

### Karen's Corner



In 2012, at the request of Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, a consulting firm named *Public Works* conducted a comprehensive assessment of the work of the Department of Health and Human Resources. The purpose of the review was to identify strengths and weaknesses of DHHR, and make recommendations to improve the efficiency and function of the agency. On February 27, 2013, the formal findings of *Public Works* were published in a comprehensive report to Governor Tomblin. Since that time, we have implemented many of the recommendations for the betterment of our agency.

Included in the report was the recommendation to reorganize DHHR bureaus into strategic groups supported by common resources. In consideration of that recommendation and with our own analysis of a structure to maximize efficiency, we have made changes to our administrative organization which took effect May 1, 2014. This change will establish three deputies reporting to the Secretary – the Deputy of Health Services, the Deputy of Human Services, and the Deputy of Public Insurance and Strategic Planning.

Molly Jordan will serve as the Deputy Secretary of Health Services, which will include oversight of the Bureau for Public Health and the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities. Harold Clifton will assume the position of Deputy of Human Services, overseeing the Bureau for Children and Families and the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement. The position of Deputy of Public Insurance and Strategic Planning will be assumed by Jeremiah Samples, giving oversight to the Bureau for Medical Services and spearheading strategic planning efforts.

Molly has served as Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Programs and Policy for DHHR since February 2011 and as Inspector General for nine years. Prior to that, she worked the private sector in long-term health care services and administration. Molly will serve in the position of Deputy Secretary until her retirement June 30, 2014, and I am actively looking to fill this position on a permanent basis.

Harold has served as Director of Human Resources Management for DHHR since 2012, and was previously the Director of Employee Management. He has 32 years of service in state government in social services and human resources including serving as a Community Services Manager.

Jeremiah has served as DHHR Assistant Secretary since July 2013, and previously served as Director of Health Policy for the West Virginia Office of the Insurance Commissioner and assisted with health policy strategic planning for the Governor's Office of Health Enhancement and Lifestyle Planning (GOHELP).

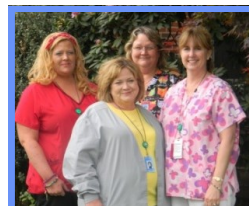
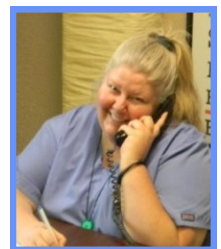
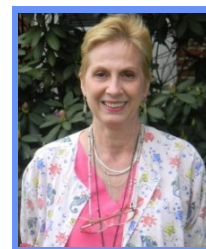
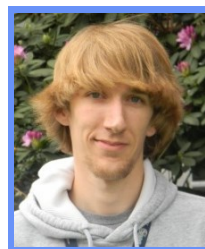
I am excited about our reorganization as our goal is to support field staff in serving our citizens. I have great confidence in these appointments as we move ahead with the important work of DHHR. I look forward to working with our competent and dedicated team, which includes all of you in our vast DHHR network, to ensure the mission of DHHR as we work to improve the health and well-being of West Virginians.

Please join me in welcoming Molly, Harold and Jeremiah to their new roles.

Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary

### DHHR Celebrates National Nurses Week

Nurses are many things to many people: healers, philosophers, caregivers and leaders. Every May, the hardworking women and men of the nursing profession are honored during National Nurses Week. This year's theme, *Nurses: Leading the Way*, exemplifies the important roles nurses fulfill daily at all levels within their profession. National Nurses Week begins May 6, National Nurses Day, and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday. The Department's state hospitals and facilities will hold numerous events during this time to honor and thank nurses. These events range from spirit days with special attire to a birthday cake in honor of Florence Nightingale. Photos from National Nurses Week celebrations will be shared on 1DHHR.



## WV DHHR Highlights National Infant Immunization Week

The Sacred Heart Early Learning Center in Charleston hosted West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources officials on April 28 to highlight the 20th anniversary of National Infant Immunization Week.

Epidemiologist Dr. Loretta Haddy addressed reporters saying that West Virginia has among the highest number of vaccinated school-aged children across the country, but the second lowest rate of vaccinated children under the age of 2. "This gap leaves this group susceptible to disease such as measles and whooping cough, diseases that can easily be prevented with a vaccine," Dr. Haddy said.

Other speakers included Dr. Raheel Khan, a pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at West Virginia University, and Jenny Murray, a V-100 radio personality. Dr. Khan talked about the safety of vaccines and the misinformation on the Internet. Murray, whose daughter recovered after contracting whooping cough, or pertussis, believes parents should educate themselves on the positives of vaccinations before making a decision for their children.

Bureau for Public Health Commissioner and State Health Officer Dr. Letitia Tierney was also in attendance and spoke with reporters following the event. Dr. Tierney said state laws require children to get vaccinations to enter pre-K or Kindergarten, but not before. Dr. Tierney recommended infants get their first round of shots at two months.

As for day care centers, every child is required to have his or her vaccinations before they enter a licensed day-care center and school, not only to protect the child, but all of the children he or she will come into contact with at the facility.



Dr. Loretta Haddy speaks to media while Dr. Letitia Tierney holds her 2-year-old nephew

## Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Dr. Seuss was quoted as saying, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." That quotation is a good illustration setting for more than 40 children who participated in the Bureau for Public Health's annual observance of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day® April 24 at the DHHR Diamond Building.



BPH has participated in the event over the last 5 years and promised a day full of learning activities featuring lectures from subject matter experts, and hands-on exhibits that represent various sections of public health.

The program is designed to be more than an average career day, and beyond the simple "shadowing" of an adult. Exposing girls and boys to what a parent or mentor does during the work day is important, and helps show them the value of their education, and the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life.

After checking in with security and receiving their official IDs for the day, children got the chance to spend about an hour with their parent or guardian to experience what they do on a day-to-day basis. But from 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., it was all business for the children, following a very detailed - yet fun - curriculum that explored Public Health from multiple angles.

This year students learned about nutrition and exercise, the dangers of tobacco use, why we never shake a baby in our care,

why we receive shots, how to keep our teeth for life, what's under our fingernails, insects and disease, the role of an epidemiologist, and of course, the importance of forensic investigations from the Chief Medical Examiner -- known to the children as West Virginia's real CSI.

BPH employees Wesley Jordan, Crystal Lowe, Joyce Spiroff and Toby Wagoner organized and supervised the event. Guest speakers included Luke Mitchell, Rebecca Schmidt, Sebie Jenkins, Eric Dotseth, Stephanie Whitney, Terra Hoff, Owen Walker, Loretta Haddy, Dr. Allen Mock, Theresa Marks, Judy Ashcraft and the entire team at the Health Statistics Center. Jena Webb assisted with lunch for the day.

Organizers would like to thank Terry Wass and the Diamond building security team for assisting with the children, and ensuring their safety during the event.

Students who attended the event received certificates and a learning transcript to return to school for excused leave. As the program ended, one child said aloud, "Public Health is a really cool place to work," and for many of us who work in public health would say, -- we agree.

