

utah department of
human services

Homefront

What was life like 100 years ago? DAAS Hosts 30th Annual Centenarian Celebration

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Brent Platt, Director
Division of Child and Family Services

Leadership Message:

Prevention


Broader Collaboration and Greater Alignment

The DHS Model of Care highlights our vital responsibility in keeping children safe and families strong. All of us, no matter our role, influence the lives of families and children, whether through our agencies, communities, or our own families. It is within these roles that we must share with each other our understanding of the impact of child abuse and neglect, and work together to achieve broader collaborations and greater alignment.

Our efforts to prevent abuse and neglect among all our populations—children, youth and vulnerable adults—must be as broad as the impact of the abuse and neglect itself. Last year, the Utah **Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)** investigated more than 20,000 cases and confirmed more than 9,000 children were victims of abuse or neglect. Over one-third of those victims were under the age of five. While we have made enormous strides over the last few years in how we respond to victims of child maltreatment and their families through programs like **HomeWorks**, there is no question that had the abuse been prevented, the chances of these children, youth, families and adults achieving positive outcomes and avoiding negative ones would be much greater.

We now know more than ever that the toxic stress and trauma a child experiences during and after maltreatment have long-lasting biological effects that manifest in a myriad of ways. From academic struggles,

behavioral challenges and developmental delays as children, to a significantly higher risk for mental health issues, substance use disorders, poor health, unemployment and homelessness as adolescents and adults, it is clear that the impact of child abuse and neglect extends well beyond the families we serve at DCFS.

There is not a single agency or individual that can do it all, but together, we can prevent child abuse and neglect by working toward better outcomes for Utah children and families. 

Have a story idea or feedback on DHS Homefront?

Contact the editor, Allie Jurkatis
ajurkatis@utah.gov



PREVENTION



SELF-RELIANCE



PARTNERSHIP



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



PEOPLE & CULTURE



Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition

Preventing Suicide: A Community Effort

The **Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)** provides leadership and coordination for suicide prevention efforts statewide. One such effort is hosting the **Utah Suicide Prevention Coalition**, a partnership of community members, suicide survivors, service providers, researchers and others dedicated to saving lives and advancing suicide prevention efforts.

In Utah, suicide is a public health problem and a leading cause of preventable death, particularly among youth. In 2014, Utah's suicide rate was reported at 20.46 per 100,000 persons, which translates to 555 Utahns who lost their lives to suicide. It is the leading cause of death for youth ages 10 to 17 and the second leading cause for Utahns ages 10 to 39.

In response, **DSAMH** and the **Suicide Prevention Coalition** work continuously to implement the Utah Suicide Prevention Plan with goals like increasing public awareness, encouraging support through partnerships and improving access to health and behavioral health services. You can learn more about this plan and other efforts at utahsuicideprevention.org.

Coalition Core Initiatives



Zero suicide in health and behavioral health care

Community awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem



Partnership with media on safe messages of recovery and prevention

Utah Prevention By Design: Local coalitions implementing data driven, evidence- and community-based suicide prevention strategies



Reduction in access to lethal means of suicide

Years of Service Awards



35 Years

Richard Platt

30 Years

Lisa Hampton

Suzanne Jorgenson

Beki Mahedy

Catherine Miller

Carrie Stevenson

25 Years

Charlotte Gibbons

Jeffery Hunter

20 Years

Taneila Fangupo

David Farley

Jose Herrera


Danielle Leuk


Kenyatta Green

Get to Know OAH



The **Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)** is a DHS office that serves an important function. OAH provides an avenue for a person to challenge a supported finding or decision made by a DHS Office or Division.

OAH conducts informal administrative hearings for the settling of disputed agency actions and is independent in its decision-making authority. The Office of Administrative Hearings has three full-time administrative law judges, who travel throughout Utah to conduct hearings. In FY16, the Office of Administrative Hearings received 508 hearing requests. 



Feedback given by you and your peers in DHS focus groups revealed a common desire to know more about the services and programs offered by other DHS Divisions and Offices. This increased understanding of DHS as a whole can help all within our department work together to provide more efficient and integrated care.

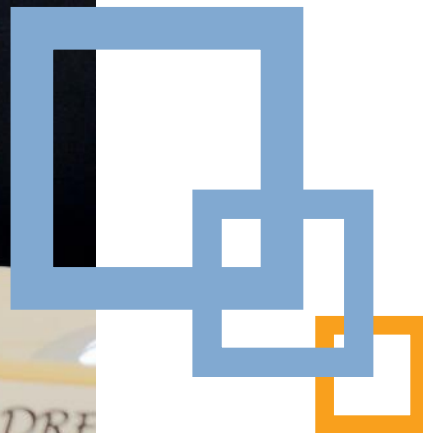
Celebrating 100+ Years of Life

The **Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS)** joined **Governor Gary Herbert** and his wife, along with **Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox**, in honoring the lives of Utah residents 100 years of age and older at the 30th Annual Centenarian Celebration.

The celebration is a favorite of many Utah families and wouldn't be possible without the dedicated **DAAS** staff who work several months each year gathering information on Utah's centenarians, coordinating event details and schedules and working with the families of the attendees in making them feel valued and loved.

"These remarkable individuals not only have lived in our communities for more than a century, they were the ones who built and shaped them," said Gov. Herbert. "We are all the beneficiaries of their contributions and wisdom."

Utah centenarians witnessed incredible changes in history, including the creation and public implementation of indoor plumbing, electricity, radio and television and the production of the automobile and airplane. They also experienced several of the world's pivotal events and milestones like World Wars I and II, and the Great Depression. 🏠 🍷





Positive Media Partnerships

The **Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS)** recently teamed up with **KSL Newsradio** and **Valley Office Systems**, a local office supply and printing company, to encourage Utahns to volunteer as youth mentors and help make a positive impact on young lives. KSL Newsradio hosted several of their shows and news segments at various DJJS facilities and also interviewed several DJJS staff and trainers along with volunteers and youth who have been positively impacted through the program. Nearly 100 community members contacted JJS about becoming a mentor as a result of the drive, which led to the first ever DJJS mentor orientation.

DCFS partnered with **KSL** and the **Utah Adoption Exchange** for the **Wednesday's Child Telethon**, a fundraiser that helped raise awareness for Utah foster children and the need for permanent adoptive families. During the all-day telethon, several Utah foster youth shared their stories on KSL TV, radio and Facebook Live. **REAL Salt Lake** players also participated in the effort by answering phones and offering prizes to telethon supporters. 🍷



ANGIE PINNA

Named New Director

Division of Services
for People with
Disabilities

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DHS Welcomes New DSPD Director

Angella Pinna has accepted the role of **Director of the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD)** at the Department where she will continue the focus of supporting the self-reliance of people with disabilities in their homes and communities.

Angie has served in DSPD leadership roles since 2000, and has furthered the quality and services of the division as interim director since April of this year. She has vast experience and a balanced perspective of service delivery and has worked in both the provider community, as well as in various DSPD roles in rural and urban areas. Her knowledge and experience includes working on several

stakeholder initiatives, serving as a legislative liaison, and overseeing several partnerships and collaborations in system improvement for people with disabilities. Angie has been instrumental in helping DHS comply with federal regulations and quality measures. Just prior to assuming the interim director role, she led a statewide quality management and constituent services, as well as resource development and training. She will be a great resource and support in partnering together to strengthen individuals we serve. 🏠 👥 👤

Around DHS

DCFS promoted prevention through strengthened families with the Parent Advisory Council at the Uplift Families Conference. The Division helped attendees—mostly parents and partners like Parents Empowered, First Lady Jeanette Herbert, and the Parent Advisory Council—increase their understanding of strong parent-child relationships and tools to help children make safe and healthy choices. 🏠 🌱



DHS Executive Director Ann Williamson spent an afternoon with the Utah Youth Council to receive feedback and concerns on how DHS services could be improved for young people. Participating youth voiced their desire for quality staff and individuals who show they care, act as an advocate and listen and act on expressed concerns. Individuals like this, the youth said, truly make a difference in creating a positive and productive experience for youth both now and in the future. 🏠 🌱



In the
News

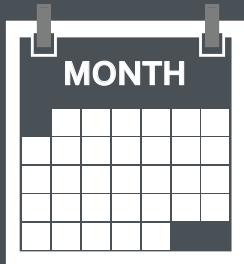


- [Multi-Agency initiative aims to improve transition services for offenders](#)
- [Troubled teen treatment brings hundreds of millions to Utah economy](#)
- [State report: nearly 560 Utahns committed suicide in 2014](#)



Safety Counts

One of the number one reports of workplace accidents are because employees have their heads down looking at their phone. Be sure to put your phone and other distractions away while walking around the office, up and down the stairs and to and from your car or offices. Doing so can help you stay aware of what's in front of you and avoid any obstacles that may cause you or others harm.



October Calendar

[National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)

[National Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

Oct. 3 — [First Annual Foster Care Conference](#)

Oct. 10 — Columbus Day, [World Mental Health Day](#)

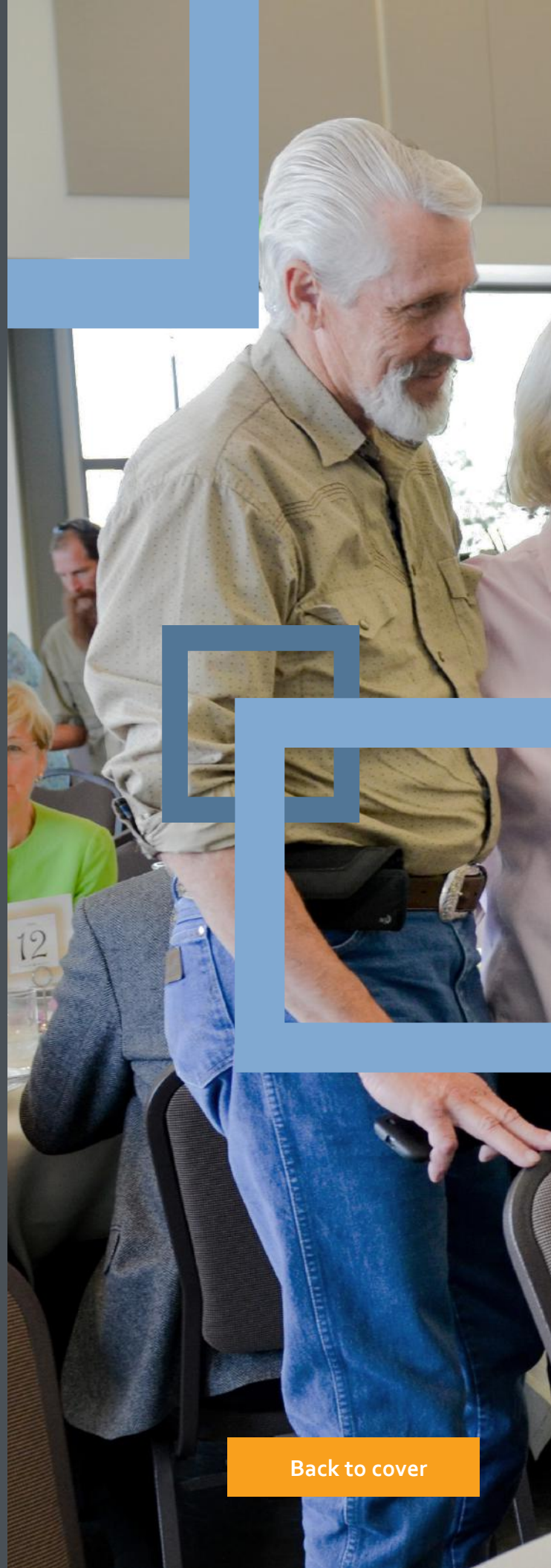
Oct. 17 — [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

Oct. 18 — Southwest Region System of Care Summit

Oct. 20 — Social Services Interim Meeting

Oct. 25-26 — Child Welfare Institute

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