

WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of



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

February 27, 2012

**For Immediate Release**

## Najmulski retires from DHHR

John “Jason” Najmulski, of Charleston, the commissioner of the Bureau for Children and Families within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, will retire this month after 38 years of public service. As commissioner, Najmulski managed approximately 3,000 employees and had authority over DHHR’s major children and family services and programs throughout the state.

Cabinet Secretary Michael J. Lewis, M.D. said, “Commissioner Najmulski has been an excellent leader throughout his career. He has strengthened DHHR’s partnerships with our federal and state colleagues and with the many direct service providers with whom we work. His first priority was always to the people we serve, and the employees who serve them. I commend Jason for his hard work, dedication and commitment to DHHR.”

Najmulski began work with DHHR as an economic service worker in Mercer County and has held a series of progressively responsible positions throughout his 38-year career including community services manager, regional director, deputy commissioner and commissioner. He has served on numerous not-for-profit boards including the Governor’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Council, A.B.L.E. Families in Mingo County and the Mercer County Senior Center.

Najmulski is credited with the implementation of many progressive systems changes during his tenure including the West Virginia Safety Assessment and Management System (SAMS) and Mountain Force. This year he received the West Virginia Child Care Association Steward of Unity Award and was recognized by the

Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center for his leadership in the implementation of WV SAMS and his utilization of data in the work performed by the Bureau for Children and Families.