

# THE OUTLOOK

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

## Crisis Centers:

Provide linkage to community agencies and organizations, psychiatric and medical services, prevention and intervention services



Decrease the number of arrests



Reduce civil commitments

Lessen frequency of visits to hospital emergency departments



Provide immediate care individuals in crisis



Promote sustained recovery



Learn more about the Alabama Crisis System of Care at [mh.alabama.gov/crisis-system-care/](https://mh.alabama.gov/crisis-system-care/)

## GOVERNOR IVEY ANNOUNCES THE FOURTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER

THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CONTINUES EXPANSION OF CRISIS CARE

Governor Kay Ivey and Commissioner Kimberly Boswell of the Alabama Department of Mental Health announced the awardee of a fourth crisis center in October and welcomed a vital addition to the [Alabama Crisis System of Care](#). The center will serve individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders, expanding access to care more broadly than ever before. The provider and location of the fiscal year 2022 Crisis Center is [Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair \(JBS\) Mental Health Authority](#) in Birmingham.

*“The Ivey Administration is fully committed to addressing the very real challenges in the area of mental health care. This is critical, and should not be overlooked, which is why it remains of high importance in my agenda,”* said Governor Ivey. *“I am proud to award the JBS Mental Health Authority this fourth crisis center in Birmingham. These centers will go a long way in improving mental health care in Alabama.”*

The current Crisis Centers are located at [AltaPointe Health](#) in Mobile, [WellStone](#) in Huntsville, and the [Montgomery Area Mental Health Authority](#) in Montgomery. The state’s first three Crisis Centers were awarded funding in October 2020 and have been operational since May 2021.

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Want to be included in the next issue? Send us your stories, achievements, initiatives, events...etc!

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JBS Executive Director, Jim Crego, stated, *“When deputies respond to people in crisis today, they have two options: Take the person to jail or to the emergency room. Taking a person to the emergency department can take a deputy off the street for several hours as they wait for the individual to be admitted. Taking them to jail requires a felony charge that can take weeks to process through the court system.”*

[Read more here](#)



JBS Executive Director, Jim Crego and community partners

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Commissioner Boswell said, *“Crisis Centers are a crucial element of an integrated system of care. This award demonstrates the commitment of the local community to form and strengthen partnerships. The addition of the fourth Crisis Center, in one of the most populated metropolitan areas in the state, brings vital and necessary crisis services in an expanded and more accessible form.”*

Crisis Centers are a designated place for community members, law enforcement, and first responders to take an individual who is in mental health crisis. Crisis Centers offer both walk-in access and the capacity for first responders and law enforcement to transfer individuals to the center for crisis care for a warm hand-off to Crisis Center staff, short-term admission, medication management, and case management. Services also include critical crisis intervention and stabilization services, discharge planning and connections to ongoing behavioral health care services, if needed.

In the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions, Governor Ivey prioritized establishing a mental health crisis continuum of care, with efforts in the Alabama Legislature led by House Majority Leader Nathaniel Ledbetter. The initial three Crisis Centers were funded with an \$18 million appropriation in the FY2021 General Fund budget, with continuation funding secured in the FY2022 General Fund. The fourth Crisis Center is funded through a new budget appropriation of \$6 million approved by the Alabama Legislature. All Crisis Center funds were awarded through a Request for Information and competitive Request for Proposal evaluation and selection process.

To learn more, please visit Alabama Department of Mental Health [Alabama Crisis System of Care webpage](#).

## Minimum Expectations:

Clinician response, community-based and warm hand-off to facility, as needed

# MOBILE CRISIS

Someone to come to you

## IMPROVING MOBILE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES IN ALABAMA

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded the [Alabama Medicaid Agency](#), along with agencies in 19 additional states, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants to develop and implement mobile crisis intervention services for people experiencing a substance use-related or mental health crisis. Alabama was awarded \$953,336.00 for use over a twelve-month period effective September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2022. This award will directly benefit the [Alabama Crisis System of Care](#).

Commissioner Stephanie Azar said, *“Alabama Medicaid is happy to partner with the Department of Mental Health on this initiative to plan for emergency behavioral health services with increased access to care and resources in our state.”*

*“We are excited to receive [the CMS State Planning Grant](#) and grateful to partner with Alabama Medicaid. This grant is critical to expand crisis services and access to care, particularly in our rural communities,”* said Alabama Department of Mental Health Commissioner Kim Boswell.

With the support of this highly competitive CMS State Planning Grant, Alabama will coordinate longstanding efforts to expand access to robust and timely crisis behavioral health services. Crisis services which include evidence-based best practices found in SAMHSA’s “National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care” will be used in preparation for developing and submitting to CMS, a State Plan Amendment (SPA), section 1115 demonstration application, or section 1915(b) or 1915(c) waiver request to provide qualifying community-based mobile crisis intervention services.

The grant allows for the continued planning and expansion of the Alabama Crisis System of Care. This system overseen by the Alabama Department of Mental Health diverts more individuals from civil commitments, expands access to care, reduces the number of arrests, decreases frequency of admissions to hospital emergency departments and promotes sustained recovery.



# ADMH Facilities NOW HIRING!

## Entry Level Position in the Healthcare field Available

### OPEN POSITION

Mental Health Worker Trainee

### SALARY RANGE

\$23,277 - \$32,925

Promotions based on time-in-class providing 25% salary increase in first 18 months:

Mental Health Worker

\$25,096 - \$36,331

Mental Health Worker Senior

\$25,711 - \$38,138

### Other promotional opportunities:

Mental Health Worker Lead

\$28,360 - \$42,013

Mental Health Worker Supervisor

\$29,061 - \$44,212

Very Low Cost Health Insurance – 12 Paid Holidays –

Generous Sick and Annual Leave Benefits – Secure Retirement Benefit

<http://www.mh.alabama.gov/mentalhealthworkers>

Our three Mental Health Facilities are located in Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
For inquiries contact the facility of your choice, information found on web address listed above.  
Alabama Department of Mental Health



# NAMI BIRMINGHAM WALK 2021

The 2021 NAMI Birmingham Walk was a large success! Commissioner Boswell kicked off an array of speakers with an energizing speech, and soon after the walk began!

We thank all participants and NAMI for their consistent advocacy for individuals who experience mental illness.



Commissioner Kimberly Boswell

# PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING ALABAMA

PIP is a leadership training program designed for individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) and family members. PIP believes that the most significant and lasting public policy decisions came from the efforts of those most affected by them. Upon completion of PIP, participants will have developed the knowledge and skills needed to be advocates for opportunities and supports that promote self-determination, independence, and integration in all aspects of community life for themselves and others. PIP graduates will be prepared to work along with policymakers and will be empowered to be advocates for change.

Eligible participants are persons with developmental disabilities and family members and who reflect Alabama's diverse communities. Training consists of an online orientation in October, seven (7) weekend sessions monthly from November 2021 to May 2022, and one (1) Wednesday evening training each month. Some sessions will be in-person and others will be online. See the schedule below for more information. This training is FREE to participants. All registration, training, resource material, and lodging/food costs are provided. Mileage reimbursement is available for participants.

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 19, 2021 to be considered for the 2021-2022 class.

Learn more and sign up at <https://www.uab.edu/civitansparks/pip-alabama>.

If you have any questions or need help completing the application, contact the DD Network at 833-258-4784.



## PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING ALABAMA SCHEDULE FOR 2021-2022 (subject to change)

MONTH	DATES 2021-2022		LOCATION
October	13	Wednesday	Online (Orientation)
November	5 -6	Friday/Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Auburn Marriott at Grand National, Opelika, AL</u></a>
	11	Wednesday	Online
December	10-11	Friday/Saturday	Online
January	12	Wednesday	Online
	28-29	Friday and Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge, Hoover, AL</u></a>
February	9	Wednesday	Online
	18-19	Friday and Saturday	Online
March	2	Wednesday	Online
	11-12	Friday and Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Renaissance Riverview Plaza, Mobile, AL</u></a>
April	6	Wednesday	Online
	22-23	Friday and Saturday	Online
May	4	Wednesday	Online
	13-14	Friday and Saturday	<a href="#"><u>Embassy Suites, Montgomery, AL</u></a>



# VitAL's #RecoveryMonth Twitter Chat

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

The ADMH was thrilled to participate in a Twitter chat with VitAL in October in celebration of Recovery Month, discussing engaging topics related to recovery and related resources! The online event consisted of five questions hosted by VitAL and answered by a number of individuals on Twitter, some in recovery, some friends and family members, and professionals, as well. Stay connected and look out for our next Twitter chat!



## \$123 MILLION IN GRANTS

### FOR MULTIFRONT APPROACH TO COMBAT THE NATION'S OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

More than 94,000 individuals died from fatal overdoses according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the 12 months which ended January 2021; an almost 31 percent increase over those in the 12 months ending January 2020. To help combat the opioid epidemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is awarding more than \$123 million in funding through six grant programs to provide multifaceted support to communities and health care provider.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health is proud to be selected as an awardee through the Office of Prevention Services. The award runs through 2026 in the amount of \$326,000 to fund a strategic prevention framework for prescription drugs.

*"The Alabama Department of Mental Health is appreciative of the SAMHSA funding opportunity to continue statewide focus on the prevention of opioid and prescription drug misuse. The funding opportunity allows the expansion of education and awareness within Alabama's communities,"* said Beverly Johnson, Director, Office Prevention.

## ADMH IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

HELP US SHARE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH STORIES



Like on **Facebook**



Follow on **Twitter**



Follow on **Instagram**



Find photos on **Flickr**



Find jobs on **LinkedIn**



Subscribe on **YouTube**

Through our social media channels, we promote mental health news, events, jobs and more from around the state.

Connect with us for the most up-to-date information from ADMH!



# REPRESENTING!

**General Counsel Tommy Klinner** presented on behalf of the Cumberland School of Law to the State Bar Association members on October 1st on the important topics of: Disclosure of Substance Use disorder Patient Records; the Alabama Crisis System of Care; Incompetency and Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity; and Hunter v. Boswell. We are very thankful for his work in educating the legal community on our mission!



**Congratulations to June Washington!** She passed the AANP Family Nurse Practitioner Exam on September 1! She also completed the MSN program at Troy University May of 2021.



**Commissioner Kimberly Boswell along with Beverly Johnson, Director of Prevention Services and Nicole Walden, Director of Substance Abuse Treatment and Development** participated in Alabama Children First, CPC Conference. This year's theme: "Trauma: Moving From Awareness to Action" focused on discussing trauma and how to move from awareness to action. Conference presenters also discussed abuse and neglect in children and how we can all be better advocates. The free virtual conference was in partnership with ADPH, Children First, Children's Policy Council, and the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education.



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**The Individual Placement and Support – Supported Employment Team at Central Alabama Wellness celebrated IPS Week October 4, 2021 through October 6, 2021.**

They used the superhero theme and IPS team members worked diligently to make the event a success. Loads of fun was had while the team educated clinicians about the benefits of IPS -Supported Employment. The clothing drive (which was an overwhelming success) was held to assist consumers who have limited means or have been out of the workforce with interview clothing or rain gear. Some of the employed consumers have limited transportation and / or walk to work. Many of the CAW consumers live in rural settings and braving the elements is part of getting to and from work. Great work by the IPS team!



**EASE Research Study: Managing Emotions for Teens and Young Adults**



**WHAT:**

Researchers at the University of Alabama and the University of Pittsburgh are interested in learning whether a new program helps teens and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) manage emotions.

- Participants are randomly assigned to one of two therapy programs
- Participation involves individual sessions and online resources
  - Participant payment for assessments

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

- Individuals age 12-21 with autism spectrum disorders and IQ above 75

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the Center for Youth Development and Intervention  
npowell@UA.edu

205-348-3535



**DID YOU KNOW?**

People ages 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions may get a [booster shot](#) based on their individual risks and benefits. The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can increase for adults of any age with [underlying medical conditions](#) including:

Having Down syndrome can make you more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19.

Having mood disorders, including depression, and schizophrenia spectrum disorders can make you more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19.

Having a substance use disorder (such as alcohol, opioid, or cocaine use disorder) can make you more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19.

This recommendation may change in the future as more data become available.

Find a COVID-19 vaccine: Search [vaccines.gov](#), text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find locations near you.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## MENTAL HEALTH RELATED EVENTS OF INTEREST

- 11/04** Guest Lecture for University of Alabama – Adaptive Education  
Office of Deaf Services/Kent Schafer
- 11/04** Qualified Mental Health Interpreter Supervisors Training
- 11/05** Bryce Hospital Annual Employee Appreciation Day
- 11/08** ADMH Presentation and Panel Representation  
The Inaugural Partners in Policymaking Conference
- 11/18** Guest Lecture for University of Alabama – Adaptive Education  
Office of Deaf Services/Kent Schafer



## STATE COMBINED CAMPAIGN

The State Combined Campaign (SCC) continues accepting pledges until December 31st. Please connect with your Key worker and submit your pledge card today!

Visit the SCC webpage for all resources  
<http://www.statecombinedcampaign.org/>.



# Serve • Empower • Support