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**For immediate release**

**Former DHHR employee pleads guilty to mail fraud**

A former DHHR economic service worker in Nicholas County pleaded guilty to a charge of mail fraud in Federal court yesterday.

Bonnie Lou Vaughan used the DHHR computer system to create benefits accounts for herself totaling over \$20,000. Vaughan faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for September 15<sup>th</sup>.

The WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Secret Service.