



CHFS Focus, from the Editor Welcome!

I hope you enjoy our new look. Myself and the Division of Communications staff are looking forward to bringing you informative stories about your cabinet and other employee related topics. We have several new features to go along with our new look. Beginning this week you will find our "Spotlights" section, which will focus on cabinet programs and CHFS employees. We will also provide a "Health Tip of the Week" and "News from the Governor" with timely news directly from the Office of Governor Ernie Fletcher! Please feel free to contact me with your questions and comments. (patricia.boler@ky.gov)

Thanks!
Patricia Boler

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Wearing pink ribbons, encouraging self exams and mammograms for early detection - it's all about Breast Cancer Awareness. This year an estimated 215,990 women and 1,450 men (yes, men) will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States. See your doctor regularly and perform self exams. Early detection and treatment is the only way to go! For more information on Breast Cancer, view the fact sheet below from the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month web site. (<http://www.nbcam.org/>)

Domestic Violence Awareness Month



A woman is beaten every 15 seconds in the United States. Imagine how many of those involved in domestic violence have families and young children that are affected as well.

Child abuse occurs in up to 70% of the homes where domestic violence occurs. When a parent is a victim of domestic violence, children are abused at a rate 15 times the national average. Women of all cultures, races, occupations, incomes, and ages are battered by husbands, lovers, boyfriends, and partners. For this and more information on domestic violence, visit the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association's web site. (<http://www.kdva.org/myths.htm>)

In This Issue

October 1, 2004

In the News...

Hazelwood Fall Festival Fantastic

By Janis Stewart, Division of Communications

Hazelwood Center hosted its annual Fall Festival on Sunday, Sept. 26. The 52-acre, Louisville campus provided the location for a fun-filled day of games, good food, karaoke, a mini-petting zoo, and happy reunions.

Clients, families, and friends came together to visit and enjoy the carnival-like atmosphere. This event brings people together from all over Kentucky, including legislators, to spend time with loved ones and review accomplishments and goals for the center.

U.S. Representative Ann Northrup, Senator Julie Denton, Senator Dan Seum, Representative Scott Brinkman, Representative Tom Burch, Representative Joni Jenkins, Representative Mary Lou Marizan, Representative Jim Wayne, and CHFS Deputy Secretary Delanor Manson were on hand to show support for Hazelwood Center's work at a formal ceremony held in the all-purpose room.

Manson noted the ground-breaking work of Hazelwood's nationally acclaimed Underwood-Lee Dental Clinic and also praised the staff for their positive, caring attitudes toward clients that she observed first-hand while touring the facility.



Deputy Secretary Delanor Manson talks with US Representative Ann Northrup at the Hazelwood Fall Festival ceremony.



HANDS Program Receives National Award

Kentucky's HANDS home visitation for first-time parents program received the 2004 Jim Parker Memorial Award today at the annual meeting of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The HANDS program is coordinated by the Department for Public Health in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and is a part of Kentucky's KIDS Now statewide initiative funded through Phase One Tobacco Settlement funds.

"Kentuckians should be extremely proud of the work that is being done with first-time parents across the state through the HANDS program. HANDS is having a positive impact for these families that will continue throughout their lives," said Dr. William Hacker, Acting Commissioner of the Department for Public Health. "We continue to see more doctors creating a partnership with local health departments through referrals of families to their local HANDS programs. This award honors the contribution the HANDS program is making to build a healthier Kentucky."

The award is offered jointly by ASTHO, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the Association of State and Territorial Local Health Liaison Officials (ASTLHLO). It was established in 1993 to honor the memory of Jim Parker, who served as Director of the Community Health Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Health. Parker was a strong advocate for local and state health department collaboration and his influence extended throughout the public health community due to his work on national health efforts. State and local health departments are eligible for the award.

The HANDS program is a voluntary home visitation program for new and expectant first-time parents, which aims to create positive health and social outcomes through education and consultation. The program started in 1999 in 15 local health departments with 952 families, and has increased each year. HANDS served 22,696 families as of August 31, 2004 and is now one of

the largest home visitation programs in the nation.

Monthly, over 9,000 home visits focus on basic care, social and emotional development, cues and communication, physical and brain development, as well as play and stimulations. Children receive developmental screening to ensure appropriate milestones are met. Goal setting and childproofing homes for safety are also included.

A three-year average evaluation of the results of the HANDS program when compared to a contrast group of first-time parents not participating showed 10 percent fewer premature births, 11 percent fewer low birth weight babies, 42 percent fewer very low birth weight babies, 58 percent less instances of substantiated physical abuse, and 62 percent less instances of substantiated neglect.

State Food Stamps Program earns \$1.9 million high performance bonus

Kentucky was recently recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for outstanding administration of its Food Stamps Program and will receive a high-performance bonus award of nearly \$2 million.

Governor Ernie Fletcher was notified this week that Kentucky is one of six states to earn a high performance bonus for timely and efficient processing of food stamps applications. Nearly all, 98.24 percent, of the food stamps applications submitted to the state Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) were processed within the USDA's timeliness guidelines.

The USDA established a 30-day standard for providing eligible households the opportunity to participate in the Food Stamps Program. Kentucky's bonus was based on its high rate of compliance with the 30-day standard.

Dr. James Holsinger, Jr., Secretary of CHFS, said the bonus rewards exemplary service and dedication on the part of cabinet employees in the Food Stamps program. "Our workers daily

Continued on page 3.



ensure delivery of quality service to clients and responsible stewardship of tax dollars,” he said. “This bonus is a reflection of their dedication.”

“We are delighted to receive this performance bonus, not only for its financial benefit to the program, but also because it means eligible, low-income families are receiving benefits without undue delays,” said CHFS Undersecretary for Children and Family Services Gene Foster.

There are 526,693 food stamp recipients in Kentucky.

Six million dollars was divided among the six states with the highest percentage of timely processed applications. Among the six states receiving bonus awards for timely processing of food stamps applications, Kentucky was ranked first. States receiving bonuses and the amount of their bonuses are:

- Kentucky: \$1,948,771.82
- Oklahoma: \$1,421,687.07
- Massachusetts: \$1,257,395.97
- West Virginia: \$979,960.06
- New Hampshire: \$206,004.26
- South Dakota: \$186,180.82

Open Enrollment for 2005 Health Insurance Program Suspended

New dates pending due to upcoming special session

Because of the upcoming extraordinary session of the General Assembly, which will deal with Kentucky's Public Employee Health Insurance Program, Open Enrollment for 2005 has been suspended. The Governor and the Personnel Cabinet are working with carriers contracted for 2005 to determine new dates for open enrollment.

Governor Fletcher said in Frankfort today: "We have met with insurance companies and apprised them of the situation. We are working with those companies to get a new date for open enrollment that ensures those covered will have no gap in coverage."

Postponing open enrollment gives the legislature the opportunity to bring forth and implement their plan before employees make decisions on their health insurance coverage for 2005.

Previously scheduled health fairs have also been postponed. New dates for those events will be announced at a later date.

Online Parks Reservations Yield Strong Results

Bookings Approach \$118,000

Less than two months after it was implemented, the Department of Parks' online reservation system already has yielded strong results, Governor Ernie Fletcher announced today.

The department has booked 1,480 room nights through its reservation service, representing nearly \$118,000 in room sales. Reservations have been taken from 28 states and three foreign countries.

“I’m delighted with these results,” Governor Fletcher said. “I’m pleased that it was our administration that promptly instituted online reservations. Internet bookings have been a standard service in the hotel industry for years, so our park system had been operating at a competitive disadvantage.”

This summer, the department contracted with VIP International to sell parks accommodations online. VIP is one of only a handful of companies in the world whose inventory is available to travel agents through databases such as Sabre and through Internet travel booking sites like Expedia. The web address for online parks reservations is <http://www.kystateparks.ky.gov/reservations.htm>.

Governor Fletcher said the reservations system is just one of many recent actions that have transformed the state park system.

“Under the leadership of Parks Commissioner George Ward, we are seeing progress in a variety



of administrative and marketing functions in the Department of Parks,” Fletcher. “We are attacking a \$29 million deficit through prudent fiscal management, we are conducting innovative marketing such as a Tee’s and Zee’s golf package, and we’re protecting our environment by cleaning up several long-standing illegal dumps.”

The governor also noted that more than \$450,000 in funds saved from the past fiscal year is being reinvested in park guestrooms and cottages to buy new mattresses, replace television sets and install hair dryers, irons and ironing boards.

Halloween 2004 – State Parks special events for Oct. 1 - 16

Oct. 14-24 - Halloween Fest X, Fort Boonesborough State Park, Richmond. Prepare for the spookiest week ever... We will have Halloween crafts and activities, haunted mini golf, camper decoration contests, costume contest, bingo, free historic tours, ghost walks, bonfires, pumpkin express hayrides, visits to a lost pumpkin mine, trick or treating and lots more. So many activities, it takes two weekends! For registered campers only.

Oct. 15-17 - Halloween Spookout, Barren River Lake State Resort, Lucas. A weekend of ghoulish fun with Halloween Jingo, crafts, scavenger hunt, bobbing for apples, pumpkin carving, costume contests, trick or treating, campsite decorating contest, and a chili and potluck dinner. Camp two nights for the price of one!

Oct. 15-17 - Halloween Campout, Kincaid Lake State Park, Falmouth. Enjoy an old fashion chili supper on Friday night. Saturday offers a "Best Decorated" campsite contest, costume contest, games, and pumpkin carving. Prizes will be awarded to all winners.

Oct. 16 - Harvest of Horrors, E.P. "Sawyer" State Park, Louisville. Join the park for a night of tricks and treats. Journey on the Hayride to Nowhere and get lost in the Maze of Doom. Show your creative side in the costume and

pumpkin carving contests. Throughout the night, there will be games and a magic show. The fun lasts from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

KECC Happenings

KECC October Events
October Events (PDF) – available online

KECC Golf Scramble Oct. 19
Golf Scramble (PDF) – available online

Aging Services holds sale for KECC

The Division of Aging Services, Department for Human Support Services, held a fundraiser for KECC on Wednesday, Sept. 29. They had a combination yard sale/used book sale/used CD and cassette sale along with two drawings for baskets.

Winner of the UK basket that held two tickets to the October 2nd UK football game plus miscellaneous UK items was Lane Jacobs of Workforce Development. The winner of the workout/fitness basket that held a pedometer, TheraBand for stretch exercising, weights, jump rope and a workout video was Kathy Casper of the Division of Aging.

Total money made from these activities, with proceeds going to the KECC campaign, was \$279.31.



Cake Weight Guess competition proceeds to benefit KECC

Surprise your family with a scrumptious, delectable, mouthwatering cake or pie from Frankfort’s best bakers.

The CHFS Ombudsman’s Office with the help of nine local bakeries will sponsor a Cake Weight Guess Competition to benefit the Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign. The nine local bakers have agreed to donate their best cake or pie which means you will have nine chances to win and take home a gorgeous and delicious cake or pie.



Entrants will be asked to guess the weight of the dessert and pay .50 cent for the chance. Entries will be recorded on preprinted, numbered sheets of paper with your name, telephone (or e-mail address) as well as your guess. When the competition closes, all entries will be checked for the winners - where two or more persons guess the correct weight or are equally close to it, straws will be used to determine the winner.

The Cake Weight Guess Competition is Friday, Oct. 8, from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Health Services S Lobby.

Take a Chance to Help Those in Need!

Spotlight: Jon Copley, Executive Director of the Office of Contract Oversight



By Pam Fries,
Division of
Communications

At Right: Jon Copley, Executive Director - Office of Contract Oversight.

Jonathan “Jon” Copley, J.D., is Executive Director of the Office of Contract Oversight, and he’s enjoying it. Although overseeing daily operations of the Cabinet’s contracting and procurement processes is more than a full-time job, “the challenges of developing a new office are offset by the good people I get to work with everyday,” Copley said.

A middle child with two brothers, Copley was born in Fredericksburg, VA, on Nov. 28, 1975. He soon moved with his siblings, mother, and father, an engineer, to Katy, TX (a small town near Houston). Another family move brought him to his parents’ hometown of Campbellsville, KY, just as he finished fifth grade. Since then, he’s called Campbellsville home.

After graduating from Campbellsville High School, Copley earned a bachelor’s degree with

magna cum laude honors in business marketing management from Campbellsville University (CU) in 1998, and is now a member of the CU Alumni Association Executive Board. He went on to receive a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he is an alumnus of its nationally ranked Trial Advocacy Board.

“I thought a law degree was a good springboard for almost any profession,” Copley said. “I hope to start my own company someday, so I’m considering going back to school in the future for a Master’s in Business Administration.”

Before coming to CHFS, Copley served as staff attorney to Judge Paul F. Isaacs of the 16th Judicial Circuit, a legal clerk to Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert of the Supreme Court of Kentucky, and a Governmental Affairs aide in the Greenebaum Doll and McDonald firm, among other positions. “I am passionate about the law, but these positions sparked my interest in policy and politics,” Copley said.

Copley is also passionate about sports, an interest springing from his sports writing days with the Central Kentucky News-Journal. When he has time, Copley enjoys watching movies and playing golf. “My goal is to someday become a member of the Senior Golf Tour for golfers age 55 and up. That gives me about 27 years to practice.”

He is also Commissioner of his Fantasy Football League, and said, “Don’t forget to say that I bleed Blue,” as he lifted the lid of a UK emblemized box to loose the strains of the UK Fight Song.

Copley and his wife Gretchen, an insurance defense litigation attorney, live in Lexington. Married in May of this year, he calls her his “rock” and speaks of how she keeps him grounded. They both enjoy socializing with friends and family, and traveling.

His hopes and plans for the future: “To be a good husband, a good father, a successful businessman, and to give back to my community,” he said.



Kentucky program benefits older workers, employers

By Lisa Wallace, Division of Communications

Patricia Curry, 66, of Harlan, decided to enter the workforce after being a housewife for most of her life. Lacking work experience and skills, but possessing a willingness to try something new, she enrolled in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), where she acquired new job skills and experience in a program-subsidized position at the senior citizens center in Cumberland. Curry received training in nutrition and food service skills and worked preparing meals for delivery to home-bound clients of the center. After completing her training, she was hired by the local Subway restaurant in Sept. 2004 and currently looks forward to every day's challenges on the job.

Carol Pace, 61, of Harlan Ky, served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force and then dedicated another 20-odd years to caring for her family. Not the type to sit idle, she, too, entered the SCSEP program in Dec. 2000 and received food service training and experience working at the Harlan Senior Center.

Pace completed her training program and was later hired at the Long John Silver's restaurant in Harlan where she enjoys the fast pace and interaction with the public.

Americans age 65 and older have the highest workforce participation rates in the nation and in most of the developed world. In Kentucky, 12.5 percent of the total state population are age 65 and over. The national average is 12.4 percent.

As workforce growth slows down, employers will rely more and more on older workers. In Kentucky the U.S. Department of Labor's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is working to address the training and job placement needs of mature people with limited incomes.

SCSEP is administered in Kentucky by the Division of Aging Services of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. A component of the Older Americans Act, SCSEP programs in Kentucky provide training and subsidized part-

time temporary job training assistance to low income persons age 55 and older. The program aims to help older people meet their needs for additional income and to help them regain a sense of community involvement and participation in the mainstream of life.

The national program goal is to achieve job placement on behalf of 20 percent of program participants. In Kentucky, the SCSEP placement rate was 28 percent for 2003.

Program eligibility is based on age, residency and income guidelines established by the USDOL. SCSEP provides a variety of job training and readiness assistance including skills assessments; personalized employment plans which identify barriers to employment and recommended training to overcome those barriers; resume preparation and interviewing skills; employment referrals; and follow-up meetings and evaluations to identify further assistance that may be needed.

Participants are initially placed in program-subsidized positions with non-profit organizations where they may receive training before moving into unsubsidized jobs in the public or private sector.

"Older Kentuckians represent a dedicated, experienced positive feature of our workforce," said VivEllen Chesser, state Senior Employment Coordinator for the Division of Aging Services. "Their contributions to the Commonwealth are immeasurable."

The state received a \$1.6 million federal grant and contributes a 10 percent match to fund 10 training and job placement programs across the state. Eight Area Agencies on Aging, administered through the 15 area development districts, and two Community Action Committees are serving 233 eligible seniors in local SCSEP programs. National sponsors, including the AARP, USDA Forest Service, the National Coalition on Aging, Easter Seals and Experience Works also participate and, together with state sub-grantees, provide programs and services in 118 counties and will serve a total of 1,140 participants this fiscal year.



Chesser said training needs of job-seeking older Kentuckians is perhaps the least of the challenges she encounters in her position. Recruiting employers to hire older workers, also, has often proven difficult.

"Myths persist about older workers which we're working hard to debunk," she said. "The truth is, older workers score high on job skills, loyalty, reliability, absenteeism, job turnover and they demonstrate amazing flexibility and adaptability to changes on the job."

Chesser said studies show that older employees work smarter and are more safety conscious, experiencing fewer work-related injuries than their younger counterparts. In addition, older workers pass workplace drug screenings at a rate higher than their younger counterparts.

Still, it's not easy for older workers to find employment in spite of legislation prohibiting age discrimination.

Many of SCSEP applicants are discouraged workers who have given up hope of finding a job. Others, for various reasons, have been out of the job market for years and some, primarily women, have never worked outside the home before. Chesser said the SCSEP works to identify skills and talents people may not even realize they possess, but, which are considered workplace assets.

"The ability to balance a household budget and keep a busy family organized and healthy are valuable skills that translate well on the job in many positions," Chesser said. Having developed such basic life skills also helps trainees develop new proficiencies, including technology-based skills which are so vital in most modern workplaces.

Prospective SCSEP program participants and employers are urged to call (502) 564-6930 for more information.

Governor Ernie Fletcher Makes Appointments to the Get Healthy Kentucky! Board

16 Members Appointed by the Governor and First Lady Glenna Fletcher to Serve as Special Advisor

The Office of Governor Ernie Fletcher has announced today the appointment of sixteen members to the Get Healthy Kentucky! Board. Secretary of Health and Family Services James Holsinger will serve as Chairman of the Board and First Lady Glenna Fletcher will serve as Special Advisor. The Get Healthy Kentucky! Board was created to address the health issues facing citizens across the Commonwealth.

"Kentucky has a number of serious health issues that we must confront," stated Governor Fletcher. "We must start addressing our health issues to help move Kentucky forward. That is why I am proud to appoint these folks who will work with us to come up with an effective plan on how to tackle these important issues."

Members of the Board include:

- **Senator Jack Westwood** – Crescent Springs – State Senator
- **Representative Tanya Pullin** – South Shore – State Representative
- **Sarah Johnson Wilding, R.N.** – Frankfort – Registered Nurse
- **Adewale Troutman** – Prospect – Director, Louisville Metro Health Department
- **Douglas Scutchfield, M.D.** – Lexington – UKMC College of Public Health
- **Teresa A. Barton** – Frankfort – Franklin County Judge/Executive
- **Stu Silberman** – Lexington – Superintendent, Fayette County Public Schools
- **Michael Buchanon** – Bowling Green – Warren County Judge/Executive
- **Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D.** – Paducah – Physician, WellSprings Institute
- **John A. Strosnider, D.O., FACOFP** – Pikeville – Vice President & Dean, Pikeville College School for Osteopathic Medicine
- **Larry R. Davis** – Grand Rivers – Public Health Director, Marshall County Health Dept.



- **James D. Crase, M.D.** – Somerset – Physician, Urgent Treatment Center
- **Lon E. Lafferty, M.D.** – Inez – Private practice Physician
- **R. Stewart Perry** – Lexington – INS Agent
- **Gerald F. Sturgeon, M.D.** – Louisville – Private practice Physician

Over the past month, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services has hosted a number of forums throughout Kentucky to gain input regarding Kentucky's health issues. Nine regional forums were held throughout the month of August to both gauge community support to fight obesity on the local level and solicit input on how best to address barriers to good health.

Governor Fletcher pledged during his campaign for governor that he would be dedicated to the health needs of Kentuckians and encourage preventive measures be taken. The Get Healthy Kentucky! Board will gather public input and develop a plan on how Kentucky should go about meeting goals set in the Healthy Kentuckians 2010 report – a report on the state's health needs that includes reduced smoking, reduced use of illegal drugs, increased immunizations, increased access to dental care and improved pre-natal care.

“Kentucky ranks low in many health indicators and we want to work to improve our rankings,” said First Lady Glenna Fletcher. “More importantly, we want to develop and implement ideas to improve the health status of our fellow citizens so they can lead longer, more productive lives.”

The board will serve as the guiding force in pulling together several health and wellness efforts currently underway in the state into a stronger and more coordinated effort. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services will provide support and staffing to the Get Healthy Kentucky! Board.

Employee Enrichment

By Anya Armes Weber, Division of Communications



Employee Enrichment is a weekly feature for CHFS staff. These tips for making work better will focus on team building, customer service and personal development.

“Listening is a magnetic and strange thing, a creative force. The friends who listen to us are the ones we move toward, and we want to sit in their radius. When we are listened to, it creates us, makes us unfold and expand.” – Psychiatrist Karl Menninger

When we practice active listening, we not only learn more about the people and subjects important to our work, we build relationships of trust. Our listening can help our coworkers and our customers more than we know. Paying attention and offering support and feedback can be validating. Make your conversations an active dialogue, and really listen.

Visit us online!

To view the online version of CHFS Focus, visit our web site at <http://chfs.ky.gov/newsletter>.