

# The Advocate

## In Honor of Black History Month 2022

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Carolyn Vose



Each year the organizers of Black History Month select a theme. For 2022 the theme is "Black Health and Wellness." It honors not only traditionally trained medical doctors, but also alternative black health practitioners like dou-las, midwives, naturopaths and herbalists that came out of the African diaspora.

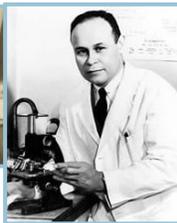
Three notable health practitioners of African descent were Susie King Taylor, Mary Seacole and Dr. Charles R. Drew. **Susie King Taylor** is credited as the first American black nurse during the American Civil War. She served the 33rd U.S. Colored Troops Infantry Regiment for more than 3 years, even though she was officially listed as a "laundress." Susie also packed haversacks and cartridge packs for the soldiers to use in combat, and was reported to be an excellent shooter herself. **Mary Seacole**, who was born in Jamaica, famously wrote to Florence Nightingale offering to serve as a nurse to wounded British soldiers during the Crimean War (1853-1856) in what is now the Ukraine. When she was refused, Mary moved to Crimea and opened a "British Hotel" where she served as a nurse and mother to wounded soldiers. Her fame as a healer soon spread and she was awarded several medals for her British service and valor. In 1857, Mary Seacole wrote her autobiography, Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole.

**Dr. Charles R. Drew**, an American, received his initial college training at McGill University in Canada. He would go on to become the first African-American to receive a Medical degree from Columbia Medical School in 1938. He is credited for discovering that by separating the liquid part of the blood called plasma from whole blood where red blood cells exist and freezing them separately, that blood lasted longer and was less likely to become contaminated. He also discovered that everyone has the same type of plasma, so where whole blood transfusion is unnecessary, a

plasma transfusion can be administered regardless of blood type. (Photos left to right: Susie King Taylor, Mary Seacole, Dr. Charles R. Drew).



Susie King Taylor.



### Reminders:

**COVID test kits are now available! (see pg. 2)**

**Document submissions** to The Advocate are due by the 24th of each month to:

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and Administrative Review

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## Employee Spotlight:

### Erica Turner



Hard work and persistence definitely pay off. Having

earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Corrections and Juvenile Services from Eastern Kentucky University, Ms. Turner joined Kentucky's Department of Juvenile Justice in 2006. Realizing Kentucky's corrections programs do not have a large component for rehabilitation of inmates, she explored other positions and became a front-line social service worker with DCBS in 2008. Then, in 2017 Erica joined the Office of the Ombudsman's Complaint Review Branch. In Erica's words, "the amount of time I spent working 'hands on' with families and children was invaluable to my current position. I am able to relate what I know about Protection and Permanency and help callers find solutions to their issues."

In her spare time, Erica enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with her family.

## Division Report: Complaint Review Branch by Sherry Carnahan, Branch Manager

As mentioned in a prior article, the Complaint Review Branch ("CRB" or "Branch") was previously known for primarily addressing complaints and/or concerns related to Cabinet programs. However, when the COVID-19 pandemic surfaced and citizens were unable to reach other areas of Kentucky State Government, they soon started contacting us. This surge in demand permanently shifted the structure of the CRB. While CRB's primary purposes include serving as an impartial liaison between the constituent and the Cabinet and reviewing cases for policy violations, we also act as the main point of contact for the Cabinet through the CHFS Listens hotline. Calls to this service often involve: landlord-tenant issues; where to find emergency rent and utility assistance; COVID testing and/or vaccine information for residents, out-of-state and even international travelers; as well as information regarding unemployment insurance procedures, labor law, and Kentucky's UI filing requirements for out-of-state businesses.

With the Branch's increased recent demands, a reorganization was beneficial in ensuring Kentucky's constituents receive the impeccable care to which they have grown accustomed. The reorganization of the Branch now encompasses a Protection and Permanency Section which houses six (6) specialists and a Family Support Section which has seven (7) specialists and 1 contract employee. Along with these staff, two (2) Child Support specialists and two (2) administrative specialists report directly to the Branch Manager.

To contact us, please call 502-564-5497 or 800-372-2973. We can also be reached via email at [CHFS.Listens@ky.gov](mailto:CHFS.Listens@ky.gov).

## Word of the Month — Undaunted (*adjective*)

- 1 undismayed; not discouraged; not forced to abandon purpose or effort:  
*undaunted by failure.*
- 2 undiminished in courage or valor; not giving way to fear; intrepid:  
*Although outnumbered, he was undaunted.*

According to [the new COVIDtests.gov website that launched this week](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19/testing/), Americans who have had difficulty ordering the tests online or "need additional support place an order," can call 1-800-232-0233 or TTY 1-888-720-7489. (Source: *USA Today*, January 26, 2022).