



**For more information contact:
Marsha A. Dadisman
Communications and Legislative Affairs
Telephone: (304) 558-8460
Fax: (304) 558-7075**

West Virginian given adoption award -

A West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources employee will be recognized at the local level for her exemplary work in adoption and foster care placement. Lakawanna Sawyers, regional adoption specialist will be honored on Wednesday, January 9 in the Mingo County DHHR office, 203 East Third Avenue in Williamson at noon. Ms. Sawyers received the 2007 Adoption Excellence Award last month in Washington D.C.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services established the Adoption Excellence Awards program in 1997 to recognize outstanding accomplishments in achieving permanency for America's children waiting in foster care. These awards honor states, child welfare agencies, organizations, courts, businesses, individuals, and families. To learn more about the program, visit http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/current_initiatives/aeawards.htm.

Ms Sawyers has made extraordinary contributions in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care. During the 10 years that Ms. Sawyers has been employed by the DHHR as a regional adoption specialist she has successfully placed 151 children.

The media is invited to attend this event. For more information contact Beth Cook at 304-792-7095 extension 106.