

Contact: Jean Mueller  
Taney County Health Department  
320 Rinehart Road  
Phone: (417) 334-4544 ext. 224  
Cell: (417) 230-0725  
Email: [muelf@lpha.mopublic.org](mailto:muelf@lpha.mopublic.org)

**Taney County Health Department**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

*An Accredited Local Public Health Department*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 12, 2009

**Taney County Health Department Board Member Resigns**

After 15 years of serving on the Taney County Health Department Board of Trustees, Beth Huddleston, has resigned to pursue her education. She was elected to the board in 1994 and served as chairperson for the past twelve years.

Many significant changes have taken place during the her time of service including the expansion of public health services to western Taney County with the opening of an office in Branson, the opening of the Children's Dental Clinic, growth of the WIC program and most recently the integration of the City of Branson Health Department into the Taney County Health Department. Beth has been an active participant in the voluntary accreditation process for our department, a distinction held by only 13 of the 114 public health departments in the state. "It has been a pleasure to serve on this board with Beth Huddleston. Her commitment to public health is unprecedented. Her vision that "every" Taney County resident should have access to quality public health services has helped this organization grow to be a leader in the industry. I want to thank her for her many years of service and I will miss her wisdom and knowledge about public health," said board member, Janet Gard.

"We have been fortunate to have someone of Beth's caliber willing to serve on our Board of Trustees," said director, Jim Berry. "Her leadership has provided a supportive board that has been very interactive with our staff, our planning and growth process." She will be missed however; the board and staff support her decision to continue her education and ultimate goal to teach at the university level. Beth will be attending the University of Arkansas this fall to pursue a doctorate in nutrition.

The five-member board of trustees is elected at large and each serves a four-year term. If a seat is vacated before the end of their term, the Taney County Commission names a replacement to serve until the next scheduled election. The commission has appointed Debbie Redford to serve the remainder of Huddleston's term effective June 25, 2009 to April 2010. "We are pleased to have someone of Debbie's ability appointed to the board," said Berry. Her experience in environmental issues will be an asset and we look forward to her joining the board.

\*\*\*