



February

American Heart Month

Black History Month

2/1 National Freedom Day

2/2 National Wear Red Day

2/5 **Mardi Gras**

2/7 **Blue Umbrella Grand Opening**

2/14 Valentine's Day

2/15 Susan B. Anthony Day

2/18 President's Day

2/18 Daisy Gatson Bates Day

February Birthdays

2/1 Baronica Craig

2/1 Terrell Wade

2/2 Kristie Farr

2/6 Natasha Rush

2/8 Virginia Green

2/13 Cindy Corbett

2/15 Rhonda Stewart

2/17 Hanna Raines

2/23 Monique Freeman

DHS New Year Celebration

DHS held its 3rd Annual New Year Celebration on Friday, January 11th in the Donaghey South main conference room. Divisions displayed booths representing a mix of services offered and accomplishments. A short video played of division highlights from 2018. The DDS booth featured items from the Blue Umbrella store, photos of Famous Arkansans honored at the State Capitol in March during DD Awareness Month, the first ever DDS Fall Food & Craft Fair t-shirt, Supported Employment project featured at the AOMA (Arkansas Oil Marketers Trade Association) convention, newsletters from the 5 Human Development Centers, and new information on the First Connections and Title V programs.



Dale Woodall



Merinesa Morris and Linda Scales



DHS New Year Celebration cont'd.



**PUBLIC SERVICE
RECOGNITION WEEK**

MAY 6-12, 2018

PSRW is coming! We'd love to hear your ideas on how we can celebrate DDS employees as we begin the planning phase. In past years, we've had potlucks, ice cream bars, job shadow days, and bring your child to work with you. How would you like to be celebrated this year? **Send your ideas to Yvette.swift@dhs.arknassas.gov by **March 1st**.** You can send them starting now.

Arkansas Celebrates Black History Month

**BLACK
HISTORY IS
AMERICAN
HISTORY**

The Department of Arkansas Heritage (DAH) has compiled a list of events taking place across Arkansas in February 2019. This list is not comprehensive as agencies are continuously making additions. Mentioned below are just a few of the events listed on DAH website. Visit the website for the full list.

2/1 Sandwiching in History Tour: Mosaic Templars State Temple, Little Rock, AR

2/1-8 Delta Days 2019: Voices of the Delta, Beth-El Temple Heritage Hall, Helena, AR, contact kyle.miller@arkansas.gov

2/2 African American Film Festival: In the Heat of the Night, The Miller Annex, Helena, AR, contact richard.spilman@arkansas.gov

2/19 KEYNOTE: Angela Rye, The Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education U of A, Fayetteville, AR

2/27 Little Beginnings Pre-K Program: African American History, Old State House Museum, Little Rock, AR

Meet DDS Tracy Turner, Assistant Director

Tracy Turner is the First Connections– Early Intervention under IDEA, Part C Coordinator and also the Title V– Children with Chronic Health Care Needs (CHC) Program Director. Ms. Turner was featured nationally in a video representing Arkansas for the First Connections Early Intervention Program focusing on child and family outcomes measurement. DHS videographer Stephen Thornton shot the video that was submitted and approved. As 2017 DHS Employee of The Year, the Director's conference room was named after Ms. Turner thus beginning a new DHS tradition to honor the employee of the year. Ms. Turner has over 20 years of service to DHS and continues daily to promote excellence, provide quality services and programs, and forge new pathways to barriers to serve the children and families of Arkansas! To watch the video, go to: <http://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/outcomesat15.asp>



Sara Murphy, Conway HDC Superintendent Recognition

Women in Business

Nine recognized for accomplishments, service



Women in Business award honorees: Andrea Woods (from left), Mona Dixon, Donna Richter, Laine Berry, Donna Townsend, Sara Murphy, Vickie Kirkemier, Amy Denton and Kristy Carter.

Nine women were recognized in December by the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce during the Seventh Annual Women in Business Awards Luncheon. Those honored were:

Diamond Achievement Award

Donna Townsend, Commercial Bank

Outstanding Women in Business

- Laine Berry, Laine Berry Inc.
- Donna Richter, Filtron Canada, Inc.
- Amy Denton, Palatka Plus
- Vickie Kirkemier, Silver Place Nursing and Rehab Center
- Andrea Woods, Nabholtz Construction Corporation

Outstanding Women in Nonprofit

- Kristy Carter, University of Central Arkansas Outreach and Community Engagement
- Mona Dixon, AETN
- Sara Murphy, Conway Human Development Center

The event was presented by H+N Architects, Conway OB-GYN Clinic and Conway Women's Health Center.

Sue Kelly, president and chief executive officer of the American Public Power Association and the first woman to hold the position in its 100-year, 76-year history, was the featured speaker. Under her leadership, the Association has advocated to protect the competition for municipal bonds and preserve

public power's right to self supply in wholesale electricity markets. She has helped strengthen cybersecurity awareness and resources and raise the profile of public power. She was designated 2017 Woman of the Year by the Women's Council on Energy and Environment and named one of the 100 Most Powerful Women by Washington magazine in 2015. She has been in the energy field for 35 years, spending much of her career as an energy lawyer.

Other luncheon sponsors were First Arkansas Bank and Trust, Snap-on Equipment, Francis M. Fine Jewelry, Nabholtz Construction, Conway Corporation, Assura Corporation, Arkansas Surgical Hospital and Baptist Health Conway. Each honoree was presented with a necklace by Francis M. Fine Jewelry.

Sara Murphy cont'.

501 LIFE Magazine based in Conway, Arkansas featured Sara Murphy, CHDC Superintendent in their January edition Celebrating Greater Central Arkansas. Mrs. Murphy was recognized as one of nine Women in Business for accomplishments and service in December during the Seventh Annual Women in Business Awards Luncheon by the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. Congratulations Sara!

Vickey and her husband, Steven, have been married 25 years. She has three children: Kelsey Crain Robertson married to Dr. Andrew Robertson, Mallory Kirkemier and Brody Kirkemier.

Sarah Murphy

Starting with an entry level position providing direct care to individuals, Sarah has worked her way up to superintendent and administrator at the Conway Human Development Center.

In this position, she is responsible for ensuring the facility provides excellent care for more than 500 residents, working with multiple agencies, abiding by state and federal regulations, and overseeing approximately 1,200 staff members all 24 hours a day, seven days a week. She feels some of her greatest accomplishments include those that have increased the facility's involvement with the community such as the therapeutic all-inclusive playground, the Polar Express event during the holidays and the dedication of a Veteran's Wall of Honor.

Married to Jason Murphy, they have three daughters — Hannah (17), Abby (14) and Madie (10).



Sarah Murphy

Andrea Woods

As executive vice president and corporate counsel for Nabholz Construction, Andrea believes women professionals need to see other women taking risks and succeeding. She was the first woman to be elected to serve on The Nabholz Group Inc. Board of Directors and has been elected to serve two terms on the Arkansas Bar Association Board of Governors and two terms on the House of Delegates representing lawyers in this judicial district. She was recently elected to serve as the chair of the Conway Regional Health System Board of Directors.

Andrea participates in the Conway Leadership Network as a mentor, supports the American Bar Association Forum on Construction Law's women lawyers, and speaks publicly on topics relevant to the legal profession, ethics and leadership.

"I am honored and thankful to be a recipient of an award recognizing the women in our community who strive and succeed in making a difference in the lives of others," said Andrea.

Andrea and her husband, Jeff, have been married 24 years. They have a son, Cullen, a sophomore at the University of Arkansas Honors College; and a daughter, Abby, a sophomore at Conway High School.



Andrea Woods

There is a lot coming up at DHS. Stay tuned!

Save the Date

February

The Blue Umbrella Grand Opening– 2/7
(DHS Complex– 700 Main Street– Little Rock)

CHDC Prom– 2/14

CHDC Job Fair– 2/14

March

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Social Worker Month

April

Child Abuse Prevention Month Rally– 4/17

May

Public Employee Recognition Week 5/5-5/11

Nurses Week 5/6-5/12

Congratulations and welcome to DDS promotions and new hires!

Quarnica Sloan, DDS Medicaid Income Eligibility Unit Supervisor

Tammy Rose, DDS Policy Administrator

Zabrina Swift, Program Manager for Service Coordination



Suggestions, Q&A

What would you like to learn more about or see featured? Please send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to Yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov

Comments,