



DDS Director Melissa Stone's New Year's Address

January is always a great time to look back on what we have accomplished, as a team, and align our focus for the new year. I am personally looking forward to 2020!! 2019 was a hard year in so many ways but we did some amazing work at DDS. We opened The Blue Umbrella, which has completely exceeded my expectations, thanks to Tammy Benbrook, Tommy Tarpley, Shannon Roberts, Erin Skrodenis, the HDC Superintendents and countless HDC staff! Both our HDC clients and our clients living in the community are actively participating in the store. For those of you who have not had time to stop by The Blue Umbrella, please do! We will be having our "First Birthday" celebration in February.

January

1/1 New Year's Day
1/17 DHS New Year
Event
1/20 Martin Luther
King, Jr Day

2019 was also the year of "The PASSE!" This new, unique program launched in March and currently serves around 40,000 clients with significant developmental disabilities and/or behavior health needs. Last year was all about laying the foundation for the program and teaching providers how to bill while ensuring our clients didn't lose needed services. This next year we will be focused on Value. We are designing a service delivery model that will raise the bar on direct care staff, it will double our number of providers, it will allow more flexible billing and (fingers crossed) we will finally have a place appropriate for our dually diagnosed clients.

Also in 2019, our Intake and Referral Unit, under the direction of Joe Winford, has transformed into a client friendly, easily accessible information hub. The goal was to have one location for our clients who need help and we are well on our way. We now have updated brochures that are easy to understand and describe our services in plain language. If you would like some brochures please let Avis know and we can get them to you.

January Birthday

1/3 Sheena Burton
1/6 Ella Hubbert
1/11 Raymond
Donaldson
1/16 Sheila
Warnick
1/18 Dorothy
Vance
1/27 Vonniesha
Taylor
1/28 Kiara Swift

Our Children with Chronic Health Care Needs Unit (Title V) completely revamped their federal grant. They also stepped in this year to help us with a PASSE monitoring metric and reached out to all PASSE families who have children with a developmental disability to see how we can improve the PASSE program/care coordination for those members. We also formally started the Autism program in the summer of 2019 and now have billable codes for Applied Behavioral Analysis for children birth to 21 who have a diagnosis of Autism.

Last but not least, 2019 was a busy year at the Human Development Centers. We had our first ever Farmer's Markets this summer which were a huge success despite the heat! In addition, thanks to the ongoing work of Yvette Swift, we held our 4th Annual Fall Food & Craft Fair, an event that grows larger and more successful every year. Conway celebrated their 60th Anniversary this year with a wonderful event in September. Jonesboro hosted the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee this year and made us very proud. I got great feedback from legislators who attended. Representative Ladyman suggested and scheduled our campus for that meeting. We are very grateful for his support! This past year, Kerry Gambill, became our new Arkadelphia Superintendent and she is doing a fantastic job. We are in the final stages of approving architectural designs for our new cottages for BHDC. We will have an event in 2020 to show everyone these amazing designs and celebrate this project. We also just completed the design for a new multipurpose building for our Warren Campus. I look forward to seeing all of the new construction get started in 2020.

As always, we at DDS will continue in our efforts to provide quality service to our clients, families and providers. Thanks to all of you for the wonderful work that you do. 2020 will be another great year!

DDS Christmas Brunch

DDS Central Office Staff enjoyed a Christmas Potluck Brunch. In addition to a variety of homemade side dishes and sweets provided by staff, Joe Winford serving up eggs cooked to order, Portland Gilbert and Julie Lee prepared bacon on site, and Avis Lane prepared Belgium waffles. Deputy Director Tommy Tarpley welcomed staff and kicked things off. Good food and fellowship among Team DDS before the holiday break!



DDS Program recognized at the State Capitol

*DDS Children with Chronic Health Conditions, Respite Program was awarded the Outstanding Service Award at the 6th Annual Arkansas Lifespan Respite Awareness Day. The event was held on November 25th at the Arkansas State Capitol Rotunda. Accepting the award were **Rodney Farley**, DDS Program Coordinator/Parent Consultant and **Tracy Turner**, DDS Assistant Director/CHC Program Director.*

CONGRATULATIONS!



Meet Rodney Farley, DDS Parent Coordinator 25 Years of Service



In addition to accepting the Outstanding Service award, Rodney was also this year's Santa for the children in the community of Perryville, Arkansas at Jack & Diane's Boutique. He was such a hit, he's been recruited for years to come! On the clock or off, Rodney has a heart for children and families. It's easy to see why Governor Asa Hutchinson appointed him to the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities and also appointed Rodney to serve as Chair! Congratulations Rodney!



STATE OF ARKANSAS
ASA HUTCHINSON
GOVERNOR

October 15, 2019

Mr. Rodney Farley
110 Louise Street
N. Little Rock, AR 72118

Dear Mr. Farley:

I am very pleased to appoint you to the Governor's Commission on People With Disabilities, for a term to expire on June 1, 2022. Your name will soon be brought before the Senate for confirmation in the General Assembly.

I appreciate your willingness to serve the public, and I am counting on your wise counsel and advice as you accept this position of responsibility. I look forward to your participation and support as we work together to shape the future of Arkansas.

Enclosed, please find instructions for taking the oath of office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Asa Hutchinson in black ink.

Asa Hutchinson

AH:mb
Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Jim Hendren, President Pro Tempore of the Senate
The Honorable Matthew Shepherd, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jane English
The Honorable Mark Lowery
Mike Preston, Secretary of the Department of Commerce
Henry Washington, Director Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities

500 WOODBURN STREET, SUITE 250 • LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
TELEPHONE (501) 682-2345
www.governor.arkansas.gov

Booneville Human Development Center holiday events



BHDC prize winning
Christmas Tree at City
Hall. They were
awarded 2nd place!
OUTSTANDING!



BHDC's Christmas Lighting Ceremony

Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center end of the year events



On November 22nd, the Rehabilitation Staff as SEAHDC held a 70s Party and Fashion Show. Clients and staff enjoyed dressing in the 70s style and dancing down the Soul Train line.



On December 12th, members of the SEAHDC Executive Staff served the SEAHDC staff during a Christmas luncheon in their honor. Pictured are DHS Program Specialist Star Lattimore, Assistant Superintendent Dana Harvey, Superintendent Mark Wargo, and Residential Services Manager Katina Moore.

Save the Date

DHS New Year Event
Friday, January 17th
South, Conference A&B

*Celebrating:
2019 Highlights & 2020 Goals*



Guest Speaker, Door Prizes, & More!

Food Trucks on-site for lunch
Natural Flavors (healthy)
Adobo To Go (Asian fusion)
Kool's BBQ
Peace of Mind Smoked Meats
Nach'yo Nachos



Comments, Suggestions, and 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 **by the 15th of each month.**