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**LOCAL CHILDREN'S POLICY COUNCIL NAMED
NATIONAL COALITION OF THE YEAR**

*Covington County Children's Policy Council Creates Changes and
Demonstrates Effective Outcomes for Alabama Youth*

Montgomery, Ala. – Congratulations to the [Covington County Children's Policy Council](#)! They have been named the [2017 National Coalition of the Year](#) by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) for demonstrating successful outcomes in addressing the problems of youth alcohol and marijuana use and the root causes. This notable award, the CADCA's GOT OUTCOMES! Award, recognizes an exceptional community coalition that effectively contributes to alcohol, tobacco, and other drug abuse prevention and has successfully addressed two substance abuse problems in their community.

“We are exceptionally proud of the work and results of the Covington County Children's Policy Council. They are assisting in one of the most important tasks in the battle against substance abuse, which is prevention. Ensuring that our youth are knowledgeable about the dangerous risks of substance abuse and are given every opportunity for positive choices is the first step in lowering rates of abuse in Alabama,” said Commissioner Lynn Beshear, Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH).

The Covington County Children's Policy Council Coalition (CCCPC) was founded in 2008 in Andalusia, Alabama, with the mission to reduce youth substance use in Covington County through community strategies and partnerships. The council is an ADMH certified prevention provider and a Drug Free Communities Support Program recipient.

Susan Short, Executive Director, CCCPC said “Being chosen as Coalition of the Year is an honor for our Children's Policy Council. Our coalition is an energetic group that works together to make positive changes in reducing substance abuse for youth. This prestigious award is a result of the work of many people in Covington County, who have implemented environmental strategies for community change. Since the beginning, our top priority has been to educate local youth about harmfulness of drugs, as well as the science of addiction so they will make wise choices and not become victims of substance abuse.”

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In the application for the CADCA GOT OUTCOMES! National Award, CCCPCC showcased their implementation of environmental strategies such as installing new lighting and signage in public parks and other local substance use hot spots, publicly recognizing alcohol vendors with 100% compliance and businesses promoting drug prevention efforts; and changed policies in the local police department regarding procedures to report underage alcohol use data and in the local school district regarding random drug testing.

The Covington County Children's Policy Council Coalition will be honored by CADCA at the National Leadership Forum in February 2018. The Council will deliver a forum workshop and be featured in CADCA communications and publications throughout the year.

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