



Media Release

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DHS Division Director Jones to Retire after 36-year Career Anderson Tapped as Replacement

The Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of County Operations Director Joni Jones will retire Aug. 31, ending a career with the agency that spanned more than three decades and included successful efforts to modernize and automate much of the casework for public assistance programs statewide.

“Joni has been a remarkable and steady leader during a time of tremendous change,” said DHS Director John Selig. “We each have a few people we hold up as models of public service, and Joni is one of mine.”

Jones, 58, began her career at DHS in the Research and Statistics Unit in 1978 when workers used cardboard punch cards to store information.

“Back then, no one had even heard of a fax machine. Now we work with electronic case records and online applications and everything is processed and stored in a ‘cloud,’” Jones said. “We’ve come a long way.”

She also served as Chief Budget Officer for Medicaid from 1986 to 1995, oversaw the implementation of welfare reform and led the state as it moved from paper coupons to electronic food stamp benefits.

In 2001, Jones was named director of county operations, which is responsible for all 86 DHS county offices, commodity distribution and applications for Medicaid and other public assistance.

Selig has named DCO Assistant Director Delia Anderson as the division’s new director. Anderson, 49, currently manages the DCO Office of Community Services, which distributes and

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monitors federal funding for community action agencies and other providers statewide. She has been with DHS for eight years.

“Delia is the kind of leader that earns the respect of her staff by showing integrity, consistency and honesty,” Selig said. “She has a great deal of knowledge about DCO programs, and I have no doubt that the division staff will feel comfortable following her lead.”

Anderson previously worked as Vice President for Institutional Advancement of Philander Smith College, Director of Program Services for the Little Rock March of Dimes, Vice President of Programs and Allocations for the Pulaski County United Way and Director of Programs and Finance for Little Rock Rape Crisis.