Allen, SSS, Texas Co. Staff members not shown include Pam Jones, SSS, Cimarron Co.; Patty Daves, SSS, Texas Co.; Elizabeth Rodriguez, Child Welfare Aide, TB&C; Brenda Sparks, Licensing Specialist, TB&C; Linda Burns, DDS, TB&C; and Lena Muse, Administrative Tech, Texas Co.*

Reno, and later received her bachelor's degree in both psychology and business administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford.

During her career with DHS,

Hoch has served on more than 30 agency and community committees and task forces. She was named Social Worker of the Year in 1995 and is completing work to become a Certified Public Manager.

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foster parents.

To become a foster parent an individual must be at least 21 years old and financially stable. Foster parents do not have to own their own homes and can be married or single.

A foster parent receives a monthly reimbursement from the State to help meet the needs of the foster child. Liability insurance, medical, dental and mental health benefits will also be provided to

the foster child.

Foster care is not a choice for some children, said Woodard. But choosing to provide a temporary home for a child while reunification with the family or permanent placement can be arranged is an important job that can have a lasting, positive effect on a child.

For more information about becoming a foster parent, call 1-800-376-9729, or click on [www.okdhs.org/fostercare](http://www.okdhs.org/fostercare).

**Apologies . . . .**  
 We regret that in the March issue of Inside DHS the names of **Karen Baker** and **Paula Landers**, both of Data Services Division, were spelled incorrectly in the listing of employees who worked so hard to restore life to normalcy after the winter storms.

# Support Services Unit of the Quarter



The DHS Commodities Warehouse Team in McAlester was recognized as **Unit of the Quarter** in April. Office Support Services Division Administrator David Shafer presented certificates to team members. Pictured from left are: Shafer, Programs Manager Nancy Ebahotubbi, Programs Administrator Paula Price (on truck), Warehouse Superintendent Phillip M. Butler, Warehouse Supervisor Shirley Kitchell, Kevin Smart (on truck), Tena Sweetin, Jim Richards, Danny Walters, Tracy Lenox, Bruce Thomas and Don Dickerson. Not pictured are Danny Conn, Danny Cathey, Johnny Peters, David Ballard, Wayne Jones, Bill Blaggs, Ralph Fink, and Wayne Herrin. The name of the big rig was not available, although it is reportedly called many things.

## Agencies Walk the Walk for Oklahoma Families



Gathered at the south steps of the State Capitol, DHS employees from across the state and workers from eight other state agencies get encouragement from Director Howard H. Hendrick, at lectern, as they prepared to strike out on a special walk held in conjunction with the Creating Partnerships for Oklahoma Families conference in April. More than 200 walkers took part in the event, which was held to spotlight the many agencies that work together in assisting Oklahoma families. Agencies joining DHS in the walk included Commission on Children and Youth, Department of Education, Department of Commerce, Association of Community Action Agencies, County Administrators Association, Department of Corrections, Department of Health, and Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

# Kids Days at Work - April 2001



Michelle Ailey, Administrative Tech in Kay County's Ponca City office, gives daughter Vanessa, 12, a turn at the keyboard.



Caleb Livingston, 9, found himself literally at work when he came to the Sequoyah Building to be with Dad Jeff Livingston in the Quality Assurance Unit, Developmental Disabilities Services Division.



Larry Reese, Administrative Programs Officer in Office Support Services, and son, Brantley, 12, take time out from Kids Day for a photo.



Kids Day is a Kodak moment for Robert Bentley, Senior Researcher, Planning and Research, and son Sean, 9.



Jean Underwood, Administrative Tech in Ponca City office, and son Blake, 13, find that a mom, a teenager and a phone are the same at home or at work.



Roger Sober, Child Welfare Aide in Kay County, shares cube time with daughter Tara, 14.



Dale Wares, programs manager in the Division of Child Care, has a cube full with daughters Savannah, 13, on left, and Meredith, 9, on knee.

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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

Dustin Pyeatt

Devora Bates

Carla Garrett

Tony Hennigh

Jim Gumm

Stephanie Bond

Story ideas and photos relating to DHS

can be sent to Inside DHS, P.O. Box

25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125-0352, or

e-mail to [communications@okdhs.org](mailto:communications@okdhs.org)

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