

# The Advocate



## A New Independence Day!

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Lisa Lee Williams, D.Min, MaOM  
Executive Director,  
Office of the Ombudsman and Administrative Review

“Juneteenth” – a well-known term among African-Americans has now become part of America’s vocabulary. It marks the day when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas on June 19, 1865 and told African-Americans that President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, signed on January 1, 1863, had declared slaves residing in the Confederate States free. For African-Americans it has marked their special Independence Day for 166 years.

On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Congressional bill establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. Governor Beshear also issued a Proclamation last week recognizing Juneteenth and said that he would sign any bill passed by the General Assembly that also makes it a State holiday. Meanwhile, communities across Kentucky continued or started special Juneteenth celebrations with renewed vigor. In Lexington, Kentucky, the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Juneteenth Jubilee was celebrated in African Cemetery No. 2, the first cemetery owned and operated by African-Americans in Kentucky, with programs celebrating and educating attendees about their culture and history. Midway’s Mayor Vandegrift issued an Executive Order making June 19, 2021 an annual city holiday for its workers and ordering city offices closed in commemoration. In Louisville, since Mayor Fisher had declared Juneteenth a holiday for Louisville Government employees last year, the Juneteenth Jubilee was part of a week-long series of activities, including a marketplace and entertainment venue on June 19 centered around 4<sup>th</sup> Street Live.

As we look forward to the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, I encourage all of you to participate in future Juneteenth activities in your communities. These activities broaden our knowledge and bring us together – two important steps in ensuring that our Kentucky families celebrate the rich diversity and accomplishments of our Commonwealth. *(Written by Carolyn Vose)*



### Statewide Announcements:

**July 1, 2021** — Deadline for completing your Living Well Promise.

**SUBMISSIONS** — Emailed submissions are due July 24th to: [carolyn.vose@ky.gov](mailto:carolyn.vose@ky.gov)



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## Employee spotlight:

### Sandra F Miller, HSAHB

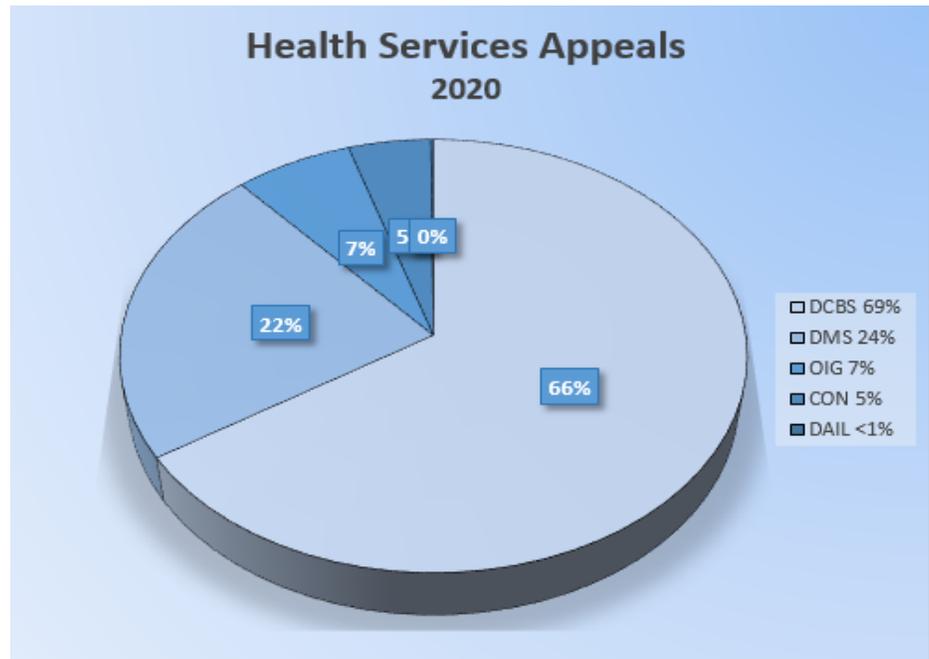
Sandra F. Miller joined the Division of Administrative Hearings Health Services Administrative Hearings Branch (DAH) five years ago after serving as a Case Manager for 9 ½ years in the Kentucky Attorney General's Civil Litigation/Child Support division.

As an Administrative Specialist III, Sandra now supports four administrative hearing attorneys. The work involves coordinating hearing schedules and locations, handling certified mailing of all Notices of Hearing and Final Orders, answering appellant questions concerning their appeals, maintaining electronic case folders and updating Gen-Track records. Hers is a big responsibility that Sandra always balances professionally and with great skill. Sandra's attorneys would be at a loss without her support. Her cheerfulness and presence during the COVID-19 pandemic have been sorely missed by everyone at DAH.

Sandra lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky with her husband. Their children are all grown but their Scottish terrier, Arlo, keeps them company.



## Health Services Administrative Hearings Branch: Rebecca Baylous, J.D. , Branch Manager & Assistant General Counsel



The Health Services Administrative Hearings Branch (HSAHB or The Branch) is one of two branches at the Division of Administrative Hearings (DAH). With 12 attorneys serving as Administrative Hearing Officers and 5 support staff, the Branch has jurisdiction over 100+ different types of hearings. The Branch is headed by an Assistant General Counsel/Attorney Manager.

Kentucky Administrative Regulations, KRS 13B and other Kentucky statutes govern the work at HSAHB. Individuals and companies may appeal adverse actions taken by various Cabinet for Health and Family Services agencies or the Department of Medicaid Services. The graph above illustrates the source of these appeals in 2020.

Appeals from child abuse, child neglect, adult abuse or exploitation determinations made by the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) comprise the majority of DAH administrative hearings. The Department of Medicaid Services (DMS) appeals include individual denials of covered services made by either the Cabinet or by Managed Care Organizations that administer certain portions of Kentucky's Medicaid program under contract with the Cabinet. Healthcare providers typically appeal Medicaid reimbursement determinations or disputes related to their Medicaid provider agreements with the Cabinet. The Office of Inspector General imposes citations and penalties based on noncompliance with governing regulations, such as day care centers.

Branch attorneys preside over administrative hearings on these disputes and issue written recommendations or final orders on whether the Cabinet acted fairly, appropriately, and in compliance with applicable law. Through this process, Kentucky citizens are able to have a voice regarding Cabinet actions that affect their lives and livelihoods.

# Summer Fun!



After 15 months of dealing with COVID-19, Kentucky families can finally look forward to a more normal summer with backyard family barbecues, planned getaways and vacations, and enjoyment of community-sponsored fireworks. Whether you plan to stay home or venture beyond your home base to enjoy this special 4th of July weekend, below are some ideas for family fun activities in the Frankfort, Lexington and Louisville areas. They include concerts, historic re-enactments and of course—fireworks! Whichever you choose—Enjoy and Be Safe!

- **Frankfort**

<https://visitfrankfort.com/events/>

- **Lexington**

<https://www.lexingtonky.gov/news/06-29-2021/fourth-july-information>

- **Louisville**

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2021/06/25/louisville-fireworks-2021-best-places-events->

[celebrate-july-4th/7705448002/](https://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/events/things-to-do/2021/06/25/louisville-fireworks-2021-best-places-events-)



## Word of the Month: Fidelity *(noun)*

Faithfulness to a person, cause, or belief, demonstrated by continuing loyalty and support.

- Example: he sought only the strictest fidelity to justice.

*Source: Oxford Dictionary*