



Cotton County Health Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Brandie O'Connor  
Caddo County Administrative Director  
**Phone:** (405) 247-2507  
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**Outstanding Public Health Employees and Programs Recognized**

The Oklahoma State Board of Health and Oklahoma State Department of Health recognized outstanding employees and programs at the Ninth Annual Employee Recognition and Appreciation Ceremony held May 13 in Oklahoma City. Nine awards were given noting outstanding services provided by public health employees at their workplace and in their communities. Awards were provided to the following:

**County Health Department of the Year:** The Cherokee County Health Department was recognized for its community outreach and collaboration as well as the top-grade customer service staff offer to those who use the local county health department's services.

**Central Office Employee of the Year:** Tony Fleshman, nurse manager with the Maternal and Child Health Service, was recognized for his willingness to take on additional responsibilities during a time of staff shortages to include training coordinator, contract monitor, and oversight of the Maternal Mortality Review Project, which required abstracting medical records and developing case summaries.

**County Health Department Employee of the Year:** Beverly Bymun, registered nurse with the Cleveland and McClain county health departments, was recognized for her response in the May 2013 tornadoes that impacted her counties. She assured that the Moore office of the Cleveland County Health Department was open for emergency WIC and tetanus vaccinations the day after the Moore tornado and was instrumental in organizing tetanus vaccination strike teams resulting in more than 5,000 tetanus vaccinations administered in nine days.

**Central Office Commendation of the Year:** Stephen Weaver, administrative assistant for the Office of the Tribal Liaison, was recognized for his work to reduce health disparities among American Indians in Oklahoma.

**County Health Department Commendation of the Year:** Amanda Hedrick, Caddo County Health Department Children First lead nurse, organized a 5K Run/Fun Walk in an effort to raise awareness about bullying. More than 100 persons registered for the event.

**County Health Department Community Service Award:** Kyle Rogers and Ashley Green with the Comanche County Health Department Physical Activity and Nutrition Program were recognized for their work with the Fit Kids of Southwest Oklahoma Coalition. Their work included organizing the First Annual Children's Rotary Track Meet, which attracted more than 1,000 children from grades 1 through 5.

**Central Office Service of the Year:** The Long Term Care Service was recognized for its efforts to overcome staffing obstacles and address high priority complaints received regarding the care of patients in nursing homes, residential care homes, assisted living centers, and adult day care centers. The addition of 20 new surveyor positions and targeted use of overtime allowed staff to reduce complaint investigation timelines as they responded to allegations of immediate jeopardy.



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**Central Office Teamwork Award:** The Pharmacy Team was recognized for the team's ability to overcome challenges and quick response to programs to assure medications are dispensed to prevent infectious diseases.

**County Office Teamwork Award:** The Cleveland County Health Department Tornado Response Team was recognized for the team's work in dealing with the May 2013 tornadoes in Moore and Little Axe, including assuring that food served in shelters and offered to residents and volunteers in temporary and licensed food facilities was safe to eat.

The Caddo County Health Department, through its system of local health service delivery, works to protect and promote health, prevent disease and injury, and cultivate conditions that help Oklahomans be healthy. The central office in Oklahoma City provides technical guidance and support to 68 county health departments and offers guidance and consultation to the two independent city-county health departments in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. For more information, please contact the Caddo County Health Department at (405) 247-2507 or visit <http://caddo.health.ok.gov>.

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Amanda Hedrick