



Media Release

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DHS Names New Director of Aging and Adult Services

The Arkansas Department of Human Services has named Krista May Hughes director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Hughes began her DHS career in 1989 as the Assistant Director for the Division of Aging and Adult Services where she managed Home and Community Based Services. In that role, Hughes was responsible for the approval and initiation of the Elder Choices Waiver Program, a program that offers aging Arkansans a menu of alternatives to institutional care.

“Cultivating an infrastructure of community based options for our seniors and adults with disabilities is an effort that has been built over the last 20 years,” said John Selig, director of the Department of Human Services. “Krista’s experience will help us as we continue to change the way we deliver services to our clients.”

After working in the private sector, Hughes returned to her roots in public service in 2007 to oversee one of the largest aging grants ever awarded, Money Follows the Person. The grant has allowed Arkansas to redefine its service delivery approach and enables the system to grow with the needs of its clients.

“I have worked in both for-profit and non-profit organizations that provide services to seniors, but public service is where my passion lies,” said Hughes “My heart is with those who don’t have any other resources. I want to work to improve options for those consumers.”

Hughes holds a master’s degree in Gerontology Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a bachelor’s degree in Adapted Physical Education and Kinesiology from the University of Southern Mississippi. Hughes will assume her role as director effective immediately.