

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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For more information, contact: LuWanna Lawrence, 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl, 701-328-4933

Friedt Honored for Outstanding Work with Children and Families

BISMARCK, N.D. – Delores Friedt, birth and adoptive family services coordinator with the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Children and Family Services Division, received the Ruth Meiers Award from the North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare for her outstanding contributions in advocating for children and supporting and strengthening families.

Friedt oversees all aspects of infant, step-parent, international, and adult adoptions and assists with licensing of child placing agencies and maternity homes in North Dakota. She also administers the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children, which allows states to work together to ensure children who are placed across state lines for foster care or adoption receive adequate protection and support services. Friedt is also involved in Child and Family Services Reviews, which evaluate how child welfare services are provided in the state.

Friedt is a licensed independent clinical social worker with a career that spans nearly four decades in child welfare and human services. She joined the department's Badlands Human Service Center in Dickinson in 1981 as an assistant regional supervisor responsible for various child welfare programs. She later moved to West Central Human Service Center in Bismarck where she worked as a clinical therapist and with intensive in-home services for youth and their families. She joined the Children and Family Services Division in 1999. Friedt began her career in child welfare as a social worker in Grant and Stark counties prior to joining the department.

"Delores has dedicated her entire career to serving children and their families," said Shari Doe, director of the Children and Family Services Division. "She brings great passion and commitment to her work, which is appreciated by her peers and the families she has helped strengthen over the years."

The Ruth Meiers Award was established by the North Dakota Conference of Social Welfare in honor of the late North Dakota Lt. Governor Ruth Meiers who worked to improve the lives of those less fortunate. Meiers' career included work as a caseworker, child welfare worker, and director of the Mountrail County Social Services.

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