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## **State Office of Rural Health Names New Shortage Designation Program Operations Specialist in the Primary Care Office**

**CORDELE, GA** - Charles Owens, Executive Director of the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) for the Georgia Department of Community Health, announced today the promotion of Dorothy Bryant as Shortage Designation Program Operations Specialist.

Bryant, a Cordele resident, will assume the responsibilities of working with Georgia's communities to determine the level of Professional Health Care Shortage Designation. The designation allows communities and providers to receive additional reimbursements and incentives for serving underserved communities.

"Dorothy has worked hard in every task she tackled. She has served the State Office of Rural Health well over the past five years and has been recognized for her efficient and tireless efforts. She is excited about her new opportunity to work with underserved communities to ensure that they have appropriate designations to facilitate recruiting and retaining health professionals, as well as qualifying for special federal and state grant programs to expand access to primary health care," Owens said.

Since February 2001, Bryant has worked as the Administrative Operations Coordinator for the SORH. In that position, Bryant served the office in various aspects including budget tracking and monitoring of invoices, contract and grant budget administration, computer operations assistance, and purchasing and receiving.

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About Georgia Department of Community Health

The Department of Community Health champions:

- 1) access to affordable, quality health care in our communities,
- 2) responsible health planning & use of healthcare resources and,
- 3) healthy behaviors & improved health outcomes.

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