August 2021

CMS Connection

Illinois Department of Central Management Services' Monthly Newsletter

Director Janel L. Forde

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

August is an exciting time in Illinois. We are welcoming back the Illinois State Fair and this year, back to school means that children will resume **full-time, in-person learning** with their classmates and teachers. These are major milestones in our journey to get back to a space that we can safely enjoy the experiences that we cherish with our families, like the infamous butter cow and the first day of school.

Safety remains the top priority as medical experts at the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)** closely monitor trends in the COVID-19 pandemic and its emerging variants. The latest guidance from IDPH and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** makes it clear that **if you have not been vaccinated, you are still vulnerable to COVID-19**. Furthermore in Illinois, guidance has been updated to require face coverings in all State facilities for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people. The State is taking this action to keep us safe in the workplace and to ensure that our worksite standards align with the latest recommendations from the CDC and the **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)**. Following recent rises in COVID-19 cases, the CDC and IDPH recommend everyone in areas with substantial and high transmission, wear a face covering. This guidance includes people who are fully vaccinated.

I understand that we are all eager to enjoy all that the dog days of summer have to offer, and the best way to keep your family safe is to **get vaccinated and stay vigilant with recommended safety precautions** like washing your hands and masking up. You can visit the State's coronavirus web site to find a vaccination site near you.

Illinois schools have also released updated guidance and all children who return for in-person learning should wear face coverings if they are not fully vaccinated. At this time, children under the age of 12 are not eligible for vaccination so be sure to check in with your child's school for specific guidance to ensure you are fully prepared for the first day.

As always, I am proud of the progress we are making together, and I hope that you know how instrumental your work has been in getting us to this point. I hope that you enjoy this month and all of the exciting times that lie ahead.

Submit photos of your child(ren)'s first day of school by August 30, 2021 here for inclusion in the September newsletter. We're excited to see your future leaders!

EMPLOYEE TEAM OF THE MONTH - August 2021
Illinois Office of Information and Communication (IOCI)

Congratulations to the Illinois Office of Communication and Information (IOCI) for being named exemplary employee team of the month for August 2021. IOCI has been awarded this honor for their dedicated work in supporting the communication needs of State agencies and the Governor's office, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The essential work of the IOCI team requires them to be "on" during off hours and weekends and, in many cases, onsite as they work behind the scenes to address the evolving needs of the State's response. This includes **daily video and radio coverage of the Governor's press updates** and **technical support for special projects**, like updates to the Blue Room, and the **design and production of safety and directional signage for properties statewide**, which have all been critical components of the State's efforts to ensure Illinois residents and employees have the information they need to stay safe.

IOCI is comprised of a team of graphic design professionals; **Becky DuPont**, **Jason Gould**, **Dave Haley**, **Trevor Ollech** and **Dani Troemper-Haven**; videography professionals, **Tony Bateman**, **Jack Buckholz**, **David Johnson**, **Norman Ibarra** and **Mark Suszko**; engineer **Aubrey Troesch**; radio professional **Kim Howard**; editorial professional **Shannon Fitts-Tamblin** and operations manager **Connie Newman**.

The work of the Bureau is more complex than most may realize and is reliant on the technical expertise and experience of the team's members as each day brings new challenges which were only heightened by the pandemic.

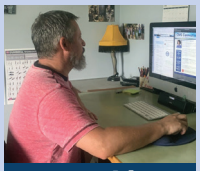
"Our team may be small, but there is no deficit of passion and dedication to this work," said IOCI Deputy Director **Marjani Williams**. **"The past year has been extremely challenging for everyone, and this team showed up every day on the frontlines to do the behind the scenes work that keeps the State's communications functions working** - The video team was on the road, transporting hundreds of pounds of equipment to video shoots each day and still supporting the **Director's Monday Message**. Kim was building daily radio news stories and supporting projects like **Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton's podcast**. Shannon sent thousands of press releases out of behalf of the entire State. The graphic design team supported the dissemination of **Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)** guidance and helped stand up COVID-19 testing sites statewide. Aubrey was an invaluable resource for the Bureau and is often in two places at once, making the impossible happen for video livestreaming."

The work of the Bureau is no easy feat and the team has stepped up to cover several vacancies within the Bureau to keep up with requests. **Williams credits the team for their willingness to maintain an "all hands on deck" approach** and the conscious leadership of Operations Manager **Connie Newman** in Springfield.

"Connie has more than 20 years of media experience and she remains in a learning position. She is never afraid to ask the questions that need to be answered," said Williams. "She understands the complexities and, in many cases, sensitivities, that are involved in this work and she never hesitates to jump in to make sure things get done."

Congratulations IOCI! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed and CMS is proud of you.

DuPont


Gould

Troemper-Haven

Haley

Ollech

Tamblin

Newman

Bateman

Buckholz

Johnson

Suszko

Troesch

Howard

Ibarra

SAFETY CORNER

National Immunization Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This annual observance highlights the importance of getting recommended vaccines throughout your life. This year, the COVID-19 vaccine has taken center stage, and rightfully so, as it has helped to reduce the number of new infections finally moving us to a place that we can safely reopen Illinois.

You have the power to protect yourself and your family against serious ailments like not only **COVID-19, but whooping cough, cancers caused by HPV, and pneumonia**, through on-time vaccination.

This month, you are encouraged you talk to your doctor, nurse, or other healthcare professional such as your pharmacist, to ensure that you and your family are up to date on recommended vaccines. If you have not already taken the COVID-19 vaccine, visit https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/ for more information and to find a free vaccine site near you.

Parents, as children head back to school this fall, please make sure vaccination is at the top of your checklist. Check in with your child's school to be sure that you are aware of required vaccinations and visit the **Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)** Interactive Vaccine Guide, which provides information on the vaccines recommended during and throughout your child's life.

August is also a key time to make sure you are up to date on all the vaccines you need to stay healthy. Use the CDC's adult vaccine assessment tool to see which vaccines might be right for you.

EMPLOYEE SHOUTOUT

Shout out to the **CMS Bureau of Property Management's (BoPM)** Facility Manager **Miguel Zermeno** and **Nathan Conrad** for their work to renovate the Division of Vehicles' fuel islands in Elgin and Ottawa. At both sites, all rust was removed off the metal frame and surfaces on island and the bollards, exterior canopy and posts were sanded, primed and painted to match existing colors.

CMS thanks you for your hard work and commitment to excellence.

555 W. Monroe One of Four IL Real Estate Award Finalists

The State's newly acquired **555 W. Monroe building** was one of four finalists for the **2021 Illinois Real Estate Journal Real Estate Awards** in the Office Project category for CMS' work to optimize the State of Illinois real estate portfolio in downtown Chicago.

In 2020, the State successfully acquired **555 W. Monroe** directly from the seller, avoiding $2 million in brokerage commissions and at a price $73.25 million. The new building is **LEED Silver** certified, constructed with modern and sustainable systems, and will be the new worksite for many employees relocating from the **James R. Thompson Center (JRTC)** which uses nearly double the energy of Chicago benchmark buildings.

Congratulations to the Bureau of Property Management for this honor and shoutout to Chief Operating Officer **Ayse Kalaycioglu**, Chief of Staff **Anthony Pascente**, and Deputy Chief Operating Officer **Joel Vieyra** for their hard work on this project.

WELLNESS WEBINARS

Getting Through the Stages of Pregnancy
Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Join this webinar to:

- Understand the relationship between hormones and pregnancy emotions.
- Learn five ways to stress less during pregnancy.
- Recognize the psychological changes during all three trimesters.

Click here to join

No Such Thing as a Perfect Parent
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Join this webinar to:

- Identify the myths associated with being a "perfect parent".
- Identify the dangers associated with "helicopter" parenting.
- Describe the distinction between "perfect" and "good enough" parenting.
- Describe how "good enough" parenting fosters independence and self-confidence in children.
- Identify the factors which affect your parenting style.
- Identify the relationship between your own childhood experiences and your present parenting style.
- Identify positive communication skills and conflict resolution techniques associated with effective parenting.
- Describe the use of "Positive Discipline".
- Describe how "I messages" impact communication.
- Identify the importance of appropriate role modeling.

Click here to join

WELLNESS PODCASTS

Care Coordination Services
The *Hally® Healthcast*, has a special panel discussion about care coordination and health coaching services. By the end of the episode, members listening will not only learn if care coordination is right for them, but they'll also hear exactly how it can help them live their healthiest life. The three subject matter experts featured in this episode all work at Health Alliance, based in Champaign, Illinois. **Karen Noffke** and **Melissa Cecil** are both Care Coordinators, **Brian Plotner** is a Health Coach, and all three are experts in the services they provide.

Click here to listen

EVENTS CORNER

2021 Illinois State Fair

The Illinois State Fair is back for 2021 and will run from **August 12-22, 2021**. This year, the Fair will bring back rides and attractions, competitions and favorites like the butter cow, which is **celebrating its 100th anniversary**.

If you're planning to visit the Fair, be sure to **visit CMS and Be Well Illinois at Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton's tent**. A special shout out to CMS Carpenter **Eddy Warneck** who helped build the wall for the Governor's tent.

Once on the Fairgrounds, you will be required to follow proper safety precautions, including **wearing face coverings for unvaccinated adults and children under 12**.

Visit https://www2.illinois.gov/statefair/info/Pages/Default.aspx to learn more about the Fair, check out the Grandstand line up and purchase tickets.

Congratulations Dina Ninfo! 2021 Carole K. Bellows Women of Influence Award Recipient

CMS is proud to announce that our very own Dina Ninfo, Personnel Counsel in the Bureau of Legal Services, is a recipient of the **2021 Carole K. Bellows Women of Influence Award, presented by the Illinois State Bar Association (ISBA)**. Dina has served CMS Legal Services team for 3 years and was awarded for her advocacy for women's legal issues. She is also a frequent speaker to legal audiences on women's issues and is dedicated to combating sexual harassment and sex discrimination in the legal profession. Including the following two speaking engagements:

- Women Under Attack: An Initiative of the Illinois State Bar Association Women and the Law Committee
- Combating Sexual Harassment in the Legal Profession

The Carole K. Bellows Women of Influence award is presented by the ISBA's Standing Committee on Women and the Law and **honors two individuals each year** that raise awareness to the unmet legal needs of women, advocates for action addressing women's issues, or promotes involvement by women in the legal community at all levels. The Honorable Carole K. Bellows made history as **the first woman in the country to serve as President of a State Bar Association** and her career is an inspiration to Women in the legal field and beyond.

Please join us in congratulating Dina on this outstanding achievement.

August is Black Business Month. Throughout the month, the CMS Business Enterprise Program (BEP) will highlight Black-owned businesses on the CMS Facebook and LinkedIn pages and host a vendor networking fair to connect BEP vendors to procurement opportunity with the State of Illinois and beyond. Visit the BEP events page for more information.

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