

Donald Moses, MSW

Donald Moses started his college career in Kansas at Wichita State in 1958 on a football scholarship. He played two years, was injured, then he went to Emporia State University one year and then back to Wichita State to graduate in 1962. After graduating he enrolled in Social Work Graduate School at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS. His second year field placement was at the VA in Kansas City Missouri. That was his introduction to the VA.

Following graduation from Kansas Univ with his MSW in 1964 he went to work at the VA Hospital, Topeka, KS. While at the Topeka VA he also moonlighted part time at the Menninger Foundation, the Kansas Dept of Corrections Reception & Diagnostic Center, and at the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, KS. He had a varied clinical background and experience. He was offered a supervisor's position at the VA in Little Rock, AK in 1971.

While at Little Rock Don completed SWALT in 1973. His preceptor was Art Theobald at the Lexington KY VA. Following SWALT graduation he was promoted to Chief, SWS, Fort Howard, MD, in 1974. In 1975 he went to Salt Lake City VA as SW Chief. He was active with the Univ of Utah Social Work Graduate School and had a faculty appointment at the school. In 1979 he accepted a position on the VACO Social Work Staff in Washington DC.

While on staff in VACO Don also moonlighted at the Family Mental Health Center in Northern Virginia and also taught many classes for people convicted of DUI in the Washington DC metropolitan area. It was mandatory for those arrested for DUI to complete one of Don's 10 session classes to have their drivers' licenses restored. Don did not want to lose touch with direct clinical practice even in his top level leadership position.

John Fulton, VA SW Director, retired in June 1994. It was during a very chaotic time in VA with downsizing, re-engineering, reorganizing, etc. Don stepped in as Acting Director and held things together without much support from 1994 until he retired 12-31-99. He was offered the SW Director's position several times during this period but he declined for health reasons.

Don was a member of AVASW and active supporter since its beginnings as AVASWC. He worked closely with the AVASWC President, Paul Burton, in trying to get VACO Personnel Svc. to recognize a GS-12 grade for licensed VA Social Workers. Don Moses exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding Social Worker. He was also able to provide national leadership during trying times. I'm pleased to nominate him for the AVASW Jerry Satterwhite Hall of Fame.