



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**



April 21, 2015

Contact: Kelsey Gorsen
Communications
651-431-2448
Kelsey.Gorsen@state.mn.us

Wood to receive Gerontological Society award

Jean Wood, executive director of the Minnesota Board on Aging and director of Aging and Adult Services for the Minnesota Department of Human Services, is receiving the Dutch Kastenbaum Outstanding Gerontologist Award from the Minnesota Gerontological Society this month.

“I cannot think of a more worthy recipient than Jean Wood, who has devoted her career to improving the lives of older adults,” said Sue Humphers-Ginther, co-president of the Minnesota Gerontological Society Board of Directors.

Humphers-Ginther said Wood’s key accomplishments have included spearheading development of Senior LinkAge Line, Minnesota’s information and referral system for older adults and their families which has expanded to include information and referral services for other populations, including the web-based minnesotahelp.info. Wood has also helped lead development of home and community-based services to allow older adults to remain in their homes as they age.

A DHS employee since 1993, Wood, of Excelsior, has served in her current position since 2006. She previously was deputy director of the Minnesota Board on Aging and held other aging-related positions in the department. She earlier was with the National Association of State Units on Aging in Washington, D.C., and was a state long-term care ombudsman in Ohio. She holds two master’s degrees, in public administration and in social work, both from Ohio State University, as well as a bachelor’s degree from Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles.

The Dutch Kastenbaum Award recognizes individuals who have contributed to the lives of older people throughout Minnesota. It is named for a former social worker who was a champion of service programs for older people. He later became well known for his weekly television show, “Senior Citizen Forum,” which ran for almost 25 years.

The Minnesota Gerontological Society will present the award at its annual conference April 24.

-30-