



July

Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

National Minority Mental Health Month

National Parks Month

UV Safety Month

7/4 Independence Day

7/30 World Day against Trafficking in Persons

July Birthdays

7/2 Nancy Holder

7/3 Michelle Clark

7/4 Kesha Wilson

7/7 Tammy Dawson

7/10 Shelby Maldonado

7/14 Portland Gilbert

7/15 Brenda Wheat

7/16 Yvette Swift

7/17 Loma Johnson

7/20 Carolyn Ford

7/21 Sondra Wileman

7/23 Sarah Freeman

7/23 Rhee Reamy

7/24 Mary Jo Vallie

7/25 Amy Causey

7/25 Nancy Weaver

7/27 Cecelia Storey

Director Fiscal Year Address— Melissa Stone

It's July, and the heat has set in here in Arkansas as we wind up another State Fiscal Year. As this next budget year approaches, I am reminded of all the hard work we do for our clients all across the state. Since last July, DDS has accomplished so much! Thanks to all of your hard work we have truly touched the lives of so many Arkansans. Here are just a few of the things we have done:

- ◆ Assessed over 2500 DD clients with the Arkansas Independent Assessment (ARIA) tool and attributed approximately 2000 DD clients to a PASSE to receive Care Coordination.
- ◆ First Connections has re-submitted its grant application and continues to work with providers to increase capacity across the state to provide these needed services.
- ◆ Our Title V, Children with Special Health Care Needs program has undergone quite a transformation, including a name change! Now the Children with Chronic Health Care Needs (CHC) program, this program is re-aligning its objectives and goals to make sure we meet the needs of children with chronic medical needs in Arkansas.
- ◆ Opened up 500 new Community and Employment Supports (CES) waiver slots by using the Tobacco Settlement Funds allocated to DDS in the 2017 legislative session.
- ◆ Started the Community Gardens at each HDC, where our clients can grow and even sell their own produce!
- ◆ Combined the Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services (DDTCS) and Child Health Management Services (CHMS) programs into one-day treatment program for Children called Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) and separated the adult day treatment program, now the Adult Developmental Day Treatment (ADDT) program. These new programs help to create sustainable systems of care that will allow providers to continue to meet our clients' needs well into the future. We are hopeful CMS approves implementation this week so we can begin the programs.

Wow! Writing this has reminded me what a busy year SFY2018 was! I cannot wait to see what great things we accomplish for our clients in SFY2019! If you get calls about any of the efforts listed above, please refer those calls to Avis Lane and she will get the lead staff members involved. We have so much going on right now and are trying to ensure the most up to date info gets relayed to the public. Thanks again for all your hard work to accomplish these goals. Happy Summer!

National Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Month

There is an estimated 300,000 children with Juvenile Arthritis (JA) and related diseases. Juvenile Arthritis covers the range of autoimmune and inflammatory conditions or pediatric rheumatic diseases in children and teens. Kids get arthritis. If you have questions or concerns about your child’s health or he/she is experiencing any of the symptoms below, talk with your healthcare professional.

Common Types of Juvenile Arthritis

Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA)- Considered the most common form of childhood arthritis, includes six subtypes: oligoarthritis, polyarthritis, systemic, enthesitis-related, juvenile psoriatic arthritis or undifferentiated.

Juvenile dermatomyositis– An inflammatory disease, juvenile dermatomyositis causes muscle weakness and a skin rash on the eyelids and knuckles.

Juvenile lupus– Lupus is an autoimmune disease. Lupus can affect the joints, skin, kidneys, blood, and other parts of the body.

Juvenile scleroderma– Scleroderma, which means “hard skin,” describes a group of conditions that can cause the skin to tighten and harden.

Kawasaki disease– This disease causes blood vessel inflammation that can lead to heart complications.

Mixed connective tissue disease– This disease may include features of arthritis, lupus dermatomyositis and scleroderma, and is associated with very high levels of a particular antinuclear antibody called anti-RNP.

Fibromyalgia– A chronic pain syndrome that is an arthritis-related condition, which can cause stiffness and aching, along with fatigue, disrupted sleep and other symptoms. More common in girls and is seldom diagnosed before puberty.

Fourth of July– USA Independence Day

Where will you celebrate the Fourth and enjoy the holiday? Here’s what’s happening in central Arkansas.

July 3rd Fireworks
Travs vs San Antonio
Dickey Stephens Park
6pm game, fireworks to follow

Fairfield Bay
Fireworks at dark at the Marina
Live Music, Parade, Story Telling, Children Crafts

Pops on the River
Activities, Food Trucks, Entertainment, Contests, Fireworks
Riverfront
400 President Clinton Ave
3pm-11pm

Lake Hamilton
Fireworks Show
Hot Springs
8pm

Maumelle Celebration
Parade, Vendors, Fireworks
Lake Willastein
8pm

Pavilion Ribbon Cutting at Booneville HDC

On May 19, Booneville Human Development Center dedicated its new pavilion with a ribbon cutting. BHDC Superintendent Jeff Gonyea cut the ribbon. In attendance were: DDS Interim Assistant Director Tammy Benbrook, State Rep. Jon Eubanks, Logan County Judge Ray Gack, Booneville Mayor Jerry Wilkins, BHDC Parent’s Association President Rita Edwards, BHDC Volunteer Council Board Member Beth Corley and other parents and community guests.

The pavilion is adjacent to our swimming pool, picnic area, and recreation building. Future plans are to add a bocce ball court and horseshoe pit to round out our recreation area for residents.



Arkadelphia HDC participates at the Clark County Farmers Market



Staff and Residents (pictured left to right) Patty Golden, Cathy Jones, Willie Whisenhunt, Demarcus Jonikins, Clifton Fife were present for the opening day.

Items sold: 10 bunches of green onions, 1 coaster, 7 body scrubs, 3 peppers, 3 key rings

Willie took money and bagged items. He is learning how to count change up to \$20. Demarcus entertained farmers by dancing and Cliff chatted with everyone who stopped by.

Live Your Best Life— Yvette Swift, DDS Program Administrator

As the season officially changes to summer, take some time to live your best life! Take time to make memories with your friends and families. Find some me-time, too! It is easy to get caught up in the bustle and bustle of work— projects, tasks, meetings, etc. but don't lose focus on the meaningful relationships in your life. Check on your loved ones. Check on your strong friends. You know the "always got it together" friends. Check on them. Get out in the sun, and enjoy the long days of sunshine.

BREATHE! Spend quality time with the kiddos while their on summer break. That dream you've been contemplating, go for it! Chase after it as if your life depended on it... because in a way it does. Pursue happiness, contentment, and fulfillment however it may look to you. Each person's path is unique. Blaze your path with all your might and Live Your Best Life!

Inspire others. Send me pictures to share of you living your best life.



Yvette Swift and Daughter

National Museum of African American History and Culture
Washington, D.C.



Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov by the 15th of the month.