

The Outlook

Alabama Department of Mental Health Newsletter



Governor Kay Ivey cuts the ribbon to open Hope Pointe Behavioral Crisis Center.

Hope Pointe Crisis Center Ribbon Cutting

Hope Pointe Crisis Center celebrated its ribbon cutting on October 17th, welcoming over 150 guests.

The event welcomed key stakeholders from the west Alabama region and media. It was hosted by Governor Kay Ivey, Commissioner Kimberly Boswell, Indian Rivers Behavioral Health Chief Executive Officer Karen Jones, and Clinical Director Jaime Garza.

[Hope Pointe Crisis Center](#) is the designated comprehensive behavioral crisis center for west Alabama, creating a crucial connection between those in need of care and the agencies that offer that assistance.

Hope Pointe adds to continuum of care and provides the general community with triage, stabilization, referral, and treatment for individuals with mental health, substance use disorder, and suicidal crises.

Hope Pointe will help improve mental health and offer a healthier future for the people they serve! Learn more about Hope Pointe Behavioral Crisis Center, click [here](#).



Hope Pointe Behavioral Health
Crisis Center Ribbon Cutting



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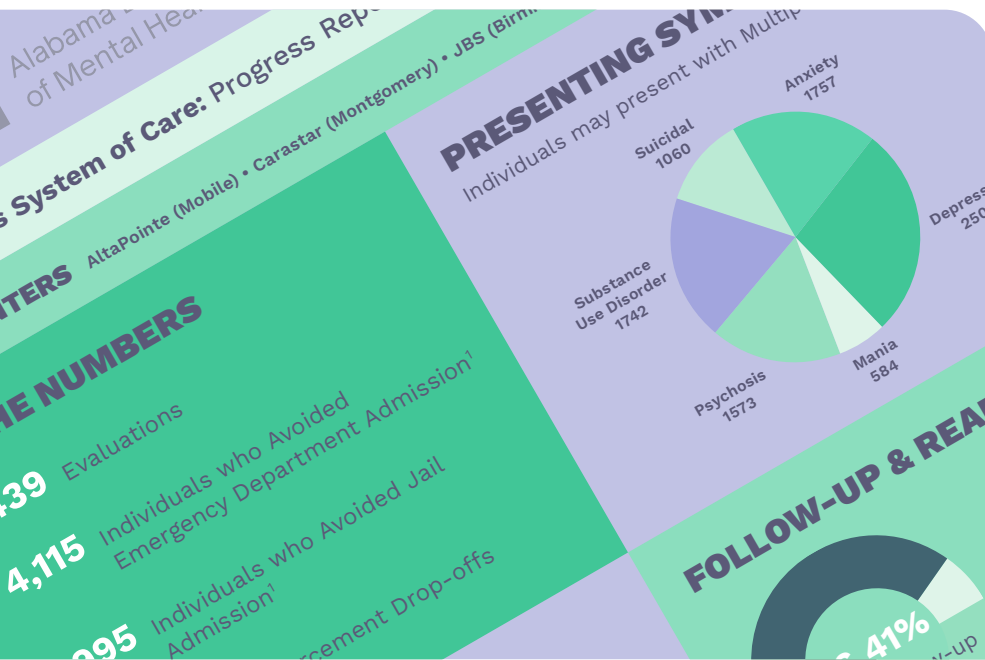
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Want to be included in the next issue?

Send us your stories, achievements and events!

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334-242-3417



988 and Crisis Center Progress Reports are available on our website.

Crisis Care Progress Reports

The Alabama Department of Mental Health celebrates a full year of 988 and an expansion of Crisis Centers.

Check out the impact and learn more at <https://mh.alabama.gov/crisis-centers/>.

ADMH Receives Federal Grants to Expand Care

The Alabama Department of Mental Health has received several grant funds for Mental Health Services, Workforce, and Training. These funds will be used to support ongoing efforts to address the state’s mental health needs and enhance existing programs.

- 1. IPS Works Alabama Grant**

 - The grant assists states and communities in refining, implementing, and maintaining evidence-based supported employment programs and supportive evidence-based practices for adults with serious mental illness or co-occurring mental and substance use disorders. This is a five-year grant, and the funds will allow IPS expansion to two additional sites, Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair (JBS) and Indian Rivers in Tuscaloosa County.
- 2. Project Zero Suicide Grant** – The Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADMH) and VitAL have been awarded a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to implement the Project Zero Suicide framework. ADMH Commissioner Kimberly Boswell stated after the award, *“Suicide Prevention must be communicated in many ways, in many settings. Focused education within healthcare facilities and training for clinicians expands the information, resources and care presented to the people we serve. The top priority of ADMH is saving lives. This grant extends the opportunity to save even more.”* Project Zero Suicide in Alabama focuses on prevention and early intervention in healthcare facilities. This five-year project is expected to impact about 75,000 individuals in the state.
- 3. Mental Health Block Grant** – Through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides states funds through the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) program as part of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). *“This funding will help states and territories build a stronger public mental health system to assist people in times of crisis and as they pursue long-term recovery,”* said Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and leader of SAMHSA.

Opioid Settlement Meeting

The opioid epidemic presents a complex and multi-faceted challenge that requires comprehensive and multi-agency solutions.

The Opioid Settlement Oversight Committee is a 16 multi-agency member committee that was created to provide recommendations to the Legislature on how to allocate the money from opioid settlements, with priority being given to those recommendations that directly address the opioid epidemic with evidence of success.

The Opioid Settlement Oversight committee held its first hearing in September. Four Alabama state agencies and one private company presented to receive a portion of the \$270 million dollars in opioid settlement funds that the state is expected to receive over the next several years.

The opioid crisis has resulted in nearly 200,000 overdose deaths in the United States since 2020, with about 70% of those deaths being attributed to opioids. Alabama has been one of the most heavily impacted states by the opioid crisis, ranking number one in the country in opioid prescriptions per capita in 2015.

In the 2023 Legislative Session, state officials allotted \$10 million, with \$1.5 million to the Alabama Department of Corrections and \$8.5 million to the Alabama Department of Mental Health. The Alabama Department of Corrections aims to use the funds to extend its current pilot program for substance abuse treatment. ADMH will distribute funds for services through an RFP process.

Other agencies spoke at the meeting with present programs that requesting to be funded with future settlement dollars. The Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles proposes using the funding to help people recover from substance use disorders, that is believe will reduce recidivism. The Alabama Department of Public Health requested funds to strengthen and expand its current initiatives in peer support services and education about substance use and recovery.



November is NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

#CaregiverAnd

National Family Caregivers Month

Families are the primary source of support for elderly individuals, individuals with mental health issues/conditions, and individuals with disabilities in the U.S.

The month of November is dedicated to recognizing and honoring family caregivers. It is an opportunity to provide education to the public and foster greater support for those who are caring for a loved one. Through this month, we raise awareness of the difficulties that caregivers encounter and recognize contributions of family caregivers.

Many caregivers are employed in more than one capacity, and research has demonstrated that caregiving has a significant impact on emotional, physical, and mental health. To maintain their capacity to serve and support their loved ones, caregivers must have access to appropriate support and resources. It is essential for caregivers to prioritize their mental health. Learn more about National Family Caregivers Month, click [here](#).



Reentry 2023 event materials

Reentry 2023 Event

Reentry 2023 is a national initiative designed to dramatically enhance the reentry success of individuals transitioning from prison to their communities.

[The Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles](#) Director, Cam Ward, has set a goal of reducing recidivism by half by 2030. The Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles has partnered with numerous state agencies, private agencies, and non-profit community partners to achieve this goal.

Reentry 2023 aims to not only reduce recidivism, but to provide the participant with the tools, resources, and assistance they need to empower themselves to make positive decisions and change through multi-

agency solutions and collaboration. Participants from partner agencies, non-profit community partnerships, and employers heard from successful PREP participants about the skills and knowledge they acquired through the program.

Attendees were treated to testimonials from graduates of the PREP Center and information from agencies and partners participating in Reentry 2023. They toured the facility and witnessed the first graduating class from the PREP Center. Reentry 2023 provides Alabama steps towards a positive change for reentry for individuals, and communities throughout the state. Learn more about Reentry 2030, click [here](#).





Proclamation ceremony with Governor Kay Ivey.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

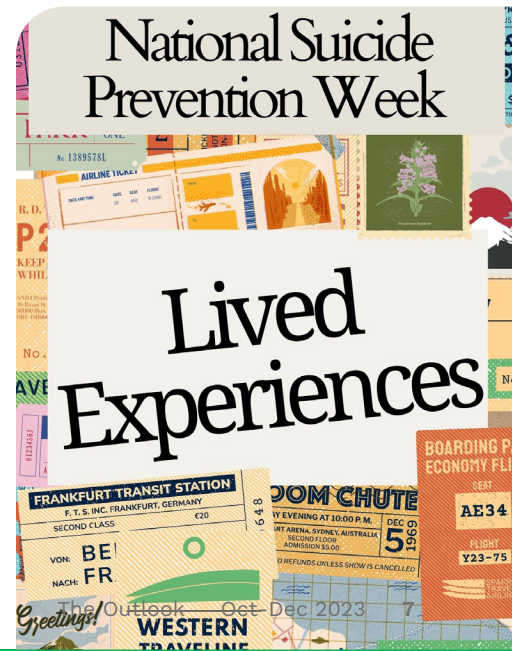
[Suicide Prevention Awareness Month](#) was observed in September. Suicide is a strongly stigmatized topic, so the Office of Prevention held weekly activities for the entire Department to participate in, such as QPR training to learn about risk factors and warning signs for suicide, as well as what to do in a crisis.

These weekly activities not only communicated critical information to employees, but also promoted hope. Suicide can affect anyone and is a very serious issue. The Alabama Department of Mental Health invests in the time for the education for employees on the seriousness of suicide and resources available.

In September, the Office of Prevention participated in the Governor's proclamation ceremony to commemorate Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.



ADMH staff dressed in yellow to support World Suicide Prevention Day.



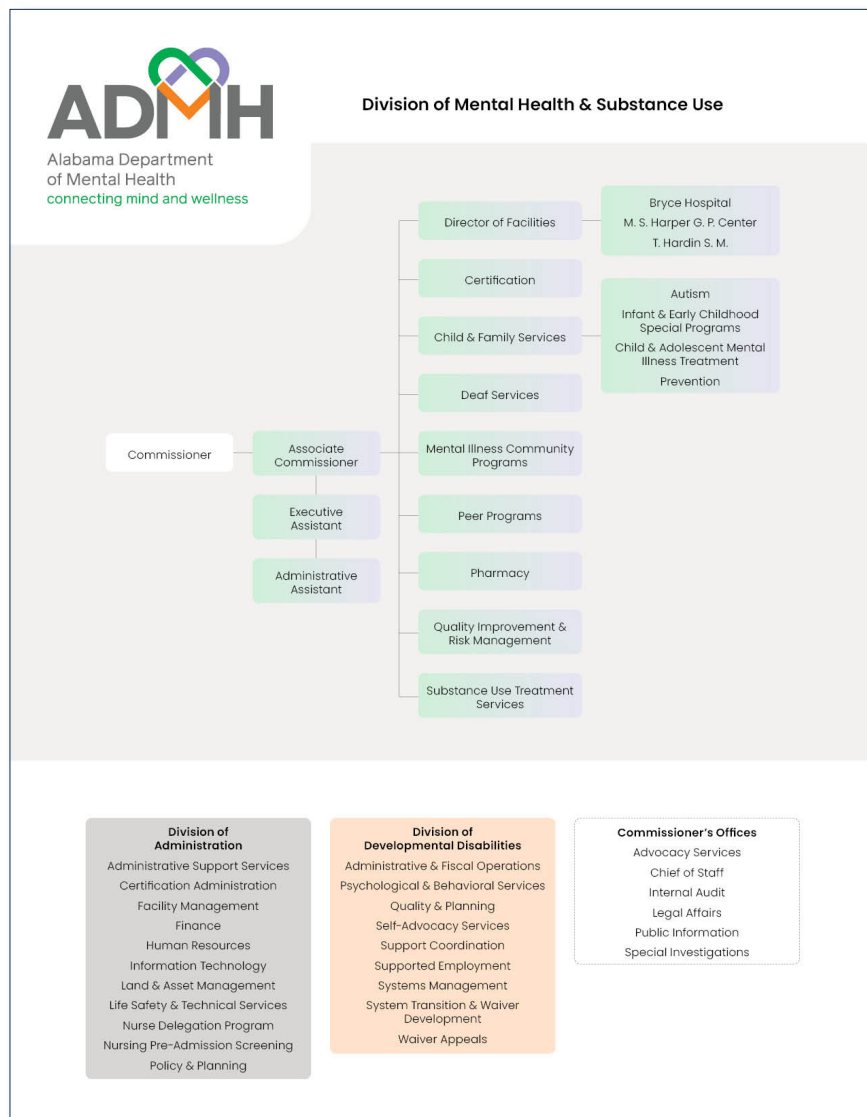


Office of Child and Family Services

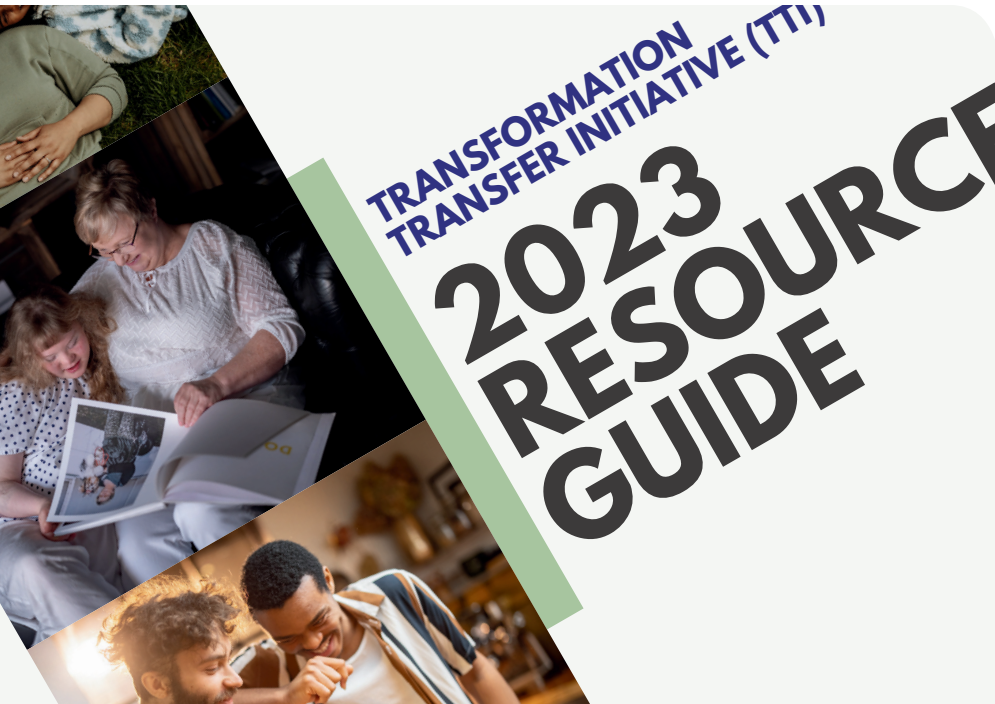
To better coordinate and strengthen services the ADMH and its providers offer to children and families in the state of Alabama, the Office of Child and Family Services has been established.

In connection with the ADMH [Strategic Plan](#), this new office will be guided by the related priorities, through its supports to children, families, and communities statewide for Alabamians to attain optimal health, wellness, and independence. The Office of Child and Family Services provides resources across the lifespan.

Existing offices and programs have been reorganized in order for staff to be physically and virtually closer, improving the continuum of care for those we serve. Learn more at <https://mh.alabama.gov/child-and-family-services/>.



Alabama featured in the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) 2023 Resource Guide



The Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) was established to help states transform aspects of their mental health care systems.

In the [2023 TTI Resource Guide](#), the Alabama Department of Mental Health was recognized for addressing health disparities targeting the deaf population through their partnership with AIDB and ASAP.

The TTI makes competitive funding grants to states to find, implement, and expand innovative behavioral health projects.

In addition to funding being provided to the states, tools such as informational exchanges, social marketing materials, and resource guides have been developed to assist all individuals involved in the program.

Also, Steven Hamerdinger was highlighted for his work with providing solutions for the deaf individuals in the article for Crisis Now.

VIDEO: Self-Direction Gave Us Our Freedom Back

Meet three families whose lives changed because of self-direction, what self-direction is, and how you can implement self-direction in your or your loved one's life. To Watch - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkMGRNtleWc>



Congratulations!



MELISSA BECK

Congratulations to Melissa Beck. She recently earned a MPH degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and for her role in the development of [Medication for Opioid Use Disorder \(MOUD\) Tool Kit for Peer Recovery Specialists](#) resource guide.



LISA BYRD

Congratulations to Lisa Byrd. She has released a prayer journal called "[Stay Word Up](#)." The Prayer Journal composed of scriptures that encourages prayer.



NATHAN SMITH

Congratulations to Nathan Smith. He recently finished his nine-month long CPM I Training Program and he is now an Associate Certified Public Manager.



BEVERLY JOHNSON

Congratulations to Beverly Johnson, Director, Child & Family Services, for winning the Ketty Award!

The Ketty Award, is presented annually to a current National Prevention Network (NPN) representative who has made outstanding contributions to the NPN and the field of prevention. This award acknowledges dedication and commitment to the national prevention network, qualities that advance the goals and objectives of the NPN, and implementation of exemplary and outstanding prevention programs in their home state.

Serve.
Empower.
Support.

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