
2017 Respect for Self and Others Award

Karen Devine
Denver Human Services

Nomination submitted by Whitney Nettleton

Since the day she began with Adult Protective Services (APS), Karen has gone above and beyond to address the needs of her clients, enhance the quality of service delivery of APS as whole, contribute to positive morale in the section, support her peers, develop professionally as an individual and have impact on the development of others. Karen treats each and every case with objectivity and respect and honors the individuality of each of her clients. She seeks out not just the services necessary to improve client safety but also those that enhance their quality of life. She does not back away from challenges or barriers, but does whatever it takes to overcome them. As a licensed clinical social worker (SW) she brings to Denver APS a wealth of knowledge and skill in providing outstanding case work and is an outstanding leader among her peers and in her profession.

Karen has consistently maintained almost a 100% accuracy average on all of her case reviews, for both quality and timeliness, over a period of several years. She holds herself and her work to almost an impossibly high standard but somehow manages to meet this. The extremely high quality of her documentation is a testament to the work she is doing in the field with her clients everyday.

Karen's commitment to service does not stop on the individual client level. Rather, Karen goes several steps further to ensure that the department and APS is building strong relationships with and delivering a high level of response to our community partners. She consistently volunteers to present at community events, even outside of working hours. In 2015 Karen along with another co-worker envisioned that APS would have a more prominent place in community events serving our clients or the agencies that advocate on their behalf. Not only did Karen participate in brainstorming ideas around this, but in 2016 she volunteered to take over the newly established DHS team Alzheimers Association Walk team and fundraising efforts. The effort was incredible successful and she is now in the midst of planning for the 2017 event with an increased recruiting and fundraising goal that I am sure she will exceed.

In the 4th Quarter of 2016 Karen was the recipient of the APS Excellence in Casework award, a well deserved internal recognition of the work she has done. Now it is time for her to be honored on the larger stage so that the city can see what she is contributing to our most vulnerable! She is a positive presence on our unit daily her efforts at making Denver, DHS and APS a great place to work are evident in every moment. It is truly an honor!!!!!!