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## director'sdesk

What a month we've had! I am so grateful for the hard work of the General Assembly in working with the Governor to pass the stopgap bill, but this will not be an immediate process. Our Department is working closely with the Comptroller's office to expedite the task of establishing codes for FY16 & FY17 so that payments can be processed.

It has been a long road to get us to this point, but it will only be a little longer. With the passage of the stopgap bill, I am happy to say that we will have the ability to issue payments that will make our providers whole for FY16.

As we begin to move forward into FY17, I'm constantly encouraged by the optimism of our staff and the resolve of our network. As we continue to work together, I know that older adults in Illinois will receive the care and services they need to remain in their homes.

*Jean Bohnhoff*  
*Director-designate, IDoA*

***"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work."***  
*~ William Arthur Ward ~*

## in|theneews

Last month, [WAND](#) highlighted the State's recognition of June 15th as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In addition to the multitude of people from both IDoA and our sister agency, the Department of Natural Resources, we received photos from offices all over the state with staff wearing purple in solidarity to help raise awareness of elder and adult abuse in Illinois.

Among the offices wearing purple as a show of support were CRIS Healthy Aging Center; the Southwestern Illinois Visiting Nurses Association; the Vermillion County State's Attorney's office; and the Midland Area Agency on Aging.

Thank you everyone who participated in this important day of awareness! If you haven't already, don't forget to visit our [FB page](#) to see a [video](#) of Director Bohnhoff addressing IDoA and IDNR staff on to mark the occasion!



# resident's corner

From the Office of Older American Services

## HOT WEATHER CAN BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH AND LIFE!

With the onset of summer weather, all Illinoisans must take on additional responsibilities to prevent heat related illness that can be life threatening. Health problems and isolation are factors that make older people particularly susceptible to heat stress. It is also important for family members, friends and neighbors to check on those older persons who may be unable or unwilling to seek assistance.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO BEAT THE HEAT?

Some common sense tips for handling the heat include the following:

- Drink lots of water and natural juices. (Please avoid alcoholic beverages, coffees and colas.);
- Avoid going out into blazing heat, if possible;
- Avoid or minimize physical exertion;
- Keep shades drawn and blinds closed, but windows slightly open;
- Do not place tin foil over your windows, as the room temperature will rise;
- Take frequent cool baths or showers; use cool towels;
- Remain in air conditioning either at home or at a cooling center (only 1 or 2 hours in air conditioning can prevent a person from becoming ill);
- Wear loose cotton clothing;
- Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician;
- If you are taking medications, check with your pharmacist or your doctor on any side effects due to the heat;
- Check on family members, friends and neighbors; and
- Above all, take the heat seriously, and do not ignore danger signs like nausea, dizziness and fatigue. If you or anyone you know needs medical attention, **call 911 or the local Police Department immediately.**

# local reformers

IDoA is thrilled to congratulate Bernie Wong and Esther Wong on their retirement from the Chinese American Service League (CASL) at the end of 2016.

Nearly forty years ago in the fall of 1978, Bernie, Esther, and eight more of their friends came together to create a world in which Chinese Immigrants could thrive as Americans. Today, their vision continues to flourish and has expanded to include Chicagoans of all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities.

As President and Co-Founder, Bernie has contributed immensely to CASL, establishing the largest, most comprehensive social service agency in the Midwest. Under her direction, CASL has grown from a one-person shop to Chinatown's largest employer that serves over 17,000 Chicagoans each year.

Esther's role as Co-Founder, board member (1978—2002), and Executive Director (2002—Present), has also enhanced the impact of the agency. Under her leadership, CASL has made significant infrastructural improvements, expanding the agency's programs to include housing and financial education—now one of CASL's largest programs.

The transition has been underway since March of 2015 and is currently being spearheaded by a committee of board members and CASL leadership under the guidance of an expert transition advisor. The CASL expects a smooth transition and encourages the community to share any questions, concerns, and warm wishes for Bernie and Esther's achievements with Director of Development and Communications Jered Pruitt ([jered\\_pruitt@caslservice.org](mailto:jered_pruitt@caslservice.org)).

Though they will be missed, the mark Bernie and Esther have made on the lives of Chicagoans will never be forgotten. IDoA congratulates Bernie and Esther on their retirement and thanks them for their decades of extraordinary service.



## agencyinsider

Effective July 1, 2016, the State of Illinois transitioned 1,700 Information & Technology staff from every agency into the new Department of Innovation Technology (DoIT). This move allows us to coordinate, develop, maintain and operate our information technology systems, applications and data across all state agencies to better serve all who live in and do business with the State of Illinois.

As a part of this technology transformation the State is moving to break down the data sharing complexities between agencies to build a better 360 degree view of every client. To facilitate this project, the state began work on the Enterprise Memorandum of Understanding (eMOU) for interagency data sharing. The goal of this agreement is to create a standard legal framework and increase efficiency and security around interagency data sharing.

This agreement was drafted by the agencies General Counsel, guided by the leadership of Mitch Holzrichter from the Governor's Office. The document was reviewed by each agency CIO's to provide guidance on the technical specifications, and the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer provided standards regarding technical security around data sharing. This team researched eMOU agreements from other states to ensure best practices were followed.

Our goal is to have a streamlined process for agencies to access data sets from multiple agencies. This will provide a plug and play technical environment allowing an agency the right to view data; they will be provided access to the appropriate information in that environment, which will eliminate issues with creating multiple interfaces between agency systems.

To date, 13 agencies have signed the eMOU:

1. Department on Aging
2. Central Management Services
3. Department of Human Services
4. Department of Innovation and Technology
5. Department of Juvenile Justice
6. Department of Children and Family Services
7. Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
8. Department of Public Health
9. Department of Corrections
10. State Board of Education
11. Department of Employment Security
12. Department of Veterans Affairs
13. Department of Healthcare and Family Services

## at|thecapitol

On Thursday, June 29th, both the House and the Senate adjourned for summer. They are scheduled to return to session in November.

Before they left Springfield, the General Assembly sent several hundred bills to the Governor's desk, including SB 2047, the "stopgap" budget bill. The Governor signed SB 2047 into law on June 29th, and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, the Comptroller's Office, and state agencies are working to pass those funds on to providers. Expect more information on these funds to come from the department soon.

The Governor is currently reviewing over 400 other bills that have passed both the House and the Senate. Once sent to the Governor's desk, he has 60 days to sign them into law or veto these bills. Look for updates on bills that affect the aging network in our next newsletter and on the "Legislation" section of our website.

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social media!*



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