



Media Release

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DHS Names Two to Take on Leadership Roles at the Agency

The Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) has tapped its top attorney, Mark White, to fill the agency's vacant deputy director position and has named Craig Cloud the next Director for the DHS Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), department Director John Selig announced today.

White, 41, has been an attorney for more than 16 years. He began serving as the DHS chief counsel in April 2013 and was promoted to the Director of the Office of Policy and Legal Services (OPLS) in June 2014. He previously served as a lawyer for the Arkansas Department of Education, an Administrative Law Judge with the Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission and as former Governor Mike Huckabee's Policy Advisor for Regulatory Affairs.

"Mark has provided steady and consistent leadership to our attorneys in the field, and strong legal counsel to agency leaders as we made decisions that could impact thousands of people," Selig said Tuesday. "I know that he'll provide the same reliable direction in his new role."

White will begin his new position later this month and will oversee the divisions of Aging and Adult Services, Behavioral Health Services, County Operations, Developmental Disabilities Services and Medical Services. He replaces Janie Huddleston, who left in October. White also will serve as interim director for OPLS, which oversees all DHS legal matters, including court-ordered protection of abused or neglected children.

"The divisions I will oversee are critically important to the health and well-being of many, many Arkansans," White said. "I'm honored to work with division directors and staff to ensure those programs run as efficiently and effectively as possible."

Selig said Cloud is replacing Krista Hughes, who announced that she will be leaving the agency Feb. 20. after serving as DAAS director for nearly six years.

“Krista has been a tireless advocate for seniors and people with disabilities, constantly reminding all of us to keep the clients’ interest at the center of everything we do,” Selig said. “Craig, too, has devoted his career to serving vulnerable populations and will most certainly carry that passion for others into his new role.”

Cloud, 45, has worked as the Chief Compliance Officer for Arkansas Enterprise for the Developmentally Disabled since November 2010. He also worked for 10 years as the Director of Support Services for Pathfinder, Inc. and as a surveyor for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

“I’m humbled to serve the aging community of Arkansas,” Cloud said. “I will work to ensure our aging citizens continue to have options and choices that provide for a high quality of life.”

Cloud will begin working at DHS Feb. 23.