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I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ruth Johnson to the position of Undersecretary for the Department of Social Services Office of Management and Finance.

Ms. Johnson has been at the Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) since 2005, where she most recently served as Deputy Undersecretary. In that position, she oversaw a budget of \$186 million and developed a funding application and review process for grant awards. Prior to that, she served as an Account Administrator where she created the Office of Management and Finance and assisted in the development of the Human Resources Department. These offices were created as a result of the Juvenile Justice Act of 2003 which separated juvenile corrections from adult corrections. She also implemented a system that improved the accuracy of budget projections and corrected calculations of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program match.

From 2002 to 2005, Ruth served as an accountant manager at the Department of Corrections where she participated in the development of an audit, payment and approval process for the local housing of state inmates.

Prior to joining the Department of Corrections, she worked in the Office of Statewide Reporting and Accounting where she revised and simplified accounting close procedures.

Ms. Johnson has a bachelor of arts degree in accounting from LSU-Baton Rouge.

Please join me in welcoming Ruth to the department as she fulfills her duties as the new DSS Undersecretary.

Kristy H. Nichols
Interim Secretary