



News Release
July 18, 2005

For more information:
Lorrie Barr – 501-526-2244
Mobile Phone – 501-831-2239
lbarr@uams.edu

1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 300, Victory Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

www.achi.net

CDC Selects ACHI as One of 25 Field Assignment Sites
CDC Public Health Prevention Specialist Will Serve Two Years in Arkansas

501-526-ACHI (2244)
501-526-2252 (Fax)

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) has been selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as one of 25 field sites to host a fellow from the Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) program. The CDC’s PHPS program is a 3-year training and service fellowship for master’s level graduates designed to train and prepare tomorrow’s public health program managers.

Rhonda Jaster, MPH, will join ACHI in August 2005 to develop a program that identifies, encourages, and optimizes the use of preventive services, disease case management, and healthy lifestyle changes among enrollees of the Arkansas State Employees, Public School Teachers, and Retirees health insurance plan.

As part of the project – **Developing a Program to Encourage and Optimize Use of Preventive Health Services** – Jaster will participate in coordinating and implementing a health and wellness program. She will collaborate with the Arkansas Employee Benefits Division (EBD), which manages the group health insurance program that includes the Arkansas State Employees, Public School Employees and Active Retirees health insurance plan; the Arkansas State Employees Association (ASEA), which is an independent non-profit organization chartered to improve state government and state employee benefits; health plan vendors; Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) Healthy Arkansas program; Arkansas’s Governors Office; and ACHI.

ACHI’s mission is to be a catalyst for improving the health of Arkansans through evidence-based research, public issue advocacy, and collaborative program development.

- more -



1401 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 300, Victory Building
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

www.achi.net

501-526-ACHI (2244)
501-526-2252 (Fax)

A native of Wisconsin, Jaster received a bachelor’s degree in Health and Wellness from the University of Minnesota in 2000. In 2004, she completed the master’s of public health program in Community Health Education at University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She is a Public Health Prevention Specialist Fellow at the CDC’s Office of Workforce and Career Development.

The CDC’s PHPS program recruits, trains, places, and pays employment-related expenses for up to 25 Specialists to work in state and local health agencies. Prevention Specialists enhance the capacity of health agencies to address unmet, documented program needs.

ACHI is a non-partisan, independent health policy center whose mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Arkansans through evidence-based research, public issue advocacy and collaborative program development.

###

*ACHI’s mission
is to be a catalyst for
improving the health
of Arkansans through
evidence-based research,
public issue advocacy,
and collaborative
program development.*