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 Corbitt
2/15 Rhonda Stewart
2/17 Hanna Raines
2/23 Monique Freeman

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.
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

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
Women in Business
Nine recognized for accomplishments, service

Outstanding Women in Nonprofit

Sara Murphy, Conway HDC Superintendent Recognition

Outstanding Women in Business

Women in Business was awarded honors: Andrea Woods (front), Maria Dixon, Donna Bieghler, Lataie Berry, Donna Toonstra, Sara Murphy, Mary Kirkland, Amy Downey and Sherry Butler.

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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!
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