

**Professional Development Leader  
Mary Grissom, MSW**

Mary Grissom graduated from Nathan Hale High School before attending Central State College, now University, finishing with a BA in Education. She married Charlie Grissom in 1974, and she received her MSW from the University of Oklahoma in 1981.

Her 38-year human services/social work career began with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services in 1972 providing services to families receiving AFDC. She soon moved to Child Welfare, serving as a child abuse/neglect investigator and then Child Welfare Supervisor until 1995. After a move to the OKDHS State Office, Mary worked in several capacities with KIDS, Oklahoma's Child Welfare case management computer system. She left OKDHS in 1998 to work for three private consulting firms assisting New Hampshire, Illinois & Virginia in developing child welfare case management computer systems.

She returned to Oklahoma and OKDHS in 2002. At her retirement from OKDHS in 2011, Mary was the Programs Division Information Systems Administrator where she was responsible for *KIDS*.

Since 2011, she has served as the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program Specialist for OU- Tulsa where she recruits MSW students into public Child Welfare practice as well as providing support and enhancement to Oklahoma's public child welfare workforce. In addition, she serves as Faculty Liaison for students in Child Welfare in northeastern Oklahoma. She is privileged to continue to support public child welfare workers in seeking safety and well-being for the children of Oklahoma.