

## **Celesta Hartgraves**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Celesta Hartgraves is a 1990 graduate of the University of Missouri St. Louis. She holds a B.S. in Social Work.

Celesta began her career with the Department of Social Services (DSS) St. Louis City Office in 1990, where she worked as a Children's Service Worker. In this role she provided case management to intact families, foster care case management, and handled child abuse neglect investigations and adoption related services.

In 1994, Celesta transferred to the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Kirksville Regional Center. Celesta worked as a Case Manager assisting clients and their families in planning and coordinating services and monitoring the quality of services. In 1996, she promoted within the DMH Kirksville Regional Center to a Case Manager Assessment Supervisor. In this position, Celesta supervised case managers and coordinated monthly budgeting of community placements.

Celesta transferred to the Department of Social Services Jefferson City Office in 1997, where she worked as a Social Service Supervisor I. In this role, she supervised Children's Service Workers in the program areas of child investigations and family centered services. She quickly worked her way up to a Social Service Supervisor III in 1998, where she directly supervised Social Service Supervisor Is and a Social Work Specialist. She provided program management and budget oversight for all child welfare programs. From 2000 to 2005, Celesta worked as the DSS Children's Division Assistant Area Director/Field Support Manager. While working in this position, she provided consultation to 7-10 counties in Central and Eastern Missouri, including Child Welfare and Public Welfare Programs. She also performed administrative functions, acted as a liaison between the county offices and central office, monitored all levels of budgets within the offices and was part of an area administrative team that set goals for the area. In 2005, Celesta was promoted to a Designated Principal Assistant within the DSS Children's Division, where she worked until May 2010. In this role, she assisted and provided back up to the Division Director. She was responsible for Human Resources, constituent services, emergency and disaster response for the Division, responding to critical events and assisting with media relations for the Division. She also acted as the liaison between field staff and central office and served as the legislative liaison for the Division. From January 2009 to April 2009, Celesta was named Acting Director of DSS Children's Division, where she was responsible for all child welfare programs within the Children's Division and 2,100 staff in 115 counties across the state.

Celesta joined the Department of Health and Senior Services as the Director of the Division of Senior and Disability Services in May 2010.