



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

7/11 Shelly Barnes

7/14 Portland Gilbert

7/16 Yvette Swift

7/20 Carolyn Ford

7/21 Sondra Wilemon

7/23 Sarah Freeman

7/24 Mary Jo Vallie

7/25 Amy Causey

7/27 Cecilia Storey

Director Fiscal Year Address— Melissa Stone

With the end of State Fiscal Year 2019, I wanted to say thank you to all of our dedicated staff for the work you have done since last summer. We have accomplished so much and I wanted to hit some of the high points:

In August of 2018, we implemented two successor day treatment programs: Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) and Adult Developmental Day Treatment (ADDT). These programs took the place of the prior DDTCS and CHMS programs.

In September of 2018, we began Independent Assessments on our clients with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities and assigned them to a Provider led Shared Savings Entity (PASSE). The PASSE is a new model that centers around intensive care coordination for our clients that promotes a holistic approach to overall health. We truly believe this model will provide better, quality care for the clients on the Community and Employment Supports Waiver and those on the waitlist. One of the best things, in my opinion, about the PASSE is the premium tax paid by each PASSE to the Arkansas Insurance Department (a requirement for insurance companies to operate in the State) will generate a brand new funding stream for DDS to provide more slots for the CES Waiver!! This also means we will be able to fund some additional services for those on the waitlist who are in the PASSE waiting for a fully funded slot. That should all come to fruition around November of this year. Stay tuned!

In December of 2018, we were involved in some litigation around the way we provide transportation. From those agreements, we are now in the process of working with a contract actuary to conduct two types of rate studies to determine how we should best move forward on transportation. Those studies should be completed early 2020. Oh and we all had a Merry Christmas 😊

In February of 2019, we opened The Blue Umbrella!! This was a fun day. The store is doing great! All proceeds go directly back to the client/center where the item was made. I am so proud of this store and the hard work of our staff to get this launched and making it successful. We are currently hiring someone to oversee the store so we will announce that person in next month's edition.

In March of 2019, the PASSE model took over full risk; meaning, they went from just doing care coordination to taking over responsibility for all the services for our clients living in private Intermediate Care Facilities, those on the CES Waiver, and those on the CES Waiver waitlist who also receive state plan services. For DDS, that is around 7,000 clients. We continue to work daily with the PASSEs to ensure clients are receiving the care they need. This is huge change for our clients, their families, the providers and our own staff. We will continue to support this transition for as long as needed.

In May of 2019, we officially turned on the EPSDT Applied Behavioral Analysis codes for children with Autism in MMIS! See below to meet one of our amazing speech language therapist who helped make this possible.

Lastly, in June of 2019, we had our first Blue Umbrella Farmer's Market! It was a huge success. A big thank must go to Tammy Benbrook for organizing, moving wooden display cases, and in general, making this event amazing!

Pictures from the 1st of 3 HDC Farmer's Markets

SAVE THE DATE

Did you know the Blue Umbrella sells produce? On **June 28, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, some of our artisans will sell their produce in the first ever Blue Umbrella Farmer's Market.

The booths will be set up near the DHS Central Office. Stay tuned for more information on this upcoming Farmer's Markets and on future ones to be held this summer.



FARMER'S MARKET
JUNE 28TH / 10AM - 2 PM





Meet Angelyn Franks, DDS Speech Therapist

Angelyn lives in Vilonia with her husband, Al and their dog, Lucy. She was born and raised in a suburb of Boston in Massachusetts. She graduated with a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2010 from Worcester State University and has an advanced Graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders from Salem State University. Angelyn has been an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist for almost 10 years. She loves working with children with autism and their families to help them improve their functional communication skills across all areas of life. In her free time, Angelyn loves taking spin classes, traveling with her husband, and spending time with friends and family. Angelyn shares her volunteer passion outside of work. She volunteers with the I CAN! Dance program. Below is her article submission and pictures of the June 1st dance recital.

I CAN! Dance is a program for children with disabilities including spina bifida, Down's syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism and other developmental delays. The goal of the program is to give children an opportunity to perform on stage with bright lights and fancy costumes. It also shows the audience that all children can dance. Children in ICAN! Dance classes are paired with "buddies" who can assist with children in need of one-on-one attention. Some need help by moving their arms and wheelchairs, while others need help focusing their attention. All buddies volunteer their time to attend weekly classes and be a part of the recital with the buddy they are paired with. Some of the buddies are even siblings to the children, allowing families to enjoy an activity together. Angelyn Franks volunteered as a "buddy" to a little boy with autism. Their class meets weekly at Sonshine Academy in Conway. Sonshine Academy's recital this year had a Broadway theme. Angelyn and her Buddy were part of a group that danced to "He Lives in You" from The Lion King on Broadway. During the recital, all children were given the opportunity to dance on stage, under the lights, and in their beautiful costumes. I CAN! Dance is a wonderful chance for local community members to share the vision of promoting disability awareness. If you would like information on how to be a dance buddy, please contact Angelyn directly at Angelyn.franks@dhs.arkansas.gov.





Below are a list of **4th of July** celebrations around central Arkansas. Check out these or your local events with family and friends. Enjoy the holiday and be safe!

Pops on the River

Activities, Food Trucks, Entertainment, Fireworks
River Market Area, Downtown Little Rock
July 4 3pm– 9pm

Maumelle Celebration

Cardboard Boat Race, Live Music, Fireworks Show
Lake Willastein
July 4 8pm

Lake Hamilton Celebration

Fireworks Show, Synchronized Music
Lake Hamilton Hwy 7 South Bridge
July 4

Arkansas Travelers Fireworks

Travs vs. Springfield Cardinals, Concessions, Fireworks
Dickey Stephens Park
July 4 5:30pm

WELCOME

NEW DDS STAFF TO THE MEDICAID INCOME ELIGIBILITY UNIT (MIEU)



ANGELA SIMPSON
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST
DDS WAIVER



VICKI JONES-HADLEY
PROGRAM ELIBIBILITY SPECIALIST
LTC (ICF/HDC)
LONG TERM CARE
INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITY
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Comments, Suggestions, Q&A

Let us know what you'd like to see featured in upcoming editions and also, if you'd like to be a guest writer! Send all comments, suggestions, and Q&A to: yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov