

New Executive Director Named By Trustees

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OHFA's Board of Trustees have named Deborah Jenkins as executive director designee. Jenkins will succeed Dennis Shockley when he retires October 2 after 20 years of service.

Jenkins has served as director of the agency's statewide Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program since 1999. Prior to holding this position, she served multiple roles within OHFA in more than a decade of service.

"I am excited and humbled by this opportunity to lead OHFA," Jenkins said. "Serving as the executive director will allow me to fulfill my personal mission of ensuring Oklahoma's most cost burdened residents have access to affordable housing."

Jenkins is a member of the housing committee for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials; a former member of the Board of Governors for NAHRO; and past president of the Oklahoma Chapter of NAHRO.



News on 8

A Newsletter for Section 8 Rental Assistance Landlords and Tenants
Published Twice Yearly by Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency

At Your SERVICE

Not knowing if she would have a seizure, fall down and hurt herself in public, Laurie Jakeman wouldn't take that chance and rarely left home. This decision made her unhappy.

"I'm too young to be sitting here in this house," Laurie remembered thinking.

A seizure alert dog seemed to be the perfect solution. A type of service dog, seizure alert dogs can smell the chemical reactions that occur in the human body right before a seizure. By alerting their owner, the person has time to get safely on the ground before the seizure begins.

More than a year ago, Laurie visited Paws With A Cause where its staff induced her into a seizure. She woke up with a 12-week old Bullmastiff on her chest licking her face.

"He picked me," Laurie said.

From the dogs there, this one detected her seizure. Laurie named him Lael, and after training with him for four months, he came home to live with her.

When Lael detects one of Laurie's seizures, he bumps her with his nose repeatedly. She has not had a single



Laurie Jakeman's seizure alert dog, Lael, changed her life.

falling accident and experienced fewer seizures since Lael moved in.

"[Service dogs] calm you," Laurie explained. "They make it so you're not afraid."

Also trained as a mobility dog, Lael wears a harness with a metal handle Laurie can grab for balance.

"He leans against me if I start to stumble so I don't fall," she said.

Currently at 100 pounds and projected to grow to 200 pounds, Lael goes everywhere Laurie goes, including airplanes, movie theaters and restaurants.

"He has gotten me out of the house again," Laurie said happily.

Unable to work, Laurie receives rental assistance through OHFA's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.



Contact List

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Recertification Team 1 <i>Alphabet A,D,G,H,K,M,O, and X</i>	(405) 419-8166 Fax: (405) 419-9166
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Recertification Team 3 <i>Alphabet E,F,L,Q,R,S,V,W, and Z</i>	(405) 419-8168 Fax: (405) 419-9168
Initial Certification Team	(405) 419-8169 Fax: (405) 419-9169
Preapp Status line	1-866-569-6306 or (405) 879-6365
Local Leasing line	(405) 842-2471
Toll-free Leasing line	1-800-256-1489
Fax Number	(405) 879-8822
Office Operations <i>Mary Hoock, Manager</i> <i>Ken Erb, Supervisor</i>	(405) 419-8266 (405) 419-8233
Field Operations <i>Kenneth Love, Manager</i> <i>Dodie Pool, Supervisor</i>	(405) 419-8268 (405) 419-8230
FSS/ Home Ownership Specialists <i>Kathy Stafford</i> <i>Ryland Moore</i> <i>Emmy Hise-Doran</i>	(405) 419-8236 (405) 419-8197 (405) 419-8171



Oklahoma Quality Award Winner

OHFA's Administrative Plan for the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program may be viewed at www.ohfa.org or at its central office by appointment.

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Oklahoma City, OK 73116

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Oklahoma City, OK 73126

Executive Director
Dennis Shockley

Rental Assistance Director
Deborah Jenkins

NEWS on 8 Editor
Diana Rogers Jaeger, APR

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Taking Pride in Renting



Sheela Srivilliputhur uses her role as a Section 8 landlord to help those who are helping themselves.

"I'll give you a nice place to live, but show me you are actively doing something to better your life," she said.

Sheela said she encourages her tenants to go to school and tells them that their rent will never increase while they're taking classes. She proudly mentioned that two of her tenants no longer need housing assistance.

"They used the program as a step up," she said.

Sheela previously lived in all three of the houses she rents to tenants on the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Each house has central heat and air, double pane windows, an alarm system, a washer and dryer, and above average appliances.

Terrika Daniels rents from Sheela.

"I haven't had a landlord as involved as her," Terrika said. "She makes sure her tenants are well taken care of."

Sheela doesn't let any of her tenants' neighbors know her tenants receive Section 8. She does this to prevent any negative stereotyping from occurring because she doesn't want them to be treated any differently.

"I like that about Sheela," Terrika said.

"You don't want too many people to know about your business and to look at you less than."

"People in the neighborhood really don't think [Terrika] is on government assistance," Sheela said. "It gives her that pride."

Sheela also wants her tenants to feel pride in their rent home so she always refers to her properties as "your home."

"I can't afford to let them live there rent free, but I can make a positive difference," Sheela said.

FREE Support Groups for Children & Families

The nonprofit organization Calm Waters helps children ages 3-18 and their families in their grief journey caused by death, divorce or other significant loss. They also provide support for children whose parents or grandparents are in prison.

For more information, call (405) 841-4800 or visit www.calmwaters.org.

From Nursing Home to Independent Living

Living Choice Program Makes It Possible

Adapted from an article by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority

After spending almost four years in a nursing facility, Carol Smith never thought she would gain back her independence and be able to go back to living in a home of her own.

"I felt trapped," Carol said.

Every day, she felt more discouraged and almost accepted that she would live out the rest of her life in a nursing facility. Then, one day she was handed a Living Choice brochure and her life changed forever.

The Oklahoma Living Choice Program helps individuals with disabilities and longer-term illnesses move out of nursing homes and back into their own home in the community. It helps individuals find a new home and receive services at home that can include delivered meals, transportation, skilled nursing, therapy services, dental and vision services, counseling, personal care, and medication management.

Carol now resides in her own apartment. A counselor and a nurse visit twice a week, while an aid regularly comes to help with household tasks and to run errands such as picking up groceries or prescriptions.

"I am so happy. I am able to do things on my own like cook for myself," Carol said. "I can go to church with my granddaughter and now have my own place where my friends and family can come to visit."

Living Choice staff also helped Carol obtain assistance from OHFA's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance Program.

"It is very rewarding to be able to help someone get their independence back, but most importantly their dignity," said Irene Perez, Living Choice Housing Specialist. "People in the nurs-

ing facility deserve the opportunity to live where they want while receiving services to help them stay healthy and safe."

"I encourage anybody who is capable to take advantage of this program," Carol said. "If they just believe in themselves and have confidence, they can do this! They can have their life, their independence back."

Living Choice is administered by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority and is the state's brand name for the Money Follows the Person grant program.

Individuals wanting to transition out of a nursing home and into a home of their own should call the Oklahoma Living Choice Program toll free (888) 287-2443 or visit the website www.oklivingchoice.org.



Carol Smith reads comfortably at home inside the apartment Living Choice helped her find.



Changes to Phone Number, Email & Mailing Address

Please immediately notify OHFA in writing every time your telephone number, email or mailing address changes.

Housing Assistance Payment Line

Report concerns or questions regarding rental assistance payments to (405) 848-1144, Ext. 2898. Leave a detailed message and a phone number where you can be reached.

Housing Assistance Payment History

Property owners may access payment history 24/7 at www.hapcheck.com.

Listing of Available Rental Properties

Visit <http://ohfa.gosection8.com> to view or list available units for free or call (866) 466-7328.

Field Agents

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Chris Anderson
<i>Floater Agent</i> | • Philippe Jamet
<i>Floater Agent</i> |
| • Luke Brooks
<i>East Oklahoma</i> | • Sandy Lindsley
<i>East & NE OK</i> |
| • Senna Franklin
<i>Floater Agent</i> | • Debbie Mauldin
<i>Floater Agent</i> |
| • Christina Hines
<i>Floater Agent</i> | • Shannon Ogle
<i>SE Oklahoma</i> |
| • Jack Howell
<i>East Oklahoma</i> | • Shawnta Ward
<i>Floater Agent</i> |
| • Corey King
<i>Floater Agent</i> | • Judi Wright
<i>Floater Agent</i> |
| • Rhonda Murrell
<i>Floater Agent</i> | |

Important Dates

Holidays (Offices Closed)

May 29, Memorial Day
July 4, Independence Day
September 4, Labor Day
November 10, Veterans Day
November 23 & 24, Thanksgiving
December 25 & 26, Christmas

Rental Assistance Trainings (Staff Unavailable)

June 8, September 14 & December 7

Landlord Meetings

October 5 - Lawton
October 19 - Tulsa
November 2 - Oklahoma City

2017 Homebuyer Education Classes (Current FSS Clients Only)

June 24, September 21 & December 16

Resident Advisory Board Meetings

May 11, August 24 & November 30

Program Coordinating Committee Meetings

July 27 & October 26

SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!



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Named by Trustees**



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Renting**



**From Nursing Home to
Independent Living**

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Section 8 Waiting List Still Closed

The waiting list for OHFA's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program closed June 1, 2016. Applications are no longer being accepted. OHFA will publish a notice on its website www.ohfa.org when the waiting list re-opens. Anyone on the waiting list should make sure OHFA has their current mailing address.

Free Summer Meals Available to All Children



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) exists to make sure kids continue to receive nutritious meals during summer vacation. The program provides free breakfast, lunch and snacks to all children, regardless of their family's income.

Who is eligible to receive free meals?

All children 18 years old or younger who come to an approved open site or to an eligible enrolled site.

Also, persons with disabilities up to 21 years old participating in state education programs for the mentally or physically disabled.

How do I get my kids enrolled?

To apply for the SFSP, individuals must contact a nearby site.

Locate the sites closest to your home by visiting the website <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks> or by calling the Oklahoma Child Nutrition Office at (405) 521-3327.

