



City of Philadelphia

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Michael A. Nutter, Mayor
Mark McDonald, Press Secretary
Office: 215-686-6210
Cell: 267-303-9248

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DHS COMMISSIONER HONORED BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS

Philadelphia, May 6, 2014 – Anne Marie Ambrose, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services, (DHS) was selected to receive the 2013 Betsey R. Rosenbaum Award for Excellence in Public Child Welfare Administrators by the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators. Commissioner Ambrose was nominated by Marc Cherna, Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and member of the Community Oversight Board, for her exceptional leadership through one of Philadelphia's most troubling times.

“Anne Marie Ambrose is a first rate manager and an inspiring leader,” Mayor Michael A. Nutter said. “Her expertise has transformed our department of Human Services, bringing it closer to the agency that the vulnerable children of our city deserve. She is a tirelessly, deeply committed, hard working fighter for children and families.”

Since being named DHS Commissioner in 2008, Commissioner Ambrose has led the Department through a major reform effort. Among the many achievements of that effort has been a dramatic reduction of the number of children in placement, as well as a 75% decrease in children placed in out-of-state care.

Commissioner Ambrose has also overseen the transition of the Department to a community-based, single case management service delivery system called ‘Improving Outcomes for Children’ (IOC). This new system utilized community-based service providers, called Community Umbrella Organizations, (CUA) to work with children and families served by the child welfare system, while DHS staff monitors, supervises and provides quality assurance measures.

“Throughout our reform effort, we have sought to learn from the best practices of other public child welfare jurisdictions,” Commissioner Ambrose said. “The administrations of those agencies were generous with their time and knowledge, which I believe has contributed to our success. Receiving this award from those peers who

I respect and admire is particularly gratifying. I am also fortunate to have an incredibly dedicated staff who are committed to ensuring the safety and well being of the children we serve. This award is a reflection of the hard work they do every day.”



Commissioner Ambrose will be honored at the NAPCWA Awards Ceremony and 30th Anniversary Commemoration on Saturday, June 14, in Washington, DC.

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Founded in 1983, **NAPCWA** is a national organization representing public child welfare agencies. It is an affiliate housed within the American Public Human Services Association. The organization provides national leadership for the development of sound policy, successful and innovative practices, and critical capacity building to improve agency performance and consumer outcomes. It aims to ensure that children in the public welfare system are safe, nurtured, in loving permanent homes and supported in their social and emotional growth and development.