

Karen's Corner



Happy New Year!

As I watch folks making their way through the bitter cold of the last few days, bundled in scarves and gloves and hats, I am reminded of our DHHR spirit. No matter what new challenge faces us each day, we arm ourselves with our professionalism, our skills and our hearts, then get out there and do our jobs to help our fellow West Virginians.

It is gratifying to know that our team is so strong in that way.

There is very little routine about the work that we do. Each day brings a new situation, a different problem to solve, a unique opportunity. Through it all, our mission is clear – to promote and provide services to the people of West Virginia in order to improve the quality of their lives. Embracing that mission, we seem to thrive on opportunities to shine. When an obstacle appears, we gather together to decide where we are going and the best way to get there. Then we just take off and get the job done.

As our state now faces financial challenges, I take pride in knowing that you will rally together to continue the great work you do every day. Please have confidence that I fully support you, and will always advocate for providing you with the resources you need to carry out our important work.

You can count on seeing more of me as I continue my statewide rounds. I have learned a lot from you, and I use that knowledge every day as we map our plan forward. As we continue our interaction, let us continue to be inspired together.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy and fulfilling 2014!

Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary

January is National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Cabinet Secretary Karen L. Bowling is reminding residents about the seriousness of cervical cancer as part of National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. Bowling noted that approximately 100 women in West Virginia will be diagnosed with cervical cancer this year.

“Cervical cancer is preventable with Pap screening tests and vaccines to thwart human papillomavirus (HPV), which is the main cause of cervical cancer,” Bowling said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), half of all cervical cancers occur in women rarely or never screened for cancer, and another 10%–20% of cancers develop among women who were screened but did not receive adequate follow-up care.

“When cervical cancer is found early, it is highly treatable and associated with long-term survival and good quality of life,” Bowling said. “Now that we have HPV vaccines available, we are able to prevent cervical cancer before it occurs.”

The American Cancer Society reports that the number of cervical cancer deaths decreased 70% between 1955 and 1992, and continues to decline each year due to increasing use of the Pap test. The Pap test can detect changes in the cervix before cancer develops and it can detect cancer in its earliest stages when more treatment options are available. Cervical cancer is nearly 100% curable when detected early. For females under the age of 26, HPV vaccination is available and provides protection against cervical cancer.

The West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (WVBCCSP) assists in providing low-income, uninsured, or underinsured women free or low-cost Pap tests. The WVBCCSP works with over 300 providers statewide to ensure program-eligible women receive the services they need. An uninsured woman with a family of four can have a total household income of \$47,100 and still be eligible for the West Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. To learn more about cervical cancer and the WVBCCSP visit www.wvdhhr.org/bccsp/ or call 1-800-642-8522.



Employees of the WV Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program

Meet Commissioner Nancy Exline



We would like you to meet the new Commissioner for the Bureau for Children and Families, Nancy N. Exline!

Nancy has been with BCF since 1997, when she began as an Economic Services Worker in Harrison County. She has also worked as a Family Support Specialist, Economic Services Supervisor, and Program Manager before becoming the Community Services Manager in Taylor,

Barbour, and Preston Counties in 2006. From there, Nancy became Regional Director in Region III in 2011 and Interim Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations before accepting the position of Commissioner in October 2013.

Prior to beginning her 16 years with BCF, Nancy attended Fairmont State College (now University) where she majored in Political Science and History and graduated in 1993.

Today, her daughter Kaitlin is a sophomore at James Madison University where she is majoring in Music. Kaitlin is in the JMU Marching Band, which appeared in this year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Nancy puts in an exorbitant number of hours, motivated by the desire to serve BCF clients and front-line workers to the best of her ability. She states, "I am honored to serve as the Commissioner for the Bureau for Children and Families and I am excited to be working with all levels of the Bureau to bring new ideas forward to improve the programs and services provided to the citizens of West Virginia." Nancy has already taken action on several projects as the new Commissioner, including worker safety strategies and improving employee retention. If you have any comments or suggestions for Nancy, she can be reached at 304-356-4521 or nancy.n.exline@wv.gov.

"I truly appreciate all the support I have been given from everyone," Ms. Exline stated.

Please join us in congratulating Nancy on her appointment to Commissioner!

Employee Spotlight: Steve Brady



Steve Brady enjoys making a positive difference in people's lives. Steve is a Behavioral Health Specialist Senior with the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities; a position he has held for the past ten years.

Steve was recently recognized by one of the families he has assisted through their online blog, which chronicles a mother's journey caring for her daughter who was born with Downs Syndrome. After receiving assistance and guidance from Steve and others, she posted, "...we need a million more Lee's, Haley's, CJ's and Steve's out there helping clueless people like me find the light at the end of their tunnel."

Assisting families who have children with disabilities and need help accessing services is a daily occurrence for Steve and his coworkers. When an individual is found to be medically eligible for the Title XIX Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Waiver

program, the individual or family is contacted and informed of programs and services available, including Children with Disabilities Community Service Program (CDCSP), Children with Special Health Care Needs and Family Support. Steve encourages families to contact him whenever they need assistance navigating multiple systems, which he acknowledges can be "overwhelming and confusing to most families."

Steve also administers the Unmet Needs program, which helps West Virginians with disabilities who reside in supervised out-of-home settings meet essential needs necessary to maintain basic health and safety when those needs cannot be met using available local resources; and oversees supported employment. He is also responsible for promoting and overseeing evidence-based practices in the area of Supported Employment.

Outside of work, Steve and his wife Tammy have been married for 28 years and have two sons. Both sons are Eagle Scouts. The older son is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and works as a computer programmer in Atlanta. The younger son is a senior at Winfield High School and volunteered as a Trek Guide at the National Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Jamboree this past summer. Steve is also active with the Boy Scouts and has served as a BSA Leader for over thirty years in roles of Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor, and is currently on a troop committee. He is active in his church and enjoys camping and hiking. Steve also is a Tax Professional and has provided personal tax preparation for the past 23 years.

In Steve's own words, "The blog is an illustration of what we all do on a daily basis. It demonstrates the impact of the work we do directly or indirectly to service individuals with disabilities and their families in West Virginia. Everyone in this Bureau makes a difference in people's lives every day."