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Employee Profile: Drew Chandler

Drew Chandler, Information Technology/Communications Coordinator, has worked with the state six months. Prior to his work here, he spent five years with the Woodford County Fiscal Court.

How does your job allow you to impact the lives of your fellow Kentuckians? What's the best part of your job?

My job directly does not impact the lives of Kentuckians, but the contribution to the group effort to make a difference and seeing progress is what drives me. The best part of my job is knowing my involvement has a potential significant impact on the Commonwealth in terms of preparedness and disaster recovery.

What is something interesting about your job that most people wouldn't know?

Coordination efforts for preparedness reach far beyond public health. We work with a list of partner state agencies like Homeland Security, Emergency Management, Environmental Protection, National Guard and higher education institutions. We also partner with other states and federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health and Human Services and the FBI. Working with these partners to ensure that we're working on similar initiatives helps us to network and share best practices.

What are your interests outside of work?

With my wife and me not being Kentucky natives, we like to travel to different parts of the state and take in the sights. I was elected treasurer by the Woodford County Local Emergency Planning Committee and also serve as the Emergency Management Deputy. Recently, I became a HAM radio operator (KI4TFI) and enjoy tinkering with electronics of

all types. Most importantly, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. You can usually find me with a camera, as I have recently taken an interest in photography.

Give us your thoughts on the work that you have been doing with communications and the new Kentucky Public Health Interoperable Communication System (KPHICS) program.

The Kentucky Public Health Interoperable Communication System is the next step in information sharing between hospitals and health departments across the Commonwealth. Better coordination and elimination of duplicated efforts will improve response and recovery times during disasters or even during daily operations. KPHICS is made up of a crisis incident management system, WebEOC, and a pilot project with the University of Louisville's Information Technology Resource Center called MITOC-II. The Man-portable Interoperable Tactical Operations Center is essentially a portable WiFi hotspot that works off of multiple cellular and satellite based networks. Along with KPHICS, we are in the process of integrating with existing radio networks currently in use by Emergency Management, fire departments and law enforcement. Getting Public Health in the communication loop is the next step in interoperability.

DPH Announces New Program

A new program was recently announced by the Kentucky Department for Public Health that allows interoperable communications and incident management between state and local health departments.

The Kentucky Public Health Interoperable Communication System (KPHICS), will have the capability to link together local, state, federal and volunteer sources. It will also provide users with a common operational system, giving public health workers and responders access to the

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critical operational data they need to make sound decisions quickly.

“We are very pleased to have acquired this collaborative crisis information communications system, which will provide real-time information sharing to facilitate decision-making in public health emergencies,” said William D. Hacker, M.D., commissioner for public health and acting undersecretary for health at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The KPHICS system consists of a variety of components, including incident management software, a portable operations center and an inventory/asset management system.

The main component of the KPHICS system is WebEOC, incident management software that acts as a virtual emergency operations center over multiple disciplines, allowing crisis information to be universally available to authorized users during the planning, mitigation, response and recovery phases of an emergency.

Supporting the WebEOC portion will be a pilot project called Man-portable Interoperable Tactical Operations Center (MITOC-II), a portable wireless Internet hot spot that will sustain voice and data communications over multiple cellular and satellite networks. Combining the MITOC-II with existing satellite radio and telephone infrastructure will ensure that effective communications flow between local and state health departments in the event of an emergency.

The Inventory/Asset Management System component of KPHICS will be used to manage and track assets related to the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), in addition to items purchased with federal grant funds statewide.

Drew Chandler, communications coordinator for the DPH Preparedness Branch, has played an

integral role in both the planning and implementation phases of the KPHICS program.

The University of Louisville’s (U of L) Information Technology Research Center (iTRC) was recently awarded the contract to host and maintain the KPHICS program in partnership with the university’s Information Technology Department.

Branch Manager Wins National Award

By Anya Armes Weber

The federal government honored a Department for Community Based Services branch manager last month for her leadership in preventing child abuse.

Child Safety Branch Manager Lisa Durbin, whose branch is in Frankfort’s central office, received the Commissioner’s Award from the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Winners from each state were chosen for their “outstanding contributions toward the prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect,” wrote ACYF Commissioner Joan E. Ohl in a letter praising the recipients.

“Each winner demonstrates a strong personal commitment to protecting and serving children and families who suffer the dangers and indignities of abuse and neglect,” Ohl continued. “I extend my appreciation and warmest congratulations to these, our unsung heroes, commending each for their unwavering devotion to ensuring the safety and well-being of America’s children.”

DCBS Commissioner Mark A. Washington said Durbin demonstrates excellent leadership skills.

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“Lisa is well respected in central office and out in the field,” he said. “She guides her staff and collaborates well with community partners to strengthen abuse prevention efforts. Lisa deserves this national award.”

Durbin has worked in the Division of Protection and Permanency for 18 years. She spent 11 years as a child protective services worker in the field and has been branch manager for a year and a half.

Durbin said it was an honor to be selected for the award from all the dedicated DPP staff.

“It is always a good feeling to be recognized for the hard work you do every day,” she said.

Her daily job duties include supervising 12 staff members, answering field questions and discussing improvements to Cabinet practices to ensure Kentucky’s children are protected.

Durbin said keeping children safe is everyone’s business, and that her staff in the Child Safety Branch work well together.

“It is through a team effort that we are able to do our best job in protecting children,” she said. “Our division collaborates well with internal and external agencies to promote safety for children. My staff is a tremendous support to me in doing my job every day.”

Durbin and her husband, Charlie, the assistant director of Woodford County’s Emergency Medical Services, live in Versailles with their pets. They travel frequently and have plans to retire to the beaches of Florida, where they visit every year.

Employee Challenge Winners

Congratulations to the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs for winning the Get Healthy Kentucky trophy for the spring 2007 physical

activity challenge. More than 4,000 employees participated in the challenge and earned a total of 41,697,571 points, the equivalent of walking 758,146 miles. Also during the challenge, 887 people achieved challenge goals and were awarded for their accomplishments.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services had 429 participants who, together, earned a total of 2,041,206 points.

The goal of the challenge was to encourage all state employees to increase their physical activity and lead healthier lifestyles. The CHFS Wellness Committee encourages employees to continue logging their activity and reaching their goals through the Governor’s Physical Activity Challenge. Continue to use the Get Healthy Kentucky Web site (GetHealthy.ky.gov) as a tool to achieve physical activity goals.

Organization has Annual Conference

The Kentucky Employees State Ten-ure Organization recently had its 57th conference at the Hurstborne Holiday Inn in Louisville. Department for Community Based Services Commissioner Mark Washington presented the Floyd Day State Ten-ure Area Award to Renee Buckingham, SRA for the Lakes Region, and Sandra Rollins, SRA for the Cumberland region. This award was given for the most membership and growth in the Ten-ure organization.

Teresa Proffitt, president of Ten-Ure, presented the President Awards to Gary Brooks, Pamela Waldrige, Ed Weis Jr., Phyllis Slusher, Sandra Rollins, Jean Lawson and Paula Cardwell for their hard work and dedication to Ten-Ure for 2006-07.

Sandra Rollins, vice president, presented the Haynes Bruce Award to Pamela Waldrige for dedication to the organization and community service. This is an award that is presented to a

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Ten-Ure member who is involved and active in his or her community.

Phyllis Slusher presented the Jill Day 110 percent award to Pamela Waldrige for her hard work and dedication to Ten-Ure during the past year.

Tenure is a state organization that requires an employee to have 10 years of state service to join. For more information, contact Waldrige or visit the organization's Web site at www.ten-ure.org.

The 2006-07 State Tenure Officers are:

President - Pamela Waldrige
President-Elect - Gary Brooks
Past President - Teresa Proffitt
Vice President - Sandra Rollins
Treasurer - Phyllis Slusher
Executive Secretary - Ed Weis Jr.

Representatives:

Area 1 Peggy Meriedeth
Area 2 Mary Allender - appointed
Area 3 Richard Gaskin
Area 4 Freda O'Neal, Leo Dontchos
Area 5 Sheldon Lightys
Area 6 Missy Mollett
Area 7 Fay Neeley
Area 8 Julia Howe
Area 9 Sharon Rodriguez, Ginny Burton, John Reg White
Area 11 - Retirees - Brenda Batchelder; second year, Larry Branham

Showcase Exhibits Pride in Workplace

Employee Recognition Committee

The CHFS Employee Recognition Committee hosted the Department Showcase on May 17 as an opportunity for departments and offices, as well as several invited participants, to display

their mission, vision and accomplishments. Participants staffed tables in the main lobby and near the escalators of each floor. The committee planned the event as a way to help remind CHFS staff of the range of excellent services the Cabinet performs for Kentucky on a daily basis.

Cabinet Secretary Mark D. Birdwhistell visited the displays to thank participants and commend staff members for their contributions to the Cabinet and to all Kentuckians.

A special thanks to Melinda Abell, Judy Bates, Julie Brooks, Dorothy Brown, Gloria Clark, Maranda Cummins, Karen Glass, Michele Lily, Linda McDonald and Shannon Ramsey and Martha McClain, project lead, all Employee Recognition Committee members, and to each of the department coordinators for making this event such a success.

"I could not have been more pleased with the results of the recognition committee and all the participants," said Terri Cook, ERC chairperson. "It was a wonderful event that exhibited great pride in the workplace."

Living Well

Do You Need Dietary Supplements?

By Kris Hayslett, CHFS Wellness Coordinator

Many dietary supplements claim to be the answer to all of our problems. They are available for children in fruity flavors and the shapes of fun characters. Adult men and women have a seemingly endless number available to them, too, from health and beauty to diet and fitness. Marketers even take it a step further by targeting popular age groups like baby boomers. Television and print ads prey on victims who are looking for a "magic pill" to cure their problems.

Whether you need dietary supplements depends on your current eating habits, lifestyle and age. Dietary supplements may be appropriate if:

- You do not eat a balanced diet; your diet lacks less than five total servings of fruits and vegetables per day; you eat only one or two meals a day, limiting the number and variety of servings consumed from each food group.
- You're a vegetarian. If you are a practicing vegetarian, you may not consume enough calcium, iron, zinc, and vitamins B-12 and D.
- Your caloric intake is fewer than 1,200 calories a day. Lower calorie diets limit the amounts and types of food you eat, which results in fewer nutrients that your body receives.
- You have certain medical conditions, for example, if your diet is restricted because of food allergies, intolerance to certain types of food, disease of the liver, gallbladder, intestines or pancreas, or surgery to your digestive tract. All of these conditions may hinder the body's ability to absorb nutrients properly, which may result in your doctor recommending a dietary supplement.
- You're a postmenopausal woman. After menopause, women experience a sudden drop in estrogen levels, which lead to an increase in bone loss. In this case, a calcium and vitamin D supplement may be needed.
- You have heavy menstrual bleeding. If you experience heavy menstrual bleeding, you may need additional iron to replenish what's lost during the cycle.
- You're pregnant or trying to become pregnant. During this time, more nutrients are needed, such as calcium, folate and iron. It's important to discuss prenatal supplements with your doctor before you try to get pregnant.

A balanced diet that includes at least five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables and a variety of foods should keep you from having to take a dietary supplement. Taking the standard daily vitamin that has nearly 100 percent of the daily value of various vitamins and minerals is fine, too. But it's always a good idea to discuss any supplemental products with your physician.

KECC Golf Scramble Set

The Ninth Annual KECC/United Way Golf Scramble will be Aug. 16, at the Marriott Griffin Gate. Cost is \$60 per person. Lunch is included. Tee-off is 8 a.m. Registration fee and teams due by July 13. Make checks payable to Lee Browning with KECC/United Way in the memo line. For more information, call Browning at 246-2355, Ext. 338.

Training Offered for New Supervisors

Having the right tools and knowledge is vital in fulfilling the job as supervisor. That's why it is critical for all supervisors to complete the Personnel Management Training for Supervisors offered by the Office of Human Resource Management.

There are many dates to choose from. The dates are accessible from the recently revised [CHFS OHRM Training Calendar](#).

In the training, you will learn:

- **Selection process** – How to evaluate and recommend candidates for appointments using behavioral interviewing.
- **Disciplinary actions** – What the steps are of progressive discipline and the importance of documentation.
- **Performance management** - How to complete employee evaluations and conduct successful performance reviews.

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Register for a class today. Choose a date from the [CHFS OHRM Training Calendar](#) and then contact your [Department Training Liaison](#).

New Horizons offers Computer Boot Camp

New Horizons Computer Learning Center is now offering computer classes boot camp, including classes for all levels of computer knowledge. Each level has an extra \$10 discount per class.

To take advantage of this opportunity, visit the New Horizons Web site to see the schedule of classes, fill out a [Non-State Training request](#) and then turn the request in to your department liaison.

Employee Enrichment

By Anya Armes Weber

Staff who commute to work every day or who make travel a regular part of their work lives may benefit from these tips by Rachelle Arlin Credo, a relationship coach and writer for ezinearticles.com.

Prepare for your trip. Pack as much as you can the night before to save time in the morning.

Be flexible. Try to avoid traffic congestion by adjusting your leave time. Ask about the possibility of working a staggered shift.

Share the ride. Carpooling saves you gas money and driving frustration. It's also better for the environment and gives you a chance to relax during the drive.

Listen up. Use your commute time wisely and catch up on the news or the latest book on tape. You may also master a new skill – like a second language – during your drive time.

Lessen the stress. Spending lots of time driving can be tough on a body. Get plenty of sleep to

invigorate yourself. Use a lumbar pillow to ease the strain on your back. And take advantage of days off work by not driving altogether.