



## OACAA News

### Meet Randall Hunt, Newly Appointed Deputy Chief of the Office of Community Assistance



On September 10, Randall Hunt joined the Office of Community Assistance within the Ohio Development Services Agency (formerly the Ohio Department of Development) as the new deputy chief. Mr. Hunt is replacing Nick Sunday - a 30-plus year veteran of the department who retired on April 30. In this position, Mr. Hunt will manage the Office of

Community Assistance (OCA) which administers large federal block grant programs, including the Home Energy Assistance Program, the Home Weatherization Assistance Program and the Community Services Block Grant.

A native of Knox County Ohio and graduate of The Ohio State University, holding a Bachelor of Science Degree from the College of Engineering, School of Architecture, Mr. Hunt has a strong background working with community development and assistance programs. "I've been working in the field of community development/community assistance for over 20 years and this position was a great opportunity to come back to the Development Department and to take on some new challenges both professionally and personally," Randy said about accepting his new role.

Randy Hunt was formally the state director for the Ohio Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP). Ohio RCAP, which is a division of the WSOS Community Action Commission, is part of a national team of technical assistance providers that assist small communities with their environmental infrastructure.

Prior to coming to Ohio RCAP, Mr. Hunt served as the Ohio state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Mission Area. USDA Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance in housing, business, and community development programs in rural Ohio.

Before the USDA, Randy served as executive director of the Ohio Rural Development Partnership (ORDP), a statewide organization charged with coordinating rural development initiatives in Ohio.

Prior to joining the ORDP, Mr. Hunt served as the assistant director and the director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia in Ohio. In that position he was responsible for the administration of the federal Appalachian Regional Commission Programs designed to address the economic and social development needs in the 13 federally-designated Appalachian states, including the Appalachian counties in Ohio.

Randy began his service to rural Ohio as a regional planner in 1989 with the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission in south central Ohio. He later served as the Commission's planning director, responsible for the activities of the Planning Department.

A Founding Trustee of the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio, Mr. Hunt was the 2004 recipient of the Appalachia Ohio Outstanding Public Service Award presented by the Appalachian Development Districts of Ohio. He was also the recipient of the 2004 Giles Mitchell Extra Mile Award, presented by the Council for Rural Housing and Development of Ohio, Inc.

Regarding his new position, Hunt said, "My goals for the office are to build upon the strong leadership of folks like Nick Sunday in administering the energy efficiency and assistance programs, build strong relationships with the networks and providers and improve program efficiency and delivery to the program recipients that depend on these important programs." OACAA welcomes Randy Hunt to his new position and looks forward to working with him!