DHS News Flash

DHS Central: Now More User Friendly

DHS Central, the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Intranet website has undergone a transformation—becoming more user friendly while adding additional features and information.

A ***Foster Care and Adoption Page*** now gives visitors an inside look into Philadelphia's placement efforts on behalf of children. In addition to a listing of local foster care and adoption agencies, many commonly asked questions regarding the process are addressed. Important information for those interested in exploring foster care or adoption is also included giving visitors a general overview of this life changing process.

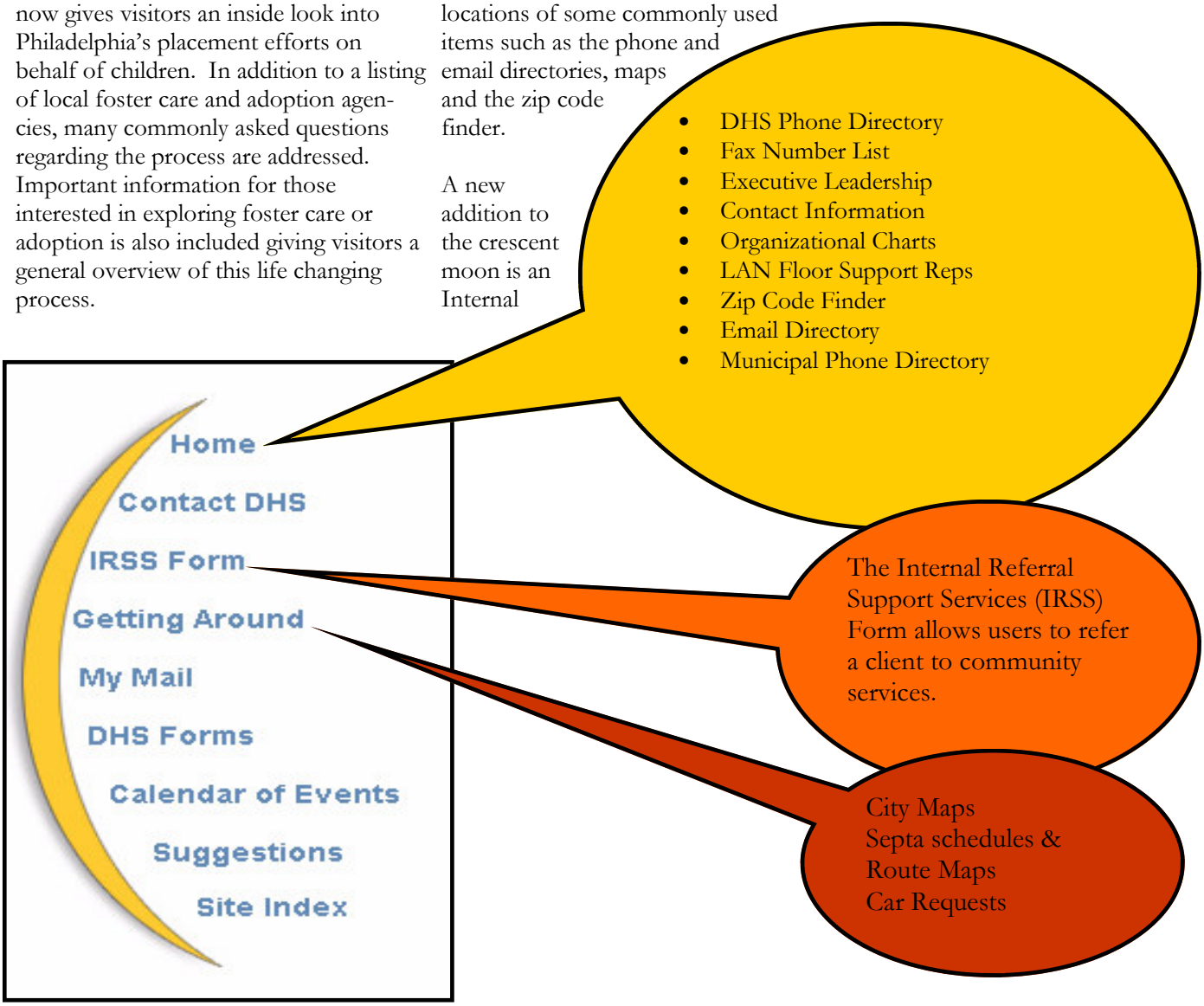
The Communications Office now has an online presence within the ***Outreach and Public Awareness*** pages, and is filled with recent press releases, samples of news coverage, links to past editions of *DHS in Motion,* and all issues of *DHS News Flash.*

Perhaps the biggest changes have occurred in the reorganization of the site, making it more user friendly. The crescent moon can still be found on the left hand side of the page, although it now has fewer links. The diagram below will assist users in finding the new locations of some commonly used items such as the phone and email directories, maps and the zip code finder.

A new addition to the crescent moon is an Internal Referral Support Services link giving staff one-click access to Prevention's Internal Referral Form.

While the banner across the top of the site still looks the same, some of the links have changed, giving visitors who may not know the inner workings of DHS a better chance of finding what they are looking for.

(Continued on page 2)



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DHS Central changes include:

- Children & Youth, Juvenile Justice, Contract Administration, Administration & Management, and Human Resources have moved and can now be found by clicking on **DHS Operations**.

- Looking to access the city's intranet? Look no further than the top navigation bar, and you will find **CityNet's** prominent new placement.

- Information about the department's Division of Community Based Prevention Services is now located under the heading of **Community-Based Services**.

- Searching is much easier now with a new & improved "Google" style searching function that ranks results based on your input.

DHS Central's functions and resources will continue to improve affording users access to the information they need in a seamless and expedient fashion. The current changes to DHS Central have resulted from suggestions by users, and careful studying of user trends. The technology behind this site allows for a continual evolution of this resource to be guided by the needs and habits of its users, so please be sure to access the site and let us know what you think.

To make a suggestion for future changes or additions, or to simply offer a comment, please go to DHS Central and click on the Suggestions link located on the crescent moon.

Please contact your floor's LAN representative for assistance with DHS Central (phone extension)

Help Desk
Dan Nightingale (36144)
Angela Murray (30413)
1st Floor, Mezzanine, and 2nd Floor
Janet Thomas (35979)
3rd Floor Bill Gordon (36823)
4th Floor
Vanessa Wright (36658)
Bill Golembiewski (36650)
5th Floor Bob Cugini (35776)
6th and 7th Floor Patrice Wright (35835)
8th Floor Julian Harmon (36089)
9th, 10th and 18th Floors
Mike Greco (33515)
Cheryl Robinson (30965)
YSC and 1801 Vine Street
Joe Dougherty (64806)
Three Parkway Building
Amelia Brooks (34190)

SOS: Prepared for Maiden Voyage

Born out of the Mayor's commitment to provide quality and accessible services to Philadelphia's children and families, and serving as the "public face" of the Information Data and Integration System (IDIS), Philly Search Online for Services (Philly SOS) is set for a public launch in early March after an internal and provider agency only re-launch this week.

The lone free resource of its kind serving this region, Philly SOS is a continually-evolving tool for locating community resources in Philadelphia and represents more than one year of work to centralize and update a myriad of existing sources and directories to provide a simple point of entry for Philadelphians to the multitude of community-based and governmental services.

Social workers and case managers can use SOS to find resources for their clients, and residents can find information on everything from energy assistance programs to after school activities for their children.

While SOS has been accessible online for quite some time, DHS' technology staff has been working to make the site as easy-to-use and effective as possible by retooling the searching function to ensure all possible results for a given search are displayed based on your input.

There are several easy ways to search, including by agency name, service category, and even by zip code – allowing users to find services within their own neighborhood. SOS is ready to use, so visit today and find the services and programs your clients needs—in their neighborhood.