



FSSA Update

January 2017



FSSA's new Secretary, Dr. Jennifer Walthall is welcomed to the team by outgoing Secretary Dr. John Wernert.

FSSA Welcomes Secretary Walthall

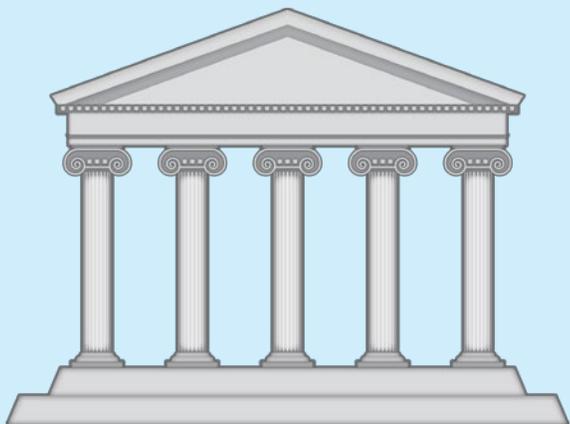
On January 9, the day Eric Holcomb was inaugurated as Indiana's 51st governor, his choice to lead FSSA also arrived for her first official day in office. Dr. Jennifer Walthall, MD, MPH, previously served at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) as the Deputy Health Commissioner and Director for Health Outcomes, Dr. Walthall was initially made responsible for three critical ISDH health initiatives: infant mortality, smoking and obesity. However, she was also called to serve when crisis situations occurred, overseeing outreach efforts for the HIV outbreak in Scott County and East Chicago lead contamination.

Dr. Walthall is the second medical doctor to serve as FSSA secretary, following Dr. Wernert. A pediatrician by trade, she has served as the Division Chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine and an Associate Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and attended the Indiana University School of Medicine. She also received her Masters of Public Health from the Indiana University Department of Public Health.

"I am very excited to join the FSSA team as your new secretary in a period of positive transition and opportunity," said Dr. Walthall in her introductory letter to FSSA staff. "As a pediatric emergency physician, I see this work as thematic. When I work shifts in the ED, I see when the processes that we build have holes and kids fall through. I have spent my academic career and time in public health building systems for the broken. FSSA is the realization of this dream to fill those holes through direct service that is top notch and compassionate. This approach is a continuation of Dr. Wernert's vision, and I am incredibly humbled by the opportunity to shepherd them to completion and then create new visions with all of you."

Governor Holcomb outlines five agenda priorities

Indiana's new Governor, Eric Holcomb, has outlined five priorities that he calls "pillars" of his legislative agenda. The "Five Pillars of Indiana's 2017 Next Level Legislative Agenda" are:



1. Cultivate a strong and diverse economy by growing Indiana as a magnet for jobs.
2. Create a 20-year plan to fund roads and bridges.
3. Develop a 21st Century skilled and ready workforce.
4. Attack the drug epidemic.
5. Deliver great government service.

Details about each pillar are available by [clicking here](#).



NEW HUB LOOK COMING SOON

yaaaaay!



Heroes in Recovery

In December, Division of Mental Health and Addiction employees Michael Ross and Denny Ailes received Heroes in Recovery awards from Mental Health America of Indiana. The award celebrates the dedication and



Denny Ailes

and commitment of those who truly promote recovery of individuals in their ongoing treatment of serious and persistent mental illness. Individuals who best exemplify ongoing care and dedication in this field are nominated by their peers within the local mental health community.

Michael Ross was nominated by his “Battle Buddy,” Cory Smith, and received the award for advocacy. Cory was the guest speaker at the event sharing his very powerful story of recovery along with Michael.

Denny Ailes was nominated by his former supervisor, Diana Williams, and received the award for government officials.

Congratulations to Michael and Denny!



Michael Ross (right), with “Battle Buddy” Cory Smith



Aging knits hats

Division of Aging staff members recently displayed some mad knitting/crocheting skills. To help celebrate the American Heart Association’s American Heart Month staff made 139 red hats that will be distributed to participating hospitals and given to babies born in February.

Pictured (left to right) are Sherry Beck, Alysha Scheeler, Lydia Ott, Mindy New and Gloria Wright.

Five Questions



Name: Rachel Lane

Title: Deputy Director and State Administrator, Indiana Disability Determination Bureau

Education: MBA, The Ohio State University, B.S. dual major business and marketing, Franklin University, Certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt (LSS MBB), Project Management Professional

Career Highlights: Prior to joining FSSA, Rachel owned and managed Lane Strategic Consulting, LLC where she collaborated with organizations to develop, implement and operationalize enterprise, business transformation efforts. She also led operational excellence deployments for Nationwide Insurance and OneAmerica Financial Partners, supporting nearly 40,000 associates.

Rachel has also served as Corporate Deployment Leader and Master Black Belt for Cardinal Health and has worked at several fortune 500 companies including Sterling Commerce, an IBM company, and Accenture, where she led multiple start-up organizations.

1 What attracted you to a career here at FSSA?

The opportunity to assist in fulfilling the agency's overall mission of helping Hoosiers achieve healthy, self-sufficient and productive lives.

2 What gives you a sense of accomplishment professionally?

I feel accomplished when I have the opportunity to improve outcomes for our clients through innovation and process improvement efforts as well as helping associates grow and develop their careers.

3 What do you want FSSA workers to know about the work you're doing?

The associates at the Indiana Disability Determination Bureau are extremely dedicated to serving the citizens of Indiana with compassion and empathy. Our team processes over 100K claims annually and ranks among the top agencies in

the nation for productivity, quality and mean processing time. I am truly grateful to serve alongside such an amazing team of individuals.

4 What is the best advice you can offer, based on your years of experience?

The best advice I can share with you is to get outside of your comfort zone by being open to change and willing to try new experiences. It was a significant change transitioning from private industry to government. However, it has been rewarding, both personally and professionally.

5 What about your background might your co-workers find surprising?

I've had the privilege of working in every corporate function/department within an organizational structure except for accounting/finance. This was deliberate, as my original career goal was to become a chief operating officer.