

## For Immediate Release

April 14, 2014

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### **KDADS Secretary Shawn Sullivan Appoints Brent Widick To be New Superintendent of the Kansas Neurological Institute**

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan today appointed Brent Widick to be Superintendent of the Kansas Neurological Institute (KNI). His appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Widick has served as Interim Superintendent since December of 2013, when the previous superintendent retired, and was KNI's program director from 2007 through 2013.

“Brent's more than 20 years' worth of professional experience in working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities makes him eminently qualified to take over as Superintendent of KNI,” Secretary Sullivan said. “He is known and trusted by KNI residents, their families and guardians. I believe that with Brent in charge, KNI will continue to provide the superb level of care for which is it known throughout the country. Such continuity is a priceless commodity for our residents.”

As program director, Mr. Widick provided direction and leadership to the 300-plus KNI staff who provide residential and psychological care and services, as well as supported employment and community outreach to the facility's 145 residents. He has led KNI through numerous regulatory audits, the most recent being a deficiency-free survey of KNI last year.

Before taking up his duties at KNI, Mr. Widick spend five years in various positions at the former Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Mr. Widick holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washburn University and a Master of Science degree in management from Baker University.

Mr. Widick is married to Julie Ward and has two grown children and two grandchildren. In his leisure time, he is a beekeeper.

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*The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.*