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For More Information
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DHS Leaders Appointed

DES MOINES, Iowa – Department of Human Services Director Charles Krogmeier Friday named Sally Titus and Jan Clausen as deputy directors of the newly reorganized department.

“In the short time that I have been here, I have leaned heavily on the expertise and institutional memory of these outstanding executives, and I’m delighted that they have agreed to serve as deputy directors,” Krogmeier said.

Titus is currently deputy director in charge of field operations, while Clausen is the chief financial officer for the DHS, which is the state’s largest department with 5,700 employees. Titus will become deputy for programs and services, while Clausen will become deputy for administration.

Krogmeier consolidated nine central-office divisions into six. Three of the administrators will remain unchanged. They are Tom Huisman, administrator of data management; Vern Armstrong, administrator of the restructured field operations division; and Jennifer Vermeer, administrator of the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise.

Jeanne Nesbit, currently the administrator of a division that includes the Child Support Recovery Unit, will become director of the division on Mental Health and Disability Services. That division is responsible for all nine of the facilities managed by DHS.

Wendy Rickman, currently the service area manager for the Des Moines regional office, will become administrator of the new Division of Adult, Children and Family Services. That division is responsible for administration of various benefit programs plus programs to evaluate and respond to reports of child abuse or neglect.

A person to succeed Clausen as head of the division of fiscal management will be appointed later.

Krogmeier also consolidated the eight regional offices into five. Replacing Rickman in the new combined Des Moines and Ames regions will be Pat Penning, who currently leads a region headquartered in Sioux City. That office will be located in Des Moines.

The two western service areas headquartered in Council Bluffs and Sioux City were also combined, with Tom Bouska taking that position. Bouska is currently service area manager for the region based in Council Bluffs.

The two eastern regions headquartered in Dubuque and Davenport were also combined. Gary Lippe, currently head of the Dubuque-based region, will assume leadership of that area.

Denise Gonzales, currently the manager in the Davenport-based region, will direct the newly created “centralized” service area, which will take over several duties, including centralized intake for child abuse and neglect. The centralized unit will consolidate the current intake units located in each of the eight regional offices.

The location of the western and eastern regional offices will be announced later.

Marc Baty and Evan Klenk will continue as directors of regional offices based in Cedar Rapids and Waterloo, respectively. Ken Riedel, director of the Ames based region that has been combined with Des Moines, has announced he will retire.

Krogmeier has directed the new leadership to present a transition plan to him early next month, with the new structure to be in place no later than next June. He said the consolidations will trim between 20 and 40 positions, most of them supervisory.

Here are links to the new table of organization and the new regional office structure:

<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/newto.pdf>

<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/NewServiceAreas.pdf>