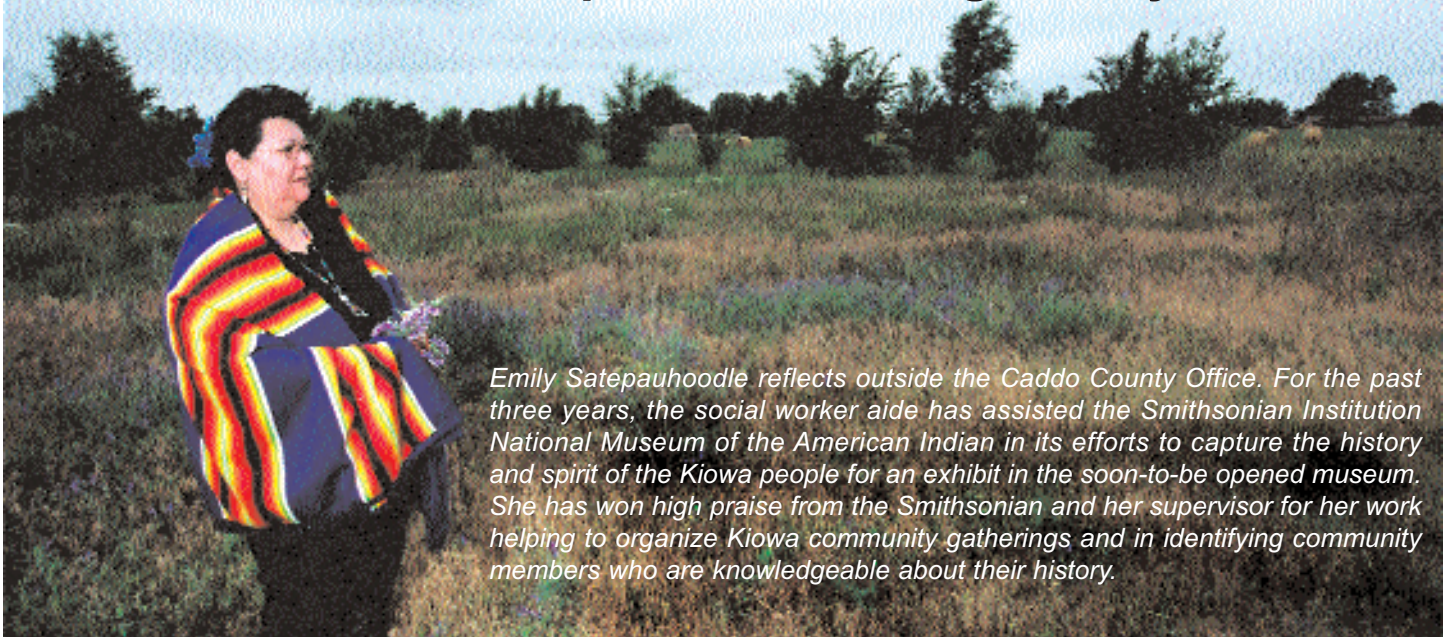


# INSIDE



## In The Spirit Of White Bear: OKDHS Social Worker Aide's Devotion To Tribe Propels Her Through Many Worlds



*Emily Satepauhoodle reflects outside the Caddo County Office. For the past three years, the social worker aide has assisted the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian in its efforts to capture the history and spirit of the Kiowa people for an exhibit in the soon-to-be opened museum. She has won high praise from the Smithsonian and her supervisor for her work helping to organize Kiowa community gatherings and in identifying community members who are knowledgeable about their history.*

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Inside OKDHS Editor

Kiowa Emily Satepauhoodle's ancestors were nomadic buffalo hunters and warriors who once roamed the southern plains. Her tribe still retains a robust presence in Oklahoma, and today's preservation of her tribe's rich cultural heritage propels Satepauhoodle daily through many worlds.

As a social worker aide in Anadarko since 2001, she works part-time assisting children and families from the Caddo County office. Her dedication has won praise from her supervisor, Elaine Bellamy, a Child Welfare supervisor in Permanency Planning, who said she became fascinated by Satepauhoodle's storytelling ability soon after she came to work for the agency.

"Emily's quite a good employee," Bellamy said. "She's what we call a part-time aide. She gets out and takes children to foster homes, to the doctor's office, and she helps out with getting children to and from visits with their parents – just anything that we need to do to carry out the direct services for our children.

"She's a great resource, a good listener and wonderful with children and families. I knew from the beginning she was going to be a good employee because she would come back and write me these narratives about what she had done that day with the children. She could really tell the story of everything they had done in the process."

Outside of her OKDHS work, Satepauhoodle serves as a founding member and officer on the board of

directors for a non-profit Kiowa organization, Satethieday Khatgomebaugh (Kiowa for "White Bear's People"). Chief White Bear Satanta, who lived from 1815 to 1878, was a warrior, statesman/orator and servant for the Kiowa. Satepauhoodle is a fifth-generation descendant of White Bear. Satethieday Khatgomebaugh works to emulate White Bear's spirit by serving as a catalyst for community enhancement in the areas of service, charity and education.

But it is Satepauhoodle's work since 1999 as a cultural liaison with the Smithsonian Institution and its soon-to-be completed National Museum of the American Indian that has gained the somewhat shy and soft-spoken OKDHS employee her most

*KIOWA continued on page 19*

# Pre-Flag Day Celebration A Star-Spangled Event

Approximately 500 OKDHS employees enjoyed a hot dog of a good time during OKDHS' Pre-Flag Day Celebration held June 13, outside of the Sequoyah Building in Oklahoma City.

Although the weather was a bit cloudy at first, the excitement was palpable, the fixings were more than plentiful and the live entertainment was patriotic and pleasant.

Employees enjoyed hot links and hot dogs with a choice of toppings, including sauerkraut, chili and cheese. Chips and cold drinks were also supplied, as well as red, white and blue cake designed like the American flag. Employees quickly filled up the tables, which were colorfully adorned in a patriotic motif, and quickly dug into the spread.

With Director Howard H. Hendrick's recent encouragement, OKDHS employees around the state were asked to plan to "take a short break" on June 13 to celebrate a Pre-Flag Day event as well as highlight the agency's accomplishments. Local offices planned their own activities and a variety of different types of celebrations occurred around the state.

During the state-office event, Hendrick led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance before thanking employees for their dedication and devotion during the past year.

"Hey, this is a great day!" Hendrick said. "This is a celebration with two goals – the importance of our flag and to celebrate the work we do – they are inter-related. We are in the business of human services, and sometimes it is important to step back and review what and why we do what we do."

Hendrick said caseloads and reliance on OKDHS' services have grown exponentially during recent difficult economic times, but said that despite the economy, it is vital for OKDHS to continue to help expand the human potential of Oklahomans. He commended employees for "doing an incredible job" and then led the crowd in a prayer.

Afterward, OKDHS' Marc Carpenter gave a moving rendition of several patriotic songs and received hearty applause from the crowd. Attendees also received instructions on how to care for and fold the American flag and had the opportunity to view patriotic displays.

Credit Union One of Oklahoma passed out American flag pins and many employees entered a drawing for \$100, \$50 and two umbrellas. Winners included Brenda Lovell (\$100), Elizabeth Roberts (\$50) and an umbrella went to David Brown, while Darl DeVault walked away

with the other. The credit union partnered with Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Both organizations donated the hot dogs and the grills as a gift to OKDHS employees.

Dana Huckleberry, vice president of lending, Credit Union One, and her colleagues oversaw the sign-up and pin-distribution table.

"We are doing this for our members and our potential members," Huckleberry said. "It displays our national pride and our pride for our state and as Americans."

George White, administrative programs officer, Office of Client Advocacy, worked as a committee volunteer with about 45 others to ensure that OKDHS' Pre-Flag Day Celebration came off without a hitch.

"We are doing this for employee morale," White said. "It is also good to get a break away from our regular duties."

– KGP



*This red, white and blue cake designed like an American flag seemed the perfect icing on the cake (so to speak) for the OKDHS Pre-Flag Day Celebration. Here (L-R) serving are Cheryl Harris, Office Support Services Division, Debbie Henderson, Christine Dennis and Pam Miller, all Human Resources Management Division.*

July 1, 2003



**Dear OKDHS Co-workers:**

We have just completed one of the most financially challenging years in Oklahoma Human Services history. But, we did it in style. We started last fiscal year with a state appropriation of \$410.9 million. That funding level was short lived. After four budget shortfalls, we closed the fiscal year down by \$26.8 million in state funds to \$384.1 million. Another state dollar reduction came with the loss of \$435,000 in funds from the Tobacco Settlement funds. Our total budget grew to nearly \$1.4 billion. But the nearly \$100-million increase was a direct result of 100 percent federal funds being distributed through the federal food stamp program. The number of persons in Oklahoma who benefited from the food stamp program increased by more than 90,000 over one year ago. This increased work in all our offices. Technological enhancements and streamlined renewal processes helped. But, without additional staff, our dedicated workers simply did it. They looked into the faces of children, their parents and grandparents and simply did the extra work – usually cheerfully, mostly timely and always thankfully – thankful we could help.

Although the financial challenges were great, we made it through the year with our heads high. In every program and support area, new levels of record performance were achieved. Across-the-board, our work has been outstanding. Today, compared to this day last year, substantially more children are in safe homes, more custodial parents are receiving child support, more TANF and child welfare parents are getting quicker access to substance abuse services and more children and families than ever have access to health care, nutrition services and subsidized child care. These supports are helping low-income working families provide for their family's basic needs. More vulnerable adults were protected from abuse, exploitation and self-neglect. More seniors participated in our ADvantage waiver program than in any year in history. Today, thousands of elderly and developmentally disabled Oklahomans are receiving community-based care in their own or relative's homes. For them, it is the least restrictive environment. Those developmentally disabled Oklahomans who need the special services of our staff in Enid and Pauls Valley had their needs met as well. Amazingly, while caseloads increased, performance and timeliness in programs improved.

We also achieved material improvements in technology by completing a long-deferred major mainframe upgrade, while maintaining and upgrading one of the State's largest secure computer networks. Our Finance Division handled all the budget changes, kept our vendors paid and continued the restructure of our EBT child care system. Human resources management facilitated thousands of personnel transactions, helped train and retain staff, and together with our University of Oklahoma partners and the Family Support and Data Services Divisions, developed and timely delivered the biggest e-learning solution in State history. They delivered online HIPAA training on confidentiality to more than 6,000 OKDHS employees and thousands of other employees in and out of state government. Our office support services and facilities management teams kept pace with our changing needs for space, office supplies and services while negotiating the best value and continuing to modernize our oldest county offices. And there are dozens of other operations throughout the agency, like quality control, commodities, risk management, client advocacy, our inspector general and volunteer coordination that operationally had their best or near best year ever.

We are stronger than we were a year ago. Our collective will to serve and serve well is reflected in the great work we do every day – one child at a time, one disabled or senior person at a time and one family at a time.

On June 10, 2003, the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services approved our fiscal 2004 budget work plan. It reflects our current state dollar appropriation of \$387.5 million received from the Oklahoma Legislature. Barring any further downturns in the economy, we should be able to do well at this funding level in the coming year. I know each of you, along with our many partners, will continue to do your best to be the best of which you are capable. With this kind of effort, we can continue the great progress we have made into fiscal 2004.

The details of last year's performance will appear in our fiscal year 2003 annual report. But for now, I wanted to take a few moments to say how proud and pleased I am to work with you. You're great! Thank you for your talented and dedicated service.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial letter.

# ATTITUDE = 100 Percent: DISCIPLINE, Too!

Have you ever heard or said, “So and so has an attitude?”

When we hear this type of statement, we understand so and so generally has a bad attitude. From its French, Italian and Latin origins, the word “attitude” has five distinctive

## Best Foot Forward



definitions in the Third Edition of the *American Heritage Dictionary*. The “attitude” referred to here “is a state of mind or a feeling; a disposition.”

No matter the definition, we believe we know an attitude when we see one. Most of us have also heard, “to accomplish anything in life, one must have the right attitude.” When it comes to getting things done, it all boils down to attitude. Good or bad, attitude always equals 100 percent. A positive attitude has to be 100 percent. One percent off and your attitude will hold you back. Well, that’s true, and it’s all in the numbers.

Let’s assign numbers in ascending order to the ABCs where A equals 1 and Z equals 26. So what adds up to 100, with 100 being the full and perfect percentage score like on any test one takes?

Will education get the perfect score? No. Education totals 92 percent, which earns an A on most tests, but it’s not perfect. Maybe it is knowledge? Not quite. It is closer and earns a 96. Could it be hard work? Hard work falls two points short at 98 percent.

Can it be attitude? *Yes!* Attitude comes in with the perfect score of 100 percent. Attitude is everything. In your activities every day, attitude determines how you respond. Atti-

tude lets the world around us know whether we are focused on the 20 percent chance of rain or the 80 percent chance for sunshine. Most will know whether our glass is half-empty or half-full before we open our mouths.

Attitude first requires a discipline of mind, body, soul and spirit. Discipline is the character quality that charges our attitude. Discipline is the training we have put ourselves through to produce patterns of behavior that show the moral and ethical character traits guiding us through life. Discipline controls our attitude when rules are not in place. Discipline appropriately applied causes us to take right actions, which more often yields right results, all of

E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N		
4	4	21	3	1	20	9	15	14	=	92
K	N	O	W	L	E	D	G	E		
11	14	15	23	12	5	4	7	5	=	96
H	A	R	D	W	O	R	K			
8	1	18	4	23	15	18	11		=	98
A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E			
1	20	20	9	20	21	4	5		=	100
D	I	S	C	I	P	L	I	N	E	
4	9	19	3	9	16	12	9	14	5	= 100

which, produces the right attitude. Discipline, like attitude, also adds up to 100 percent.

The next time you are challenged to do something worthwhile, consider your attitude in your approach. When it comes to your attitude, put your Best Foot Forward and discipline yourself to get the perfect positive score with a positive attitude. It adds up.

– George Earl Johnson Jr.

## Congrats, Larry!

Hats off to OKDHS Chief Administrative Officer Larry Harmon who was recently appointed by Gov. Brad Henry to Oklahoma’s Incentive Awards for State Employees Committee. Congrats!



## 'OK Health' Web-based Program Now Open To 1,200

By Douglas Doe

Public Information Specialist

A little determination and a lot of faith can take a person a long way. Just ask Janis McElroy.

McElroy, OKDHS Seminole County director, was an Oklahoma health statistic – suffering from diabetes, high-blood pressure and obesity. At 47, she developed a fully blocked carotid artery that caused a series of strokes, including a large one in February.



Janis McElroy  
Before

"I am fortunate that I am a person of strong faith," she said. "He used the situation to get my attention without any major neurological damage. Every morning when I pray, I thank God for the stroke – that's what brought me back to him."

It was during this low point that McElroy, a single mom with a 13-year-old son, became terrified that should she not make a dramatic change in lifestyle – that she might not live to see her son grow up.

"Before, I would have not been able to role model for anyone in poor health," she said. "Now I am a living example that serious lifestyle changes can make a huge difference."

Full recovery from the strokes continues, but in the three months since, McElroy has gone from 221 pounds to 173 – a size 22 to a size 14. Her eventual goal is 135 pounds.

She has stopped taking her dia-

betes medication, lowered her blood pressure, dropped her cholesterol more than 100 points and quit smoking. McElroy walks one to two miles daily.

"God put me in a position to make a difference in someone's life," McElroy said. "I feel so humble that I could be used like that."

Not only has the experience renewed her relationship with God and improved her health, but it also gave her more confidence, strengthened personal relationships at home and work and helped make her a supportive leader.

"I feel like God expects me to share my situation, the outcome and, hopefully, inspire someone else. I have never been happier in my entire life," McElroy said.



*You Can Do It, Too! 'OK Health' Now Available To Help Others*

Approximately 1,200 OKDHS employees now have the opportunity to experience similar lifestyle changes if they elect to participate in a Web-based program known as "OK Health." The pilot program is funded by a grant from the federal government obtained by the Employee Benefits Council and the Oklahoma State Department of Health.



Janis McElroy  
After

"What happened to Janis is what we want to happen to the 1,200 employees who enroll in 'OK Health,'" OKDHS Wellness Coordinator Joe Kirk said. "Janis just had enough willpower and determination that she did it on her own."

Two of the high-risk categories being targeted by this program are OKDHS employees who have cardiovascular disease or those who have diabetes. Cardiovascular disease ranks as the second leading cause of death among Oklahomans; diabetes is seventh, according to Kirk.

"OK Health" will be tailor-made for each employee and provides a Web-based health behavior change program with four components:

- An individualized computer health risk appraisal to identify at-risk employees. This includes a baseline evaluation, risk-reduction goals and an individualized action plan to achieve the necessary goals.

- A guided personal implementation of lifestyle changes, including exercise, correct nutrition and dietary

*OK HEALTH continued on page 17*

# Meet Human Services Commissioner Patrice Dills Douglas

Patrice Dills Douglas, Edmond, was recently appointed to the Oklahoma Commission for Human Services by Gov. Frank Keating to fill an unexpired term previously held by Oklahoma City attorney Piper John. Commissioner Douglas' term expires August 5, 2009.

Douglas is president of Air Spiral Manufacturing, which she co-founded with her father. She also serves as vice president and general counsel for ACP Sheet Metal Company and Midwest Fabricators. Douglas spent 10 years working as an attorney for Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Hardy Summers. She worked at the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals before taking that position.

Douglas is a trustee of the Edmond Public Schools Foundation and is active in U R Special, an organization that provides clothes for needy children, the Edmond Economic Development Authority and numerous



*Commissioner Patrice Dills Douglas*

other civic organizations.

The Oklahoma City native is a Computer Information Systems graduate of Oklahoma Christian University and holds a law degree from the University of Oklahoma where she received the highest honors in oral

advocacy by being inducted into the Order of Barristers.

She is a graduate of Leadership OKC, Class XIX, and an Oklahoma delegate to the 2002 Women's Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. She served as vice-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood Education and on the Junior Hospitality Board of Directors. She currently serves on the statewide Oklahomans for School Readiness steering committee and helped found Leaders Read, an organization that mentors and reads to at-risk children in child care facilities.

She is married to Brent Douglas, an electrical engineer, and they have two sons, Patrick, 7, and Phillip, 5. She said that although hobbies are a thing of the past, any spare time is spent with Brent, Patrick and Phillip. Being the only female in the house, she has become very capable at soccer, T-ball and games of chase. She said she cherishes this time.

## Data System Resources Freed Up By eBay Block

OKDHS employees may still surf to Yahoo! while on the clock, but they can no longer "Do it eBay."

But OKDHS' Data Services Division has a good reason for blocking employee access to the popular auction Web site. Such access doesn't gel in accordance with OKDHS Internet Usage Regulations. The move will also help the agency more effectively use its resources.

OKDHS Chief Information Officer Marq Youngblood said before it was blocked, eBay was one of the two most visited Internet sites by agency employees. The other site – Yahoo! – is used by many employees for its search engine, and DSD has committed to not blocking access.

"We're at a point where this is a concern related to the Internet," he

said. "We're not going to come down and beat you on the head with a gavel. It's really about maximizing the resources available to OKDHS."

Currently, DSD has software in place that automatically blocks many sites from view within OKDHS offices. Not only does this make for a better use of network resources, but it also protects employees from accidentally getting to some sites that post "unacceptable" content.

"If there is a site we miss that people alert us to, we can go in and block it like we did with eBay," Youngblood said. "I urge our users to review our policy to ensure the proper usage of our Internet and InfoNet systems."

Questionable sites may be e-mailed to Youngblood at

marq.youngblood@okdhs.org

For the complete guidelines and regulations, check the OKDHS InfoNet at:

<http://www.s99web01/computer/usage.htm>

– DPD

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Timilyn Crank of Kay County sends us this quote by Helen Keller

*"The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes, but also by the sum of the tiny pushes of each honest worker."*

# Drug Czar Shares Drug Treatment Initiatives With State Leaders

White House Drug Czar John P. Walters, director of National Drug Control Policy, recently traveled to Oklahoma City's Eagle Ridge Institute on May 30 to discuss President George W. Bush's new three-year, \$600-million plan to expand access to drug treatment across America and the importance of a balanced drug control strategy.

During the event he answered questions posed by OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick, OKDHS Substance Abuse Services Director Kyle McGraw and other state leaders. Walters identified substance abuse as a disease that is treatable through a "new access to recovery" treatment initiative that will create a voucher system.

If approved, the voucher system will complement existing alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs, increase treatment capacity and improve access to effective treatment programs.

"Today's recognition by Mr. John Walters, President Bush's Drug Czar, has identified substance abuse as the leading health problem affecting every element of our society," McGraw said.

He said he believes that creating a greater awareness of the insidious disease of addiction within the OKDHS system and beyond is important, and that such awareness will help improve the dialogue among state leadership that will eventually affect public policy.

"With people who have a substance abuse problem, quick access to treatment is essential given the nature of denial and mood swings and other erratic behavior," McGraw said. "OKDHS TANF clients and those identified among our child welfare cases are screened and assessed for substance abuse problems, knowing that without access to treatment services, they are likely to fail to



*White House Drug Czar John P. Walters, director of National Drug Control Policy (left), recently visited with OKDHS Director Howard H. Hendrick (center) and other state leaders, including Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) (right) at Oklahoma City's Eagle Ridge Institute. Walters and Istook discussed President George W. Bush's new three-year, \$600 million plan to expand access to drug treatment across America and the importance of a balanced drug control strategy.*

improve their quality of life.

"Those with an identified substance abuse problem can receive treatment services through our TANF contracted agencies. We presently have 37 certified substance abuse agencies providing treatment services partnering with most of our county offices statewide. My goal is to

assess the need for substance abuse services at every level of our service delivery, work together within our system and access the resources of other state agencies to meet substance abuse prevention and treatment needs."

– KGP

*"The adaption process takes time and patience, but in the end, the reward of bringing a child into your life and giving them a home and a family are more than worth the effort... adopting a child is a great investment."*

Deborah Goldman,  
OKDHS Adoptions Programs Manager

**1-800-OKSWIFT**  
[www.okdhs.org/adopt/](http://www.okdhs.org/adopt/)

adopt!

# Dana Spence-Venters: A Real Rescuer

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Editor Inside OKDHS

Dana Spence-Venters spends her working hours providing child welfare services to children and families in central Oklahoma City, but it is outside of work that her life really goes to the dogs ... and cats, turtles, goats, birds, lizards and even four pot-bellied pigs.

A Child Welfare specialist II, Oklahoma 55-D, Spence-Venters and her husband, Chris Venters, an attorney, run Real Rescue Inc., a non-profit animal rescue, adoption and sanctuary organization devoted to rescuing and caring for abandoned animals.

Spence-Venters' OKDHS job duties include working the shift unit on child abuse/neglect investigations earmarked as priority one. Outside of work, she's devoted to the care and welfare of abandoned animals.

During a visit to her family farm in Arcadia, *Inside OKDHS* observed a verdant ranch complete with a sce-

nic pond full of baby frogs. The farm's main and most cherished crop is animals, and they find sanctuary in a variety of ways. Bushels of cats have an indoor-outdoor caged facility that makes use of a trailer. The dogs have plenty of running room in an enclosed backyard. Meanwhile, various goats and pot-bellied pigs have shaded and fenced enclosures.

Spence-Venters is quick to explain that each animal has a story. Sadly, many include past suffering from abandonment or neglect – a situation she knows well as a Child Welfare specialist. At Real Rescue Inc., the sick or injured are nurtured back to health. They are fed and receive care and attention from their devoted caretakers.

Spence-Venters said Real Rescue Inc. was named such because she wanted it to incorporate the idea that the organization genuinely saves animals. In fact, Spence-Venters said she and Chris first became friends after she realized he was also an animal rescuer. Eventually, they worked on projects together like rescuing abandoned baby skunks. They soon married and started Real Rescue Inc.

"I wanted it to be a *real* rescue," Spence-Venters said, "not just a temporary Band-Aid fix for the animals. So, we're very discriminating about where we place. We don't just adopt out animals to anyone who wants one.

"They have to fill out a contract. We do background checks in the sense that we call references. They have to have a vet, a prior history of good care of an animal and agree to keep it in a way that an animal should be kept, and if they don't, we can go pick it back up."

Spence-Venters said the reason Real Rescue Inc. is so discriminating is most of the animals in their care have already been rescued from dire



*OKDHS' Child Welfare Specialist Dana Spence-Venters received a thank you kiss from a little dog she rescued named Max.*

circumstances. She does not want to return them to an unsafe environment. She said that the non-profit also invests approximately \$200 to \$300 caring for each animal. Animals are spayed or neutered, tested for heartworms and inoculated. Cats are also tested for feline leukemia and feline AIDS.

"They're in good health and have had all that done and so when we place them, we expect them to have a long happy life with the family," Spence-Venters said.

Spence-Venters said the non-profit functions on donations. She had high praise for Purina, which recently donated numerous sacks of dog food and for PETSMART, which often donates to Real Rescue Inc.

"All our money donations go for fencing and vet care," Spence-Venters said. "We welcome all types of donations."

For more information on Real Rescue Inc., please e-mail Spence-Venters at [danaII@attglobal.net](mailto:danaII@attglobal.net)



*(L-R) Here, Dana Spence-Venters and her husband, Chris Venters, are surrounded by some of the animals that have found sanctuary at the Real Rescue Inc. farm in Arcadia.*

# How Recent Legislation Affects OKDHS Divisions

Sharon Neuwald, Ph.D., coordinator, Office of Legislative Relations and Special Projects, has had a busy year working with state legislators. With the legislature adjourned, it is time to briefly reflect on recent legislation that may affect OKDHS and its employees.

They include:

✓**HB1094 – Division of Child Care.** Creates the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Act to strengthen the capacities of parents and communities to meet the needs of young families by coordinating available resources and building new partnerships within communities. Establishes Board to promote school readiness supporting community-based efforts to increase the number of children who are ready to succeed by the time they enter school, and shall consist of representatives from the private and public sectors, including legislators. Authorizes the Board to conduct a thorough assessment of existing public and private programs to determine their effectiveness, implement a public-engagement campaign, provide leadership and encourage coordination of all early childhood efforts, and establish standards of accountability in school readiness programs. Establishes a school readiness foundation to raise funds and assist in implementation. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**HB1197 – Finance.** Act relating to OKDHS' appropriations for 2004 — \$387.4 million state dollars is appropriated for state fiscal year 2004. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**HB1323 – FSSD.** Bill will facilitate sharing of information between physicians and Adult Protective Services staff to enable OKDHS to appropriately determine the serv-

ice needs of vulnerable adult clients. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**HB1442 – Aging.** Requires nursing homes to report the following serious incidents within 24 hours: 1.) deaths, 2.) missing residents, 3.) situations where suspect criminal intent, and 4.) resident abuse. Also provides for a study of funding on nursing aide training. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**HB1681 – FSSD.** Clarifies responsibilities in regards to Adult Protective Services program. Provides a clearer legal framework for the APS program. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**SB0409 – Finance.** Calls for a feasibility study of retirement systems to help retirees and their dependents with health care. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**SB0411 – Finance** Actuarial Study. Calls for a study on creating a specialized retirement system for people in hazardous-duty positions. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**SB0431 – Child Support.** Relates to federal requirement that non-custodial parents' employers enroll children in health care coverage using the National Medical Support notice. Adds a maximum of up to \$200 per month per child penalty to employer and insurer for failure to comply with the requirements of the notice to provide available health care coverage. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Effective Nov. 1, 2003.

✓**SB0610 – FSSD.** Creates the Oklahoma Medicaid Program Reform Act. Directs Oklahoma Health Care Authority to apply for waivers to allow cost-sharing, flexibility in the benefit package and "buy in" options for small employers or voucher arrangements for employer-

sponsored coverage. Allows for the establishment of co-payments premiums and enrollment fees; authorizes OHCA to charge enrollment fee or premium; tightens third-party liability provisions by requiring that any entity providing health insurance must compare data from its files with data in OHCA files to determine if Medicaid recipient has health coverage with an insurer. Mechanism to keep third party health care coverage current. Signed by Gov. Brad Henry. Currently in effect.

✓**SB0631 – FSSD.** Amends Title 21 to include more specific penalties for convicted perpetrators of abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

✓**SB0643 – Finance.** A retirement bill that allows an optional 2.5-percent multiplier for future service. This 2.5 percent is prospective and covers service after Jan. 1, 2004. It only covers full years of service (no military or partial years). The 2.5 percent is only applicable for the prospective years, so earlier service is at the 2 percent. This benefit is funded solely by employee contributions. It adds another 2.91 percent contribution beyond the a) 3 percent for the first \$25,000 in salary, and b) (there is another amount in attachment) for salary in excess of \$25,000.

✓**SB0674 – CFSD.** Streamlines field procedures for civil commitment of all children in the custody of OKDHS for inpatient psychiatric care. Provisions apply to all children.

✓**SB0750 – DDS.** Continues the planning committee on the Olmstead Decision – this is a Supreme Court case citing the Americans With Disabilities Act as grounds that states must furnish home and community services in the most integrated setting.

– KGP



# OKDHS Teams Celebrate 17<sup>th</sup> Annual State Games

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Inside OKDHS Editor

Whether your game is golf, horseshoes or volleyball, OKDHS' recent 17th Annual State Games brought out the athlete in every participant as they vied for awards or competed to see who could have the most fun.

Held in McAlester on May 30-31, hundreds participated in friendly competitions, including 5-K runs, softball, bowling, golf, dominoes, volleyball, executive games, horseshoes, darts and basketball (some competitions were dropped this year because of a lack of participants). Other special events were held. Congratulations to the OKDHS State Games Organizing Committee, events coordinators and partners and sponsors of the events.

Teams and other participants in the executive games received certificates of participation. As the July 2003 issue of Inside OKDHS goes to print, the following results were available for publication.

Winners included:

## Men's 5-K Run

- 1st Place – Richard Davidson, Creek County.
- 2nd Place – Craig Mahl, Beckham County

## Women's 5-K Run

- 1st Place – Joan Guthrie, Choctaw County
- 2nd Place – Denise Mahl, Beckham County

## 1 Mile Co-ed Run

- 1st Place Team – Richard Davidson, Creek County; Ron Sullivan, Pittsburg County; Joan Guthrie, Choctaw County and Denise Mahl, Beckham County

## Golf

- 1st Place Team – Wes Smith, Roger Barton, Jean Derry and Steve Thomas

## Spades

- Gold – Dream Team (Mary Nichols and Helen Ladymon)
- Silver – The Bluffers (Sue Barkley and Bryan Pittenridge)
- Bronze – The BSer's (Brandy Smith and Susan Wiest)

## Women's Horseshoes

- 1st Place – Wendy Bacon, Choctaw County
- 2nd Place – Cathy Amason, Pittsburg County
- 3rd Place – Beth Amason, Pittsburg County

## Participation Award

- Christy Virden, Pittsburg County

## Men's Horseshoes

- 1st Place – Tom Pitt, Choctaw County
- 2nd Place – Larry Chapin, Choctaw County

## Dominoes

- 1st Place – Steve Rymel and Diane Engel
- 2nd Place – Brandy Smith and Sue Barkley
- 3rd Place – Susan Wiest and Bryan Pittenridge

## Bowling

- 1st Place Team – Pittsburg Players (Jeranda Byerly, Trish Cooke, Fenessa Little and Kristy Wilbanks)
- 2nd Place Team – Enforcers (Kay Vaughn, Sandi Gardner, Judy Gillum and Jerry Gillum)
- 3rd Place Team – Kiamichi Outlaws (Wendy Bacon, Ronny Beasley, Lisa Pierce and Dana Young)

## Volleyball

- 1st place – Team One (Coach Rita Hart)
- 2nd Place – Pittsburg County One
- 3rd Place – And Two, Pittsburg County

## Darts (Singles)

- Gold – Wendy Bacon, Choctaw County
- Silver – Lisa Pierce, Choctaw County
- Bronze – Pat Johnson, Pittsburg County

## Darts (Doubles)

- Gold – Larry Chapin and Brandy Rymel, Choctaw County

- Silver – Lisa Pierce and Joan Guthrie, Choctaw County
- Bronze – Craig Mahl and Denise Mahl, Beckham County

## Softball

- 1st Place Power Softball – Kiamichi Outlaws
- 2nd Place Power Softball – Laura Dester Center

## 1st Recreational Division Softball

Pittsburg County Posse

## Women's Most Valuable Player

Kathy Mathis

## Men's Most Valuable Player

Steve Tucker

## \$100 Door Prize Winner

Louise Wagnon, Pittsburg County

# McCowan Honored With ‘Champions for Children Award’

By Kevan Goff-Parker  
Inside OKDHS Editor

Champs don’t always wear boxing gloves or showy boxer shorts. Sometimes, they’re just solid people who do a knockout job for children – that’s Jaricha McCowan.

McCowan is a child welfare specialist II, Oklahoma County 55-G. She was recently honored for her dedicated service with a “Champions for Children Award” by the Foster Care Association of Oklahoma, Inc., during the association’s recent Seventh Annual Training Conference held in Oklahoma City.

The Foster Care Association of Oklahoma, Inc., is a small group of dedicated foster parents determined to establish an organized voice for foster children and their providers in an effort to promote the association’s mission

McCowan was the only caseworker to receive such an award. She was nominated for the honor by Cherylyn Pereida, a new foster care mother.

McCowan said receiving the honor was a “total surprise.”

McCowan said she got attached to Pereida’s case and assisted the new foster mother in various ways, including checking up on the foster child and trying to ease the transition process.

In the nomination letter sent by Pereida, the foster mother said she received her 12-week-old foster daughter in June 2001 when McCowan replaced Pereida’s original caseworker. She said McCowan distinguished herself by quickly shifting through the discrepancies of a complicated case.

She praised McCowan for making a special trip to pick up gifts and wrap them on Christmas Eve so that her foster daughter wouldn’t be



Supervisor Christine Watson (left) and Kathy Omalley, Child Welfare field liaison for Area III (right), congratulate Jaricha McCowan, a Child Welfare specialist II, Oklahoma County 55-G, for being honored with a “Champions for Children Award” by the Foster Care Association of Oklahoma, Inc.

left out during the holiday. Pereida also explained that McCowan was also available to her when her foster daughter had to go for trips to the emergency room and followed up on her daughter’s condition. She added that McCowan also helped to facilitate a visit with her foster daughter’s birth mother. McCowan made a special trip to Pereida’s house to pick up a gift and some photos for the birth mother and ensured she received the items months after the mother had relinquished custody.

“Jaricha’s compassion for the birth mother and for my feelings was enormous,” Pereida said.

Additionally, after four months of frustration of not being able to get a new copy of her foster daughter’s birth certificate, McCowan stepped in and obtained the child’s birth certificate and social security number – all within one week.

“She has made several visits ‘just because’ and has taken a huge interest in the child,” Pereida said. “I

have been a foster parent for almost two years and have never seen another caseworker take such an interest in a child and bend over backwards for me as a foster mother.”

Pereida said her foster daughter is now in the hands of the adoption unit, but McCowan periodically checks in with her to see how things are going and has requested to be present when the court finalizes her adoption of her foster daughter.

“Jaricha’s work is exceptional and her love for children is a wonderful asset to OKDHS,” she said.

McCowan modestly said being honored with a “Champions for Children Award” was a total surprise.

“I am honored,” McCowan said. “It feels really nice to be recognized and appreciated for doing your job.”

McCowan said she anticipates attending the official adoption of the little girl in the coming days. The child will be adopted by Cherylyn Pereida and her husband, Jesse.

# Computer Problems? Ask An ISNT

By Cara Norris, Carl Albert Intern  
Office of Communications

An “ISNT” isn’t a bad thing – it’s good – especially if your computer crashes and you’re working out in the field. ISNT is the acronym for an Information Systems Network Technician — OKDHS’ new breed of support staff who are fast becoming an integral part of the Field Operations Division.

OKDHS’ ISNTs are responsible for troubleshooting, repairing and managing computers, plus other network equipment for the county offices. Their responsibilities also extend to One Stop Employment centers and other outstation sites. They typically cover several counties each, which can mean hundreds of miles of travel every week and responsibility for more than 100 computers and other office-support technology.

Lu Miller, who worked as an ISNT for more than five years before moving into a position in the Data Services Division, describes the importance of network technicians’ work for the agency.

“Without the ISNT position there would be constant computer/user/equipment downtime which would cause a loss of services to OKDHS clients,” Miller said. “ISNTs are a diverse group. They are periodically given tasks to perform in their counties that in the past would have been performed by outside techs. They perform them well, saving OKDHS money.”

Carey Manous, ISNT for Pushmataha and McCurtain counties, said ISNTs wear many hats.

“We are the office computer specialists, but we are also part liaison, part coordinator and part clerical, plus part trainer, part mover and all around Mr./Ms. Fix-It,” he said.

Manous has been in his current position for three years, and is a seven-year veteran of OKDHS.

Becky Mayer, ISNT for Lincoln, Payne, and Pawnee counties, is one of the original ISNTs.

“People who know me well will tell you I am not easily intimidated, but by noon of the first day, I was



*One of the original ISNTs, Stephanie Collins, serves Roger Mills, Beckham and Washita, plus Blaine and Kingfisher counties. She said ISNTs affectionately call themselves “the ISNTs who CAN!”*

ready to run screaming from the room,” Mayer said. “This went on for two days until one of the other trainees, bless her heart, finally spoke up and said to the trainer, ‘I don’t know about anyone else in here, but I don’t know what you are talking about.’

“Sighs of relief broke out all over the room. Then ‘me neither’ was heard here and there. The ice was broken, the trainer’s jaw dropped to the floor and at that moment the bonding began among us that would develop into lifelong friendships.”

ISNTs have been a part of OKDHS since 1997, but have worked under several different names.

Stephanie Collins, is the ISNT

*ISNTS continued on page 14*

## OKDHS’ E-mail Soon To Be ‘Spam-Free’

By Douglas Doe  
Public Information Specialist

Tired of your daily dose of junk e-mail? Good news! OKDHS employees’ e-mail boxes may soon be spam-free.

OKDHS Chief Information Officer Marq Youngblood said a new anti-spam software package will soon quarantine suspected unsolicited e-mails. Four groups are piloting the software, including the Data Services Division, Information Systems Network technicians and two Canadian County sites.

The Data Services Division instigated the change after receiving various complaints from employees getting e-mails with “unacceptable” content. Employees average between 40-50 such emails per week.

“They did not want to see this kind of e-mail,” Youngblood said.

With the new software, employees will login to the system and check all quarantined, or possibly unsolicited, e-mail. They will then be able to review each e-mail message and determine whether to leave it in the quarantined queue, deliver it to one’s mailbox or delete it.

“Rather than being liberal and letting (all e-mail messages) through,” Youngblood said, “it’s more conservative and catches some e-mails that employees might want to keep.”

He said OKDHS employees will also have the option to bypass the spam blocker if they wish to receive e-mails from a particular user.



*ISNT Becky Mayer serves Lincoln, Payne, and Pawnee counties. She says strong bonds have been created between ISNTs serving in OKDHS.*

for Roger Mills, Beckham and Washita, plus Blaine, and Kingfisher counties. She said she is one of the original 36 Social Program Technicians, fondly referred to as “SpiTs.”

“In the beginning, no one really knew what we were supposed to do, especially us SPiTs, except take care of computers at the county office level,” Collins said. “We then became Computer Services Technicians, better known as CySTs. Hey, at least the name had the word “computer” in it!

“We are now known as Information Systems Network Technicians, and affectionately call ourselves the ISNTs who CAN!”

Karen Henderson, another original ISNTs, said she believes that ISNTs have in many ways been pioneers in the field. She covers Henderson Stephens, Cotton, Tillman and Jackson counties. Henderson signed on as an ISNT in 1997 with 23 years of prior OKDHS service.

“We were sort of just thrown out here with little guidance and have learned and gotten by many times by the seat of our pants,” Henderson said. “We work together and share

things as a team. We know that in a time of need another ISNT is an e-mail or phone call away.”

Although the nature of their work may suggest a lone-ranger type of mystique, many ISNTs agree with Henderson that teamwork is the key.

“Right after I became an ISNT, I got an e-mail from Data Services asking if I would go over to the McCurtain County Health Department and look at a computer,” Manous said. “The messages stated that a user was having a problem with their ‘Corridor’ program. Well, I had never heard of Corridor and I was scared to death.

“Two things kept going through my mind: ‘I don’t know what Corridor is,’ and ‘where is the McCurtain County Health Department?’ After I found the Health Department and found the employee that was having the problem, I called DSD and, together, we solved the problem. I left there feeling very satisfied.”

The interaction between humans and technology that fills the workday of an ISNT is often good for a few laughs. Faye Ferguson, an ISNT for the past six years, serves

Osage, Washington and part of Tulsa counties, recalls some great stories.

“One time a user called because the computer was displaying error messages saying that there wasn’t enough memory to print,” Ferguson said. “When I cracked the case of the PC, I saw that the memory chip was just gone. The user said, ‘I wasn’t aware that I had lost my memory – I didn’t feel a thing!’

“Another time, I was visiting with a user who mentioned that she couldn’t figure out why a cup holder had been installed on her computer, but not on anyone else’s – it turned out she was talking about the CD ROM drive!”

OKDHS network technicians’ adventures seem to confirm what many believe about computers – that simple problems can appear complex, and that sometimes it takes a little magic and coaxing to fix them.

Liz Combest agrees. She’s been an ISNT for six years and serves Atoka and Pittsburg counties.

“One time a monitor would not come on,” Combest said. “I called Data Services, and Deann Romine advised me to pick up the monitor, click my heels and turn around three times and say ‘there’s no place like home,’ and then put it back on the computer. Would you believe I did – she told me to do this! It worked.”

Even when technical difficulties amount to forgetting to plug something in, ISNTs are available to help.

“I think early on in this job one of the funniest, but at the same time most reassuring things that happened was that one of my users who is very technologically minded called me and said she couldn’t get her computer to work,” Henderson said. “I got to her desk and was kind of nervous – it was like being called to the principal’s office or maybe having

*ISNTs continued on page 17*

# Tech Talk: The Latest News From Data Services Division

By Douglas Doe  
Public Information Specialist

Marq Youngblood, OKDHS chief information officer, wants employees to know that a trio of Data Services Division (DSD) projects will bring added stability, speed and productivity to the agency's computer network.

Either completed or coming soon for DSD is transferring information from a pair of older mainframes to a new, larger one costing \$5 million, replacing 168 local servers and replacing switches and routers.

"We needed to ensure better performance in general at the sites," Youngblood said. "The projects were necessary to either increase the network's capabilities or replace outdated technology."

He said the OKDHS mainframes handle an average of 143,684,750 transactions per month. The capacity was stretched to the limit in November 2002 when 167,363,717 transactions were processed. Completed in June, the mainframe migration project began with some initial software changes that were mostly transparent to employees.

"We switched 25 software tools and products," Youngblood said. "That was a major element of the project. We did it to get a better return on the investment."

By changing the software packages from non-IBM software to IBM software, DSD generated \$700,000 in initial savings. Youngblood said he expects the completed project to be \$500,000 under estimated costs because DSD staff performed some work slated for external sources.

OKDHS staff should have noticed improved performance from running transactions on the new mainframe, Youngblood said. In

1999, transactions on the two mainframes took about three seconds. With the migration of the first mainframe in February, that time dropped to .17 seconds.

Other improvements to the data infrastructure are being paid for as a part of the \$1.5 million earmarked annually by DSD.

In fiscal year 2003, this money was used to replace nearly 1,500 aging OKDHS computers. During 2004, it will be used to replace or upgrade 168 local servers to Microsoft 2003 servers, upgrade or replace 150 routers and add new switches.

Youngblood said that changing the routers will allow DSD to priori-

tize network traffic and give software or applications used for day-to-day business operations a priority over people surfing the Internet. Adding new switches should also give DSD the bandwidth to reduce network problems and allow the agency to run all network computers on Windows 2000. Sixteen sites in the OKDHS network, including the Sequoyah Building, do not currently have all computers using uniform operating systems.

"There's a common thread in what we're doing," he said. "We're ensuring our common infrastructure is appropriate for the solutions we'll be putting in place."

## Caught Working



*Policy Management Senior Analysis Dena Thayer was "Caught Working" recently. Thayer, who works in the Office of Planning, Policy, and Research, was reviewing the final Office Support Services Division Publications Guidelines brochure before distribution. The Rules and Policy Management Unit has been performing triple duty since last December helping program divisions prepare policy for permanent rule-making approval by the Oklahoma Legislature and providing analysis for administrative staff on legislative matters that may affect OKDHS during the last legislative session, which ended May 30.*

# Congratulations And Good Luck To Recent OKDHS Retirees

## **Atoka County**

Phyllis J. Jensen  
36 years



## **Carter County**

Peggy Henry  
24 years



## **Choctaw County**

Charles McDaniel  
30 years



## **Comanche County**

Teresa A. Myers  
30 years  
DeWayne Younger  
20 years



## **Garvin County**

Walter Melvin Smith, Jr.  
41 years



## **Harmon County**

Jenny Dona Geiszler  
9 years



## **McIntosh County**

Roger Barton  
38 years



## **Murray County**

Freida C. Hickman  
22 years



## **Muskogee County**

Darlene M. Ragland  
15 years  
Charlene M. Hibbard  
29 years  
Georgiana B. Henderson  
14 years



## **Noble County**

Donald Brown  
24 years



## **Oklahoma County 55-D**

Wanda D. Millican  
12 years  
Susan S. Randall  
27 years



## **Oklahoma County 55-H**

Alma J. Sanders  
13 years



## **Okmulgee County**

Virginia Creason  
30 years



## **Osage County**

Elvus J. Farrow  
18 years



## **Pittsburg County**

Ronald Gene Sullivan  
28 years  
Sharon D. Walters  
33 years  
Marilyn K. Wadley  
26 years



## **Pontotoc County**

Iona Graham  
25 years  
Peggy Wood  
35 years  
Peggy S. Wood  
35 years



## **Seminole County**

Sheila D. Argo  
23 years



## **Tulsa County 72-B**

Susan Carol Frye  
26 years  
Martha Lee Mills  
30 years  
Ms. Dannie Carlis  
14 years



James W. Beck  
23 years



## **Tulsa County 72-C**

Terry J. Collins  
31 years



## **Tulsa County 72-H**

Doug Maclean  
14 years  
Douglas Maclean  
14 years



## **Washita County**

Synovia K. Lemmings  
33 years



## **Area V**

Marilyn Hedrick  
30 years



## **Administrative Services**

Janet Belcher  
32 years



## **Child Support Enforcement Division**

Marilyn K. Alsup  
38 years  
Patsy Marie Harper  
25 years



## **Children and Family Services Division**

Michael C. Moore  
30 years  
Diane G. Sparks  
12 years  
Claudia Lynn Hunter  
24 years  
John Wayland Brown  
28 years



## **Data Services Division**

Anthony M. Leonhard  
36 years



## **Developmental Disabilities**

### **Services Division-Area II**

**Tulsa**  
Sharon A. Dean  
25 years  
Jo Ann Grayson  
27 years



## **NORCE**

Rae A. Somma  
18 years



## **Division of Child Care**

Kathy Calvin  
29 years  
Anita Ozment  
30 years  
Marlene Smith  
29 years  
Carey C. Miller  
31 years



## **Family Support Services Division**

Larita F. Henderson  
25 years



## **Family Support Services Division**

Larita F. Henderson  
25 years

## **Field Operations Division**

Bob E. North  
24 years



## **Finance Division**

Claudia McCreary  
34 years  
James Burton  
37 years  
Linda D. Siran  
23 years



## **Human Resources Management Division**

Merlene Williams  
25 years  
Sharon Simpson  
24 years  
Georgette Clark  
32 years  
Clarese Amadi  
35 years



## **Office of Client Advocacy**

Walter L. Davis  
21 years  
Jimmie C. Young  
27 years  
Rowena Snider  
7 years



## **Office of Inspector General**

Buddy G. Powell  
35 years



## **Office Support Services Division**

Rosezetter Williams  
24 years  
Robert Ferguson  
35 years  
Johnston B. Pickett  
30 years  
Phyllis A. Burnham  
28 years  
Frankie A. Roller  
46 years  
Jo Ellen Reed  
29 years  
Karen J. Cravens  
31 years  
Karin L. Kruger  
30 years  
James D. Hedrick  
26 years  
James E. Richards  
16 years

to work a math problem on the chalk board in front of the teacher and the whole class. I asked her what it seemed to be doing and she said, 'I have no idea. The screen is just black. I can't get it to do anything.'

"I looked at it, looked at the PC, and reached over and turned it on. The look on her face was wonderful. I accused her of doing it just to make me feel more confident."

Sometimes, even for an ISNT, a problem is just inexplicable.

"Once a user called and said, 'I'm having a problem with dead mice,'" Ferguson said. "When I talked to the DSD Help Desk, they asked how the user had killed the mouse, but we had no idea – perhaps it died of natural causes."

Occasionally, ISNTs are also responsible for instilling some common sense. Linda Tucker, an ISNT veteran of six years serves Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Major and Woods counties. She said she knows the feeling well.

"I can remember a time when a user notified me that the monitor was out," Tucker said. "When I made it there, I came to find out that the person had fried it by watering a plant that was sitting on it and the water had run down into the monitor – fried it completely. Needless to say, I asked that the plant be moved to another location."

One of the first ISNTs, Lynn Dunn, serves Coal, Johnston, and Pontotoc Counties. She said she's also experienced some surprises on the job.

"Liz Combest and I were sent out to a remote site to setup a Remote Access Service computer," Dunn said. "There was only one phone line and we were using it for the modem. I had to use a personal

cell phone to call DSD, and we were down in a valley, so I had to walk up the hill a little way to get phone service.

"While I was calling on the cell phone, two dogs came over the top of the hill right towards me. I did not know at the time that they were friendly – you would never believe this short-legged lady could run so fast!"

Combest said that although their work is closely related to that of Data Services, most of the Information Systems Network Technicians belong to the Field Operations Division.

"Our main responsibility is to the end users in the county offices, to make their jobs as easy as possible when it relates to the computer system, so services can be provided to the public in a timely manner," Combest said. "We work very closely with Data Services in resolving problems."

Mike Fischer, a programs manager II in the Field Operations Division, helps coordinate training and development for the ISNTs at the state level.

"We've had a wonderfully talented group of people working in these positions over the past six years," Fischer said. "They've been diligent, creative workers, who have earned the respect of both the county staff and the network managers at DSD. We see evidence of their abilities when someone hires them away from us."

Field Operations has lost five ISNTs to private industry or to other state agencies. Eight have moved to other information technology positions within OKDHS. New ISNTs have also been recruited from within the agency – at least four members of the current ISNT staff were formerly Social Service Specialists.

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## OK Health continued from page 5

supplements, plus weight management, smoking cessation and stress management.

- The identification of medical conditions requiring further evaluation or treatment and a referral to the employee's personal physician.

- Computerized progress reports and tracking to enhance employee compliance and to provide support to employees participating in the program.

"It's a lifestyle management and lifestyle change program," Kirk said. "Employees who are better off physically and emotionally, make better employees."

Enrollment for the program began in late June. Employees interested in participating must register before July 11. The program is limited to the first 1,200 who sign up.

To enroll, please look for periodic pop-up windows with sign-up instructions or go to:

[http://www.s99web01/adhr\\_humanresource/  
program/signokhealth.pdf](http://www.s99web01/adhr_humanresource/program/signokhealth.pdf)

# Duo To Present Workshop



Zohre Salehezadeh, Ph.D., and Kenneth Kickham, Ph.D., both senior researchers in the OKDHS Office of Planning, Policy and Research have been selected to present a workshop on the aging population during the Partnership for Aging Conference in November. The workshop is titled, "Baby Boomers' Retirement: Are We Prepared?" The Southwest Society on Aging and the Mid-America Congress on Aging is sponsoring the conference, which will be held in Tulsa. Salehezadeh and Kickham's study on the aging Baby Boomer population was chosen through a competitive process that included submissions from 12 states. The study will also be published in July in a journal published by the University of Oklahoma, *The Oklahoma Business Bulletin*. The dynamic research duo's study was originally published in *Gnosis* in January as a part of the office's mission to promote the growth and development of strategic planning within OKDHS and provides the mechanisms to support data-driven decision making. Congrats team! You can access the original paper on the InfoNet or Internet at <http://www.okdhs.org/iopprsa1/Vol2/issue1.pdf>.

## July 2003 OKDHS Calendar Of Events

*Editor's Note: Details about most of these events may be found on the OKDHS InfoNet*

### **July 12-16**

N4A National Conference

### **July 15-18**

New Supervisor Academy 18

### **July 17**

Oklahoma Silver Haired  
Alumni Association Meeting

### **July 19-23**

National Association of Public  
Child Welfare Administrators,  
APHS Conference

### **July 20-23**

National Council of State Human  
Services Administrators and  
National Council of Local Human  
Service Administrators, APHS  
Conference

### **July 21**

Adult Protective Services Field  
Liaison Meetings

### **July 22**

Oklahoma Commission for Human  
Services Meeting

### **July 22-25**

New Supervisor Academy 17

### **July 25**

Governor's Advisory Task Force  
on Child Abuse Meeting

### **July 28**

Human Services Center Meeting

### **July 28-29**

ReggaeFest at Bricktown in  
downtown Oklahoma City

### **July 30**

FSSD Field Liaison Meeting

### **July 31-Aug. 1**

School Based Social Worker  
Conference

## Kiowa continued from page 1

recent attention. She was featured in an article in *The Oklahoma Gazette* in May.

Cecile Ganteaume, associate curator, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, said the museum is projected to open in October 2004 on the National Mall in Washington D.C. One of the main displays at the museum will be the "OUR PEOPLES" exhibition. It will feature the history of eight tribes selected from throughout the Western Hemisphere, including the Kiowa. Ganteaume and co-workers from the museum recently traveled to Anadarko to work with Satepauhoodle. Together, they gathered photos, video and audio recordings from the descendants of White Bear as a part of the museum's segment on Kiowa tribal histories.



*Emily Satepauhoodle looks through a scrapbook featuring her and other Kiowas' work on Satethieday Khatgomebaugh (Kiowa for "White Bear's People") a non-profit group that strives to emulate the work of revered Kiowa Chief White Bear Satanta by serving as a catalyst for community enhancement.*

Satepauhoodle and other tribe members have also worked with the same team in Washington D.C. to identify historic relics, photographs

community has. I think the type of work that she does now (with OKDHS) just reinforces her feelings for her community that were already there."



*(L-R) Elaine Bellamy, Child Welfare supervisor in Permanency Planning; Emily Satepauhoodle, a Smithsonian Institution cultural liaison, and Cecile Ganteaume, associate curator; Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, were recently featured in *The Oklahoma Gazette*. The story focused on Satepauhoodle's dedication to her job, community and assistance to the Smithsonian in helping to preserve her native heritage.*

and maps and other antiquities – many that will be featured on display when the museum opens.

"It is very important for the National Museum for the American Indian to have a community liaison who helps us through every phase of our planning and implementation of our project," Ganteaume said.

Satepauhoodle has been a key player in helping to organize community gatherings, in identifying community members who are knowledgeable about their history and in working with tribal elders.

"She's been what's made it possible," Ganteaume said. "Emily is a great person. She's very smart and very giving.

"She's very much a part of and devoted to her community and she understands the concerns that the com-

Satepauhoodle said she's grateful to be able to help pass on her heritage and traditions to future generations of Kiowa.

"I want to leave something behind for the future and this is one way to do it," she said. "This is the first time that I've seen where a museum actually allows the people themselves to have an input. The Smithsonian has been so great at allowing us to do this."

Satepauhoodle said she made a special discovery when she was helping to identify artifacts for the Smithsonian – she discovered a saddle created by her great grandmother.

"That was awesome," she said. "I believe it is important for people to know who the Kiowas are and where they fit into the community."



**Running fast this summer? No problem, but be sure to slow down long enough to pick up the upcoming August issue of Inside OKDHS. Be in the know as you catch up with the latest on OKDHS' employees, our newest initiatives and this summer's sizzling events.**

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