

For more information contact: Marsha A. Dadisman Director of Communications Phone: 304-558-7899 Email: marsha.a.dadisman@wv.gov

May 31, 2012

For Immediate Release

## WVDHHR names new CEO for Bateman Hospital

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources officials announced the appointment of Vickie L. Jones as Chief Executive Officer for the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital, a state DHHR supported psychiatric hospital, located in Huntington, West Virginia.

Jones was previously the Commissioner for the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities under DHHR. The BHHF oversees long-term health care facilities and psychiatric hospitals in the state.

Jones will stay on as BHHF's interim commissioner until a replacement is named.

Under Commissioner Jones' leadership, the department has experienced many successes. We have fully complied with over 90 percent of the 2009 Agreedto-Order in the Hartley Case which originally dates back to the early 1980's. BHHF is now poised for continued success as we build on the groundwork laid through the last several years under Jones' management.

Also, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and Cabinet Secretary Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D. asked Commissioner Jones to take the lead in the organization of the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse and to provide insight and focus resources into the growing problem of substance abuse in our state. Commissioner Jones worked directly with executive branch leadership, legislators, service providers and the community in bringing together ideas on how to address the daunting issue of substance abuse in WV.

Jones has a master's degree in health care administration. She has more than 23 years of progressively responsible experience in public sector positions and previous experience in the private healthcare industry. Jones received her bachelor of arts in Business from the University of Kentucky and received her master's in Health Care Administration from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. Ms. Jones resides in Cross Lanes with her family.

- 30 -