

FOCUS

News from and about the Kentucky
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

January 30, 2015



Office of Health Benefits Exchange Director Carrie Banahan, second from right, was honored by Governing Magazine as one of nine recipients of its 2014 Public Officials of the Year award. Government Computer News also honored OHBE with its IT project of the Year award for kynect.

Banahan honored by Governing Magazine

Carrie Banahan, executive director of Kentucky's Health Benefit Exchange was selected by Governing Magazine as one of nine recipients of its 2014 Public Officials of the Year award. Banahan was profiled in the publication's December issue.

The Governing Public Officials of the Year awards have been presented annually since 1994 to recognize excellence in state and local government. Governing Magazine chose to honor Banahan, a 32-year veteran state employee, for her tireless work overseeing the creation, development and promotion of kynect, Kentucky's health benefit exchange.

"Lots of things had to go right before Kentucky became the nation's gold standard for health care implementation, and the first thing we did right was to name Carrie Banahan as kynect's executive director," said Governor Steve Beshear. "Carrie not only had the perfect mix of experience and technical know-how to direct kynect, she had the passion for the job. She is personally invested in helping Kentuckians find health

insurance. I am grateful for her work, and so are more than half a million newly insured Kentuckians."

Over her more than three decades of public service, Banahan has served as deputy commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Insurance, deputy commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services and executive director of the Office of Health Policy within the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS).

"Carrie was truly the perfect person for this job. It is as if her whole career has been training her for this very opportunity," said CHFS Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes. "We are so fortunate to have someone with her wealth of knowledge and expertise who was ready to immediately get to work on day one. She is certainly deserving of this prestigious honor."

Kentucky was hailed as a national leader last year when more than 521,000 Kentuckians enrolled in

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Effective office organization starts at your desk

PEAK PERFORMANCE

Anya Armes Weber



If you've resolved to be more organized at work in 2015, a good place to start is your desk.

Keeping things neat will save you time finding certain items and make a good impression on your office visitors.

Barbara Tischler, owner of The Clutter Coach, a Chicago organizing service, has this advice on where to start.

Start with a clean slate. Get ev-

erything but the big stuff off your desktop (and out of the drawers if you have time for that). Wipe and dry the surface.

Sort it out. Group similar items together, like office supplies, reference materials and electronic gear. Use whatever containers or desk accessories work best for you. Keep the things you use most often at your fingertips.

Toss what you don't need. Keep your garbage can and recycling bin handy. If you can't decide what to get rid of, ask yourself: Is another

copy of this available elsewhere (electronically or in staff archives)? Do I use this often? Is it relevant to my current job? Does this add to any information I already have?

Leave some clear space. Not only is it useful for taking notes or sorting files, the uncluttered area will look nice.

Don't get too personal. Reduce the number of knickknacks – family photos, desktop toys – around your workspace, or place them on a nearby shelf where they won't interfere with your work.

Deadline nears to claim funds from 2014 flex accounts

March 31 is the deadline for employees with funds remaining in their 2014 healthcare or dependent care flexible spending accounts (FSAs) to file for reimbursement. Request forms and receipts for last year's services must be submitted by that date.

WageWorks is the new administrator of the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan's (KEHP) FSAs. Claims are no longer processed by Humana.

WageWorks will begin processing 2014 claims on Jan. 26. Claims for service from 2014 must be submitted to WageWorks after this date.

Send claims to: Claims Administrator, PO Box 14053, Lexing-



ton KY 40512. Or Fax to 877-353-9236.

For more information, log on to your www.wageworks.com/KEHP.

Weight Watchers at Work Invites New Members

If you want support in making better meal choices, Weight Watcher's At Work may be for you. The group meets at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday in the CHR 4th Floor Bluegrass Room of the in the CHR Building. Life Timers need to weigh in once a month.

Visitors are always welcome to the meetings, and you can join anytime.

State employees get a membership discount, making the auto deduction amount just \$39.95 a month.

Weight Watchers At Work meetings provide in-person guidance, strategies and tips. For more information, contact Beth Morris at BethA.Morris@ky.gov.

Employees should use their lunch break to attend. Any additional time needed should be with approval from their supervisor and charged to annual or comp leave.

Dynaband Classes Offered at CHR Building

Have you tried the Dynaband exercise? Staff at the CHR Building in Frankfort can still participate in classes. No registration is required. Classes are from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays in the DPH lobby. Staff must use lunch time to attend.

Lee succeeds Kissner as Medicaid Services Commissioner, effective Feb. 1

CHFS Secretary Audrey Tayse Haynes announced that Lawrence Kissner has tendered his resignation as Commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services to accept an out-of-state private sector position.

Secretary Haynes has appointed Deputy Commissioner Lisa Lee to succeed Kissner as the new Medicaid Commissioner. Both Kissner's resignation and Lee's appointment are effective Feb. 1, 2015.

During his 29-month tenure as Commissioner, Kissner oversaw the Medicaid program during a time of historic transformation.

"Commissioner Kissner's knowledge of and experience in managed care brought a great level of stability to the Medicaid program during a time of significant change," said Secretary Haynes. "He freely shared his wisdom and experience with those who interacted with him, the greatest beneficiaries of which were the staff in Medicaid, to whom he was a tremendous teacher. The staff will continue

to benefit from their time with Commissioner Kissner long after his departure. He will be truly missed."

A graduate of Kentucky State University, newly appointed Commissioner Lee is a 23-year veteran of state government, including 15 years of service in various capacities within the Department for Medicaid Services. In addition to her tenure as Deputy Commissioner, she served as director of the Division of Provider Operations, overseeing a variety of Medicaid programs specifically aimed at improving the health of Kentucky children including the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP), Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT), Health Access Nurturing and Development Services (HANDS), First Steps and school-based health services. For seven years she worked as the program director for KCHIP, where she received national recognition for her role

in streamlining the enrollment process for children in KCHIP and Medicaid, leading to an additional 60,000 children receiving health-care coverage.

"With more than 15 years of institutional knowledge about the Medicaid program, Deputy Commissioner Lee has been an important partner and adviser to both Commissioner Kissner and me as we have implemented managed care and expanded Medicaid," said Secretary Haynes. "She has worked hand-in-glove with Commissioner Kissner every step of the way to achieve the tremendous improvements and efficiencies the department is experiencing today. With her experience and leadership abilities, I have every confidence that she will not only continue, but expand upon the progress that has been made over the last few years. I am extremely grateful for her willingness to continue her public service to serve the Commonwealth in this leadership and management capacity."

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health care coverage through kynect. Three out of every four enrollees reported that they had no health insurance prior to signing up through kynect. A Gallup poll this summer reported that thanks to kynect, Kentucky had the second-highest reduction of uninsured people in the country, falling from 20.4 percent in 2013 to 11.9 percent midway through 2014.

Public Officials of the Year are selected from nominations submitted by readers, experts in the public and private sectors and the Governing editorial team. Among the qualities recognized are leadership, courage, innovation, creativity and good management.

The Governing 2014 Public Officials of the Year were honored on Dec. 4, 2014 at a dinner in Washington.

Banahan's Governing profile can be seen here: <http://www.governing.com/poy/poy-carrie-banahan.html>.

Looking to shed some holiday pounds? Try the Winter Weight Loss Challenge

CHFS staff are invited to be part of the Winter Weight Loss Challenge, a fundraiser for the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign (KECC), sponsored by the Tourism, Arts and Heritage (TAH) Cabinet.

The 12-week challenge will begin Tuesday, Feb. 3, and ends Tuesday, April 28. Participants will aim to lose 9 percent of their body weight. CHFS staff who joins will get weekly tips on being active and planning healthier meals.

Cost to join is a \$20 donation to KECC. Twenty percent of all money raised will go to KECC. The remaining money will be divided among all participants who meet their goal by the end of the challenge.

The CHFS Wellness Committee will coordinate weekly weigh-ins at 11 a.m. Tuesday mornings in the CHR Building's Bluegrass conference room. Staff outside of Frankfort may participate by emailing weekly

pictures of their scale readings.

Employees should use break time for weigh-ins. Any additional time needed should be with approval from their supervisor and charged to annual or comp leave. Per normal procedures, no compensatory time or travel expenses will be granted to attend/participate.

Registration for the challenge runs through Monday, Feb. 2.

Contact Beth Morris by email or at 502-564-9592, ext. 3156, for more information or to participate.

Fall Weight Loss Challenge Update

The TAH Cabinet raised \$424 for KECC in its 2014 Fall Weight Loss Challenge. Of 106 statewide participants, 21 winners shared \$1,696 in prize money (\$81 each) by losing 7 percent of their body weight. At the CHR Building, 42 staff participated, and six met their goal.

Fayette Mall kynect store proves popular with consumers as open enrollment deadline nears

As for Jan. 23, more than 131,000 Kentuckians have newly enrolled for health care coverage or renewed their current plans through kynect in the two months since open enrollment began on Nov. 15, 2014.

This enrollment total includes individuals who have either newly enrolled in a private health insurance plan, qualified for Medicaid coverage or renewed the private insurance plans they purchased through kynect last year.

So far nearly 6,500 people have visited the kynect store at Fayette Mall in Lexington and completed more than 4,000 applications for new coverage.



Last year Kentucky saw more than 521,000 individuals enrolled in health care coverage through kynect, 75 percent of whom re-

ported they were uninsured prior to signing up through kynect. A Gallup poll this summer reported that Kentucky had the second-highest reduction of uninsured people in the country, falling from 20.4 percent in 2013 to 11.9 percent midway through 2014.

Those who need health insurance are encouraged to log on or contact an insurance agent or kynector to see their options for quality, affordable health coverage in 2015 before the Feb. 15 deadline passes. Medicaid enrollment is open at any time.

Visit <https://kynect.ky.gov> or call 1-855-4kynect (459-6328) to learn more about affordable health care.



CHFS surpasses KECC fundraising goal

The Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign completed its 2014 drive by raising \$1.18 million, more than 98 percent of its statewide goal. The final total was nearly \$14,000 more than the campaign raised in 2013.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services exceeded its goal of \$160,000. As of Nov. 19, CHFS had raised \$160,225, including 13 cornerstone gifts.

A number of fundraising events were held by CHFS throughout the months of September and October, including Kickoff Carnival.

CHFS staff in Frankfort also held a rummage sale and a book sale in October.

Halloween brought out creativeness as the employee costume contest and chili cook-off was one of the most talked about events of the campaign. More than 20 employees took part in the contest, with 11 chili entries.

Dionne Griffiths of the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs was recognized for her outstanding volunteer work at the annual KECC recognition reception.



KCCVS seeks nominations for 2015 Governor's Service Awards

For those who know an extraordinary Kentuckian or group who gives selflessly to help improve the lives of others, it's time to consider making a nomination for one of the 2015 Governor's Service Awards.

To honor these individuals and groups and highlight the impact of volunteerism and service, the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS), an agency of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, is now accepting nominations for the awards, which honor service completed in 2014.

"So many Kentuckians serve their neighbors through faith-based organizations and as volunteers for community groups, addressing a variety of unmet critical needs," Gov. Steve Beshear said. "These awards are a wonderful way to show our gratitude and appreciation for these individuals."

This is the 20th year for the annual service awards, which recognize the contributions of Kentuckians to their fellow citizens. The KCCVS hosts a special ceremony each year to publicly honor the winners and others who have given back to their communities through volunteering and service.

KCCVS Executive Director Joe Bringardner said the Governor's Service Awards are a great way to recognize contributions made last year.

"Volunteers not only strengthen their communities and better the lives of children, seniors and families through service, they help to expand the scope of volunteerism by involving others," he said. "Kentucky is fortunate to have so many volunteers and national service members whose initiative, creativity and energy have made such a positive change."

"Service is about taking the initiative to make a change for others," Bringardner said. "These awards help give much-needed focus on the people and projects that are shaping our Commonwealth to be a better place to live."

The nomination deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 18.



Nominations for most awards must focus on service activities completed in Kentucky during 2014. Individuals and groups may be nominated in only one category. Self-nominations are accepted.

One award recognizes a person or group involved in a national service program, like AmeriCorps, which is also celebrating its 20th anniversary. Another award, the First Lady's Award, recognizes a Kentuckian of any age who has assisted at-risk students in their efforts to reach educational goals, leading to graduation. This may have been done through mentoring, time spent tutoring or advising, or by working directly with a school.

Award winners from the previous five years are ineligible for this year's awards. An independent panel of judges reviews and scores nominations using the assigned judging worksheet.

Electronic submission is encouraged. Find nomination forms, category criteria and more information online at the KCCVS website, www.chfs.ky.gov/dfr-cvs/kccvs/govawards or contact Shannon Ramsey at (800) 239-7404, ext. 3841.

Kentucky State Parks Commonwealth Connection



For Kentucky Local, State and Federal Employees and Retirees.

Need a quick getaway? Don't forget the unique beauty, history, & dining experiences to be enjoyed just around the corner & through the woods from home! Take advantage of the Kentucky State Parks' Commonwealth Connection program which offers you reduced rates on lodge rooms and cottages at eleven resort parks, plus cottages at John James Audubon State Park:

- Lodge Room - \$44.95
- 1 BR Cottage - \$74.95
- 2BR Cottage - \$84.95
- 3BR Cottage - \$94.95

Add just \$5 to the above rates to enjoy a getaway to Barren River Lake, Cumberland Falls, Kentucky Dam Village, Lake Barkley, Lake Cumberland, or Natural Bridge State Resort Parks.



Discount applies
Nov. 1, 2014
through
March 31, 2015



Make your reservations on-line at www.parks.ky.gov and use the promo code "CC14". Individual park numbers can be found on-line, or call 1-502-564-2172 to ask for park numbers. Be sure to mention the "Commonwealth Connection" to receive your special rate when making your reservation by phone!

Proof of government employment or past service may be required at check-in. Subject to availability. May exclude park special event weekends and holidays. For leisure travel only. Not to be combined with other offers. Applicable taxes will apply.

PARKS.KY.GOV

