



Media Release

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Deputy Director Leaving Agency to Focus on the Delta

The Department of Human Services (DHS) announced today that Deputy Director Steven B. Jones is stepping down to join Southern Bancorp Community Partners as senior vice president of programs. His work will focus on the Delta.

Jones, 48, has overseen five of DHS's 10 divisions since taking a deputy director position in 2007. Under his leadership, the Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education's pre-school program has been ranked nationally as one of the best in the country, and the Division of Youth Services has been recognized for transforming the juvenile justice system in Arkansas.

"Our mission of helping those most in need has long been Steve's personal mission as well," said DHS Director John Selig. "Though it's difficult to lose such a strong leader, I know he has a passion for the Delta and will do amazing work for the people in that region."

Jones also has overseen the Division of Aging and Adult Services as it worked to ensure more older Arkansans could stay in their homes and in other community settings, the Division of Community Services and Non-Profit Support as it increased its support of non-profit organizations statewide, and the Division of Blind Services as it has worked to help people who are blind or visually impaired remain independent and in the workforce. Jones also oversees the agency's energy initiative.

In addition to his work at DHS, Jones serves as Governor Mike Beebe's designee to the Delta Regional Authority Board, which is comprised of representatives from eight states. The Board fosters partnerships throughout the region as it works to improve the Delta.

His last day at DHS is July 26.

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