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Alabama Governor Completes Cabinet Changes With New Mental Health Commissioner

WRITTEN BY [STAFF WRITER](#) ON JULY 7, 2017 AT 5:19 PM CDT



Photo by Governor's Office, Sydney Foster

Park Slope

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Lynn Beshear has been appointed as Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Mental Health by Governor Kay Ivey.



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“I did not seek out this position, but I am honored to be chosen to serve my fellow Alabamians,” Mrs. Beshear stated. “I am excited to work with Governor Ivey, her Cabinet, the Legislature, and the professionals within the Department of Mental Health, to provide excellent services for Alabamians with mental illness, those who are developmentally delayed, and those who struggle with substance abuse.”

“I am honored to appoint Lynn Beshear as Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health,” Governor Ivey said. “Through active participation in securing mental health services in the River Region, Lynn understands the complexities of the Department, and the importance of its work on behalf of the people of Alabama.”

This move marks several recent staff and cabinet changes by Ivey, who became Governor after her predecessor, Robert Bentley, resigned in April. Bentley’s appointees who are no longer on the cabinet include Neal Morrison, commissioner of senior services and Joanne

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Hale, acting secretary of the office of information technology. The governor has also announced that Art Faulkner, Alabama's Emergency Management Director, will retire in early September, and her replacements for these posts will soon be named.

Alabama's 54th Governor is also replacing a host of staff members, including press secretary, replacing Eileen Jones. Daniel Sparkman has been promoted to the position of press secretary.

Ivey has indicated that these changes complete her cabinet. Commenting on these moves, she said: "I am thankful for the staff members who stayed on to help us make it through this quick transition. I am also especially thankful to Eileen Jones for her willingness to join my administration early on to help us get our feet on the ground and off to an effective start; I wish her well in her future endeavors."



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RevHank • 12 days ago

Alabama Department of Mental Health.
No mention that the entire state is looney
tunes.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Scotty Kent Burlison →

RevHank • 11 days ago

At least we are smart enough to not vote for THE UN-DEMOCRATIC/DEMONCRATIC ANTI-USA AMERICANS COMMUNIST PARTY.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



RevHank → Scotty

Kent Burlison

• 11 days ago

It was the GOP that voted to ease punishments for Russia's invasion of Eastern Europe and annexing the Crimean area. The Gop loves Putin for working on Trump's campaign. You must have voted the way Putin wanted. Good Fascist, you are.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Ala Bama →

RevHank

• 8 days ago

everybody hates a loudmouth as yourself. everyone.

^ | v • Reply •

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heber Norckauer → RevHank

• 12 days ago

Now we have a leader.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Rick Arnaiz → RevHank

• 12 days ago

LOL!!!! Very funny!!! Appears to be a possibility!!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Rick Arnaiz • 12 days ago

Dealing with substance abuse has come



Dealing with substance abuse has come to be front and center, especially alcohol, meth, opiates and Heroin. Notice that I don't include marijuana, which is turning out to be a beneficial 'wonder plant' surpassing all expectations straightaway at the very start of burgeoning discoveries about it.

It's a smart and important move to have a mental health component at the cabinet level in this day and age. Lets hope that we have the right person of understanding and some compassionate judgment for this public position, as well as competent administrative skills .

Of course, Governor Ivey could help set things right by preparing the path to decriminalization of marijuana for health, and for other uses at the individuals own discretion. She could , as well by these actions, help start break the bloody black market network.

I have no doubts that, according to numerous previous exposures, stopping CIA and allied intelligence networks from pushing addictive substances around the world, in American neighborhoods, and ceasing to test little known substances on unknowing individuals creating victims , would go a long way toward stemming the tide of drug problems for individuals, communities, and countries to deal with.

Another good move would be too educate law enforcement personnel how not to be a large part of the problem when dealing with people with obvious mental issues , confusion, and alternative states of consciousness. It would also help for law enforcement recognize that drug use is a medical problem and not a criminal justice problem in most cases.

Destroying lives,careers, families, names , for smoking a plant or for otherwise victimless crimes is immoral and bad law, regardless of whether some one in a black robe says so.

I guess that I have started to rant, so I will

stop here. Cheerio!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ed in Alabama → Rick Arnaiz

• 12 days ago

So, you must be an expert.....in something, but not in law enforcement. I have spent 46 years in L.E. and it is always entertaining to hear from "arm chair" experts such as you. I will bet you play football....or soccer.....the same way. I feel certain that I am as educated as you. The difference is that I, and others like me, have "walked the walk." You need to get out there and spend a few years practicing what you preach. You get on the line and try and deal with unexpected, often explosive (literally) situations where you have to make split second decisions.....decisions that may determine whether or not you, your partner, or other fellow officers, get to see their family again. You have no idea how difficult it is to deal with unbalanced.....aggressive...individuals. Granted, they are victims of disease and disorders.....but Police Officers have to be "Police Officers!" They can't be therapists

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