



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff
From: Joette Katz, Commissioner
Date: Tuesday, May 05, 2015
Subject: National Nurses Week

National Nurses Week, which begins this year on Wednesday, May 6th and ends May 12, gives us a special opportunity to celebrate the contribution of nurses at the Department. The nurses here possess unique professional skills and perspectives that provide an invaluable contribution in all the settings where we work with our families and children. The holistic nursing approach they bring to their day-to-day work mirrors the Department's holistic mission statement: "Working together with families and communities for children who are healthy, safe, smart and strong."

This year, the American Nurses Association (ANA) theme is "Ethical Practice. Quality Care," which recognizes the importance of ethics in nursing and acknowledges the strong commitment, compassion and care nurses display in their practice and profession. The theme is an important part of ANA's 2015 Year of Ethics outreach to promote and advocate for the rights, health and safety of nurses and patients. It is no accident that the nursing profession is viewed by the public as one of the most honest and ethical of all the professions. In a 2014 Gallup Poll, 80 percent of those asked rated nurses as "very high" or "high" in standards of honesty and ethics.

At the Department, our nurses play a critical role in providing for the children and youth in our care. We employ approximately 145 nurses, including Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in our facilities, Central Office and Area Offices. Some of the services our Department nurses provide include direct nursing care to children, consultation on the health and wellness needs of our children, monitoring health practices to ensure regulatory and/or best practice standards are met, and educating care givers on how best to meet our children's health needs. Throughout all of these activities, the nurses assess children's medical and behavioral health needs to assist with evaluation, planning, treatment and education.

National Nurses Week affords us a well-deserved opportunity to recognize the important roles our Department nurses fulfill. Please join me in thanking our nurses for the daily contributions they make to the well-being of children and families we serve.