

## RUDOLPH E. BROOKS RECEIVES 2012 JANE C. BOURNS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Good morning. It is with great pleasure that I present this year's Jane C. Bourns Award to someone who in his most recent professional role has committed himself to doing the work Jane would have been so very supportive of. As you all know, Jane Bourns was a champion for optimal child development for *all* very young children, and she brought early childhood mental health services to vulnerable families in our state through home visitation. She knew so well that by connecting early childhood and mental health, the most critical goals of child welfare could be achieved: protection of young children and promotion of strong families.

This year's Jane C. Bourns Award for Excellence is presented to Rudy Brooks, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Commissioner of Operations *Retired*, a very dear partner of mine and of many others in this room. Rudolph E. Brooks, until his recent retirement, worked for the CT Department of Children and Families managing programs in the Offices of Prevention and Early Childhood, Families with Service Needs, and with the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, Parole Services. In his nearly 25 years at DCF Rudy held several other positions including, Regional Administrator, Program Director/Executive Assistant, Deputy Commissioner for Support Services, Director of Community Services, Program Director in the North Central Region, Bureau Chief for Juvenile Justice Services and Bureau Chief of Prevention.

Earlier in his career he was a special education teacher, a patrolman for the Baltimore City Police Department, and Director of Youth Services for the City of Hartford. Rudy has a Bachelor Degree in History and Political Science from the Morgan State University in Baltimore. We must get him an honorary degree in early childhood, as well.

Many of you know that over the past seven or eight years Rudy has been an especially prolific promoter of early childhood mental health services in CT. He's co-led with me the DCF-Head Start Partnership through which all aspects of DCF services for young children, including Supportive Housing, Foster Care and early childhood mental health services through ECCP and Child FIRST, were aligned with Head Start and other early childhood programs. Because of the potential for prevention, Rudy often said that this was the best thing he did in his career.....the prevention of what he had seen happens if children are not healthy and families are not strong. Rudy has also supported of the CT Infant Mental Health Association, and developed the federal grant that recently established reflective supervision and early childhood mental health training opportunities for DCF staff.

What a treat it is to present this award to you, Rudy. Congratulation on your achievement from us all.