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**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CELEBRATES  
KIM THORNSBERRY AS HONOREE OF 2018 NATIONAL AWARD FOR  
OUTSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE TO DEAF PEOPLE**

**Montgomery, Ala.** – The Alabama Department of Mental Health is proud to celebrate the achievement of Kim Thornberry as the 2016-2018 recipient of The American Deafness and Rehabilitation Association (ADARA) [National Award for Outstanding Mental Health Services to the Deaf](#). This award recognizes a recipient who provides direct service and outstanding work in mental health field. Thornberry said, “I am deeply touched by receiving this news, knowing that my hard work is appreciated.”



She was nominated for the award by a co-worker, who described Thornberry’s work ethic and caring qualities. He said, “Empowering these consumers outside of her working hours is an invaluable trait to which we are blessed to observe her riding the wave of change. She continues to believe in her consumers and that being Deaf is part of a viable community that wants the opportunity to be successful.”

Kim Thornberry earned a Bachelor of Art in Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Studies with a specialization in child development, and a Master degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. She began work at the Alabama Department of Mental Health in 2014 to provide direct services to individuals with hearing loss.

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Thornsberry stated, “I don’t think there is a better place other than working at ADMH Office of Deaf Services. I am fortunate to work with an extraordinary team to provide quality services to individuals who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing in Alabama. I am humbled to work with consumers who give me a chance to get to know them, work with them, and be behind them through their recovery process.”

ADARA is a national organization that brings together professionals from vocational rehabilitation, mental health, chemical health, education, interpreting, and related fields to share best practices in working with individuals who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to address policy and program concerns, and to network. Thornsberry will received the award in April at the ADARA Breakout Conference in Indiana.

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