



KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
**RSA UNION BUILDING**  
100 NORTH UNION STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 301410  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-1410  
WWW.MH.ALABAMA.GOV



LYNN T. BESHEAR  
COMMISSIONER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 7, 2018

CONTACT: Public Information  
334-242-3417  
[publicinformation.dmh@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:publicinformation.dmh@mh.alabama.gov)

**CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**  
*Celebrate and Encourage Mental Health May 7-11*

**Montgomery, Ala.** – Across the U.S. and in Alabama, there is growing concern about the unmet needs of children with serious emotional disturbance, and their families. Annually, approximately 10% of children in the United States may experience a serious emotional disturbance.

This week, the Alabama Department of Mental Health joins more than 1,100 communities across the country in celebrating National Children’s Mental Health Awareness week. This year’s national observance focuses on the importance of an integrated health approach to supporting children, youth, and young adults with serious emotional disturbance who have experienced trauma.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health provides support for children's mental health throughout the state through services offered at local mental health centers. The department is a partner with the Alabama State Department of Education to offer school-based mental health services directly in schools to children in need. Thirty-six school systems have mental health clinicians available to meet in the schools with students in of need various levels of mental health care.

A poster contest to celebrate Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week was hosted by the department and 60 entries were submitted by youth who are served by our community health centers. The winning posters were selected by Wings Across Alabama, a peer support organization. They will be displayed around the state in the mental health centers and other various locations.

