



Media Release

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Blucker Stepping Down as DCFS Director at the end of March

Cecile Blucker, Director of the Department of Human Services Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), announced Wednesday that she plans to leave her position at the end of March.

Blucker has served as the DCFS Director since March 2009. Prior to holding that position, she served as the chief financial officer and as an assistant director for the division. Under her leadership, the Division has undergone major reforms that allowed more families to stay together and ultimately stay out of the child welfare system. The Division also increased its use of evidence-based practices when working with children and families and began collecting extensive data about child welfare on which better decisions could be made.

“Cecile had done a phenomenal job in turning DCFS around, from an agency in crisis to one that the federal government and other states often cite as a 'best practice' model,” DHS Director John Selig said. “She has dedicated her time as director to strengthening the child welfare system and the families it serves, and I appreciate all that she has done.”

Blucker said Friday that she plans to stay through March to allow time for the Governor to find her replacement and to help the division complete several projects that are ongoing.

In an email to her staff sent Wednesday morning, Blucker said, “I am very proud of the Division and the accomplishments that have been made even under some of the most adverse situations – lack of funding, staff, etc. However, the state has continued to exceed a number of national standards and continues to receive national recognition.”

The state’s child welfare system meets or exceeds national standards in several areas, including the percentage of children who have permanent placement within 12 months at 62.3 percent (national standard is 40.5 percent), the percentage of children who re-enter the foster care system within 12 months at 6.3 percent (national standard is 8.3 percent), and recurrence of maltreatment within 12 months at 5.4 percent (national standard is 9.1 percent).

Blucker credited a hard-working and dedicated staff across the state for the strides that have been made, but she also acknowledged that the high number of children coming into care and the increased number of investigations have put a strain on the system.

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