

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone,

It has never seemed as busy and crazy here at the OIG as it is now for some reason, and if it is busy here, I am very certain that most of you are also feeling extremely busy and overwhelmed. I know we (and probably many of you) just need to take a deep breath and step back and realize we WILL get through things and move on to new and different challenges. There is never a dull moment in this business of health care.

Today, I would like to take a moment and introduce you to our new management staff. We have a new Regional Program Manager in the Northern Enforcement Branch in Louisville, Belinda Beard. Belinda has been Acting Regional Program Manager, but has now accepted the position on a permanent basis. Belinda has been a surveyor for many years in the Louisville region, and also brings years of clinical nursing experience in health care settings, as well as management in the private sector.

Charles Ballou is our new Assistant Regional Program Manager in the Northern Enforcement Branch. Charles has been with OIG for several years surveying various levels of care, and worked in a variety of healthcare positions in the private sector as a nurse and in management before coming to OIG.

Ann Clark has accepted the position of Branch Manager of our Training and Quality Assurance Branch in Central Office in Frankfort. Ann has spent many years with OIG and retired a few years ago from this agency. She has returned to us and functioned as a Human Services Compliance Analyst working with LTC before accepting this management position.

Also, you may have noticed we have a new MDS/OASIS/IDR Coordinator, Buffy Stone. Buffy is a nurse with previous MDS Coordinator experience and LTC experience in a facility setting and has worked as a surveyor in both the Louisville and Hopkinsville regions. Buffy's workstation in her new position will continue to be the Louisville office.

We are very pleased to have these excellent staff in their new positions. Please join us in welcoming them to their new positions in our agency.

I really wish I had time to provide some more updates and answer some questions we have received in this issue of the newsletter, but will have to defer that to the June newsletter. Hopefully, things will have calmed down to a quiet roar by then.

Enjoy the start of summer and take time to smell the roses!

Sandra Houchen, Director, DHC