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PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
June 19, 2012**

**2012 Beverly Littlefield Award
For Excellence in Program Development
Clayton County Senior Services Director, Mary Byrd**

Jonesboro, Georgia- The Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services hosted the 14th Annual Healthy Communities Summit in Athens, Georgia on June 7, 2012. Among this recognition was recipient Mary Byrd, Clayton County Senior Services Director, for the 2012 Beverly Littlefield Award for excellence in program development and operations. The Beverly Littlefield Award honors long term commitment to the Aging Network, innovative program development, creative operations management, and collaborative partnership development.

Included in the nomination for the Beverly Littlefield Award, Mary Byrd is acknowledged for her commitment to the Aging Network, serving Clayton County for five years and previously serving as the Health and Wellness Specialist in the Aging Division of the Atlanta Regional Commission. Mary Byrd was an integral part of the Aging Network as she coordinated and implemented the Chronic Disease Self Management Program, an evidence base program from Stanford University, in the Atlanta Region. Under the leadership of Director Mary Byrd, the Clayton County Senior Services Department is now the fifth largest Department in the County, overseeing six facilities and over 125 employees.

As part of a recent partnership, Mary Byrd is involved with the Lifelong Communities Initiative with ARC in creating livable communities. A project site is currently in proposal and was initiated after a walk ability assessment guided through the direction of Mary Byrd.

The Beverly Littlefield Award highlights an individual who is innovative, dedicated, and passionate about healthy living and positive aging, all of which is representative of Senior Services Director, Mary Byrd.

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