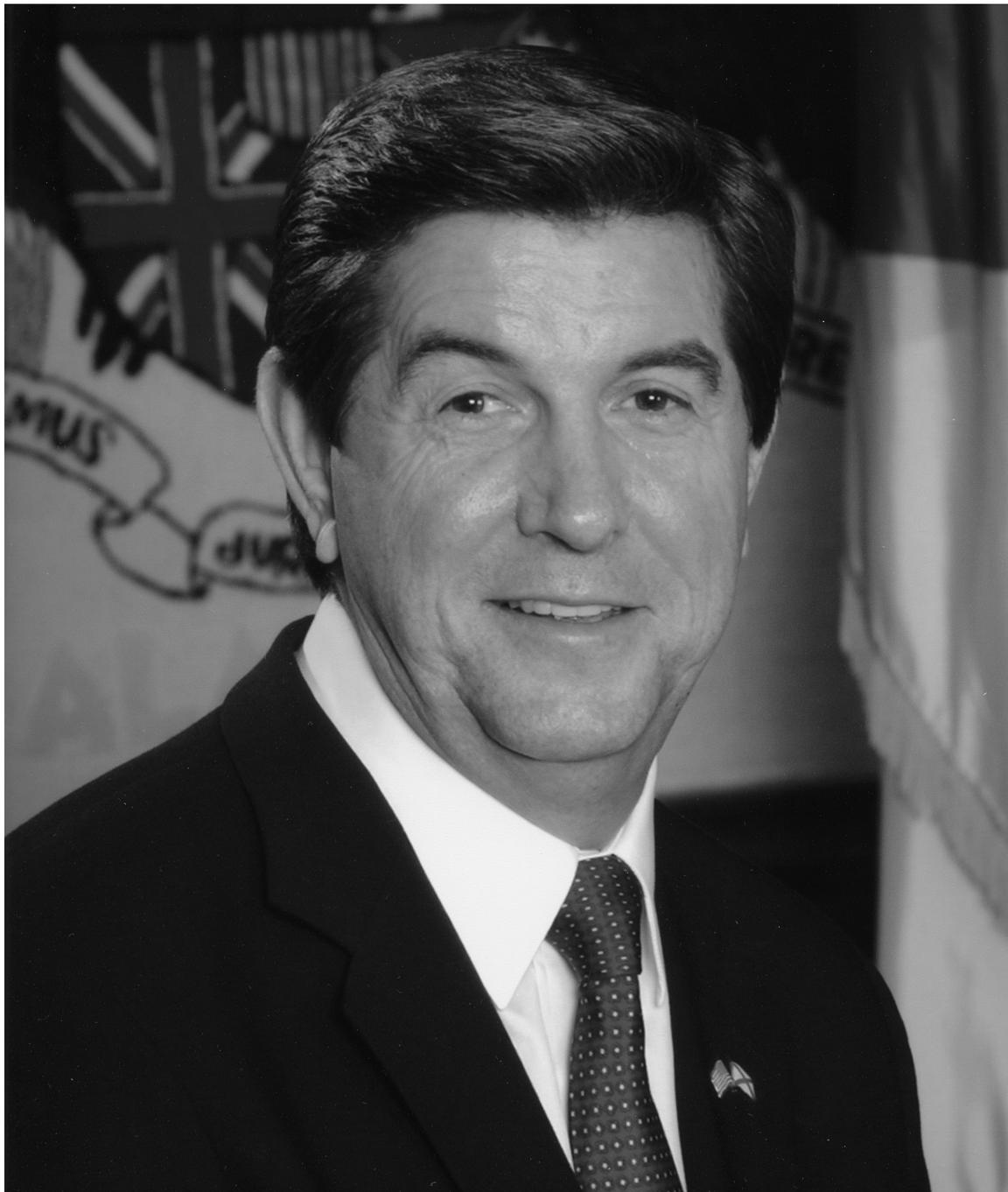




Perspectives





The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor
State of Alabama

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor
State of Alabama
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130



Dear Governor Riley,

It is an honor for me to present to you the department's Annual Report for FY 06. I appreciate very much the opportunity to serve with your staff and the many other cabinet members who have partnered with us to improve the lives of Alabamians with mental disabilities or substance addiction illness. Through your leadership and support we were able to serve more than 236,000 Alabama citizens in FY 06. Additionally, the OBRA Office of Pre-Admission Screening helped more than 38,000 people by assisting in the appropriate placement of their loved ones in nursing homes across the state.

Our eight facilities play a vital role in our healthcare network, and we continue to direct our attention to helping consumers in or near their own communities. As you know, with today's improvements in medications and treatments, people have a greater hope for recovery and self-determination than ever before. The people we serve do not want a "hand-out." Rather, they want a helping hand to enable them to regain control of their lives, their health and self-respect. That, in a nutshell, is our mission. This is accomplished through the hard work of our 2,800 dedicated employees and numerous contract community providers across the state. For us, success is measured one person at a time as lives are changed and people are able to return as contributing members of their families and communities. Some of their inspiring stories are included in the following pages. Other portions of this report highlight department initiatives and achievements. As you read these pages, I believe that you will feel as proud of these accomplishments as I am.

The mental healthcare system in the country is changing. The President's Report a few years ago described the system as fragmented and in shambles. We are doing everything we can to be a leader in systems transformation. Over the past year, we established four regional planning groups to provide input about the issues and challenges facing us. Their reports will be highly influential as I bring recommendations to you to move Alabama's mental health system forward. We will need the support of your office, the legislature and numerous stakeholders to turn these possibilities into opportunities for the people we serve. The challenges are great, but the reward of seeing changed lives is even greater.

Sincerely,

John M. Houston
Commissioner



John M. Houston
Commissioner



Alabama Department of
Mental Health & Mental Retardation
RSA Union Building
100 N. Union Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1410

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH & MENTAL RETARDATION ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	1.
DIVISION OF MENTAL ILLNESS SERVICES	2.
Consumer Highlight	
Community Mental Health Highlight	
Office of Mental Illness Community Programs	
Mental Illness State Facilities	
Office of Deaf Services	
Office of Consumer Relations	
Office of Certification Services	
Office of Performance Improvement	
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES	9.
Consumer Highlight	
Community Program Highlight	
Office of Community Services	
Developmental Center	
Office of Consumer Empowerment	
Office of Psychological & Behavioral Services	
Office of Community Certification	
Office of Quality Enhancement	
DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES	17.
Consumer Highlight	
Community Provider Highlight	
Office of Treatment Services	
Office of Certification & Training	
Office of Billing & Contracts	
Office of Information Services	
Office of Prevention	
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION	23.
Office of Finances	
Bureau of Data Management	
Bureau of Human Resources Management	
Office of Staff Development	
Office of Certification	
Office of Pre-Admission Screening	
Office of Contracts	
Office of Land & Asset Management	
Administrative Support Services	
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, BUREAUS, & CENTRAL OFFICE SUPPORT	29.
Office of Legislative & Constituent Affairs	
Office of Rights Protection & Advocacy	
Office of Policy & Planning	
Office of Public Information & Community Relations	
Bureau of Special Investigation	
Bureau of Legal Services	
Office of Children's Services	
The Alabama Family Trust	
The Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities	
DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE DIRECTORY	34.

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Alabama Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Organizational Structure

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR
MENTAL RETARDATION
Office of Community Services
Office of Consumer Empowerment
Office of Psychological & Behavioral Services
Office of Community Certification
Office of Quality Enhancement

MENTAL RETARDATION DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER:
W. D. Partlow Developmental Center

DIVISION OF MENTAL ILLNESS

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR
MENTAL ILLNESS
Office of Community Programs
Office of MI Facilities
Office of Deaf Services
Office of Consumer Relations
Office of Certification
Office of Performance Improvement

MENTAL ILLNESS STATE FACILITIES:
Bryce Hospital
Alice Kidd Nursing Home
Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Center
Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital
North Alabama Regional Hospital
Searcy Hospital
Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, BUREAUS, & CENTRAL OFFICE SUPPORT

Office of Legislative & Constituent Affairs
Office of Rights Protection & Advocacy Services
Office of Policy & Planning
Office of Public Information & Community Relations
Bureau of Special Investigations
Bureau of Legal Services
Office of Children's Services
The Alabama Family Trust & Special Projects

ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR
ADMINISTRATION
Office of Finance & Accounting
Office of Compensation Services
Bureau of Data Management
Bureau of Human Resources Management
Office of Staff Development
Office of Certification
Office of Pre-Admission Screening (OBRA)
Office of Land & Asset Management
Administrative Support Services

DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES
Methadone Services
Office of Performance Improvement
Office of Certification
Office of Research, Evaluation, & Information
Office of Prevention
Office of Contracts & Grants

PERSPECTIVES



Division of Mental Illness Services

PERSPECTIVES: Individuals in recovery from a mental illness...giving back.

“I am more than a diagnosis, and I am not defined by it.” Those are the words of Ronald, whose struggles with depression and a mild personality disorder took him on a long journey because he says, “I couldn’t get grounded and I would not accept help. I was in denial that I even had a problem.” Ronald eventually faced his illness and now serves as a peer support specialist at Searcy Hospital in Mobile helping others with a mental illness.

Ronald’s struggles began early in high school when he started to experience symptoms of depression, and even made a suicide attempt at age 13. After finishing graduate school, he began working in Atlanta where he was stable until he stopped his medication. Soon he became delusional, which led him down a path of destruction. He moved to California to try to make it as an actor but found himself out on the street, taking showers at the local YMCA and spending a lot of time at the public library. With no place to sleep, he admitted that he needed help, and went to a homeless shelter in West Hollywood.

While he says he got himself more or less back together at the shelter, Ronald was still experiencing symptoms. Later, after moving back to Alabama, he had a self-described “psychotic break” and went to Searcy Hospital where he received treatment. After being discharged, he began a slow move towards recovery and started by getting involved in the community. Ronald began volunteering with a local AIDS support agency, and the City of Mobile’s Visitor Center. He also became involved with the Mental Health Association in southwest Alabama, and that led to opportunities to become a consumer leader and advocate. Through his involvement in statewide consumer leadership, he was selected to work as a peer support specialist at Searcy Hospital. He is now in his own apartment and living independently. He enjoys his new job because he says, “This job allows me to work with others and get the attention off of myself. When you get active in giving back and helping others, your own recovery blossoms.”



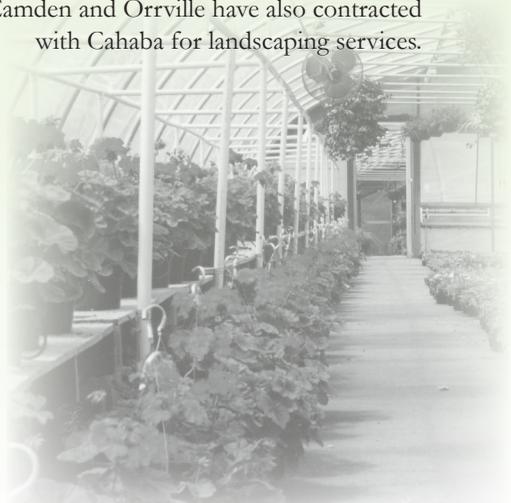
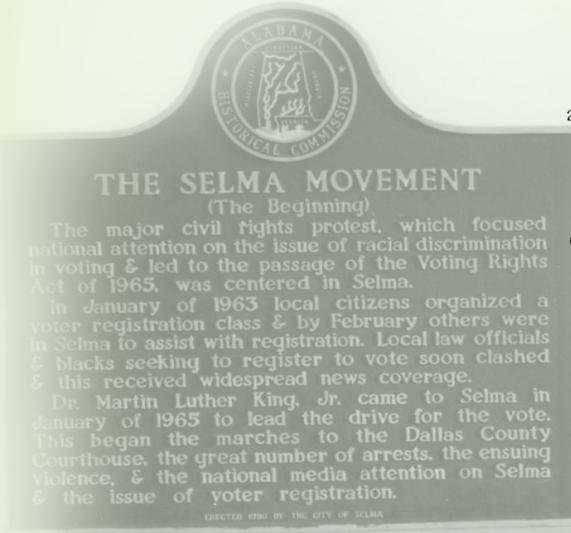
PERSPECTIVES: Community Mental Health Services help consumers...give back.

Ten years ago, clients from the Cahaba Center for Mental Health in Selma began growing flowers as an optional part of their therapeutic treatment. People in the community supported the efforts by buying the flowers clients had grown, and soon local groups helped organized fundraisers in order to purchase a greenhouse for the center. Not long after, the project “blossomed” when local businesses and churches signed contracts with the center to beautify their properties. Cahaba approached the city of Selma about cleaning and landscaping a park, and following the success of that project, the city hired Cahaba clients to landscape part of the downtown area.

Cahaba Center for Mental Health is a state-funded public agency that cares for approximately 2,500 patients across three counties. The clients who work on the landscaping projects are in day programs, which means they come to Cahaba for a period of time each day. The project provides meaningful employment for the clients, helping them become less dependent on social services and more self-reliant. They also earn income that is helpful to their family, and their self-esteem is enhanced.

The city of Selma is benefiting as well. Local citizens are proud of the city’s appearance. City officials have commented on the excellent impression the beautification of the downtown area has made on guests, and Chamber of Commerce executives have talked about the positive effect the landscaped area has on industrial prospects and tourists. Residents see clients working in the public in a meaningful way, while gaining respect for the capabilities of people with a mental illness, thereby overcoming stigma.

Currently, Cahaba’s clients run seven greenhouses, have 35 private landscaping contracts and plant flowers for cities twice a year. The cities of Camden and Orrville have also contracted with Cahaba for landscaping services.



DIVISION OF MENTAL ILLNESS SERVICES

Facts

Mental illnesses are biologically based brain disorders that can profoundly disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, moods, ability to relate to others and the capacity for coping with the demands of life. Mental illnesses include disorders such as schizophrenia, major depressive disorder and bi-polar disorder.

Community Services

OFFICE OF MENTAL ILLNESS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Office of Mental Illness Community programs serves as a liaison between the DMH/MR and community mental health providers in an effort to enhance treatment for consumers. The office works to ensure that quality standards are implemented and maintained throughout the community provider network.

Key Initiatives:

- Efforts continued to assist with Hurricane Katrina response through assistance with Crisis Counseling, FEMA grants and contracts.
- The MI Division presented or sponsored tracks on evidence-based practices, supported housing, certification, disaster response, and child/adolescent services at the Annual Meeting of the Council of Community Mental Health Boards, which has an attendance of over 800 people interested in community mental health services.
- The third Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Institute was held, focusing on training and consultation. The Institute was offered to community mental health psychiatrists and pediatricians in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and the Alabama Academy of Pediatrics.
- Assistance was provided to three mental



Consumer Jesse has a history of mental illness in her family. She has schizophrenia and attributes her recovery to her medication and the grace of God. Jesse is a member of the Alabama Minority Consumer Council which provides outreach and support for consumers.

health centers to develop HUD grant applications through the Supported Housing Consultants. These consultants, available through a contract with NAMI-Alabama, also began preparation of a Supported Housing plan.

- The Co-occurring Disorders Task Force continued to meet, and a Coordinator for Co-occurring Disorders was hired to guide the continuing efforts to improve services for those who have both mental illnesses and substance abuse diagnoses.

Mental Illness Facilities

SEARCY HOSPITAL

Searcy Hospital was established in 1902 in the town of Mt. Vernon in northern Mobile County and had a capacity of 325 beds in FY 06. Through a combination of acute care and extended care beds, Searcy served 1,084 consumers during the year. There were 673 admissions and 700 discharges. Ms. Beatrice McLean continued as facility director.

ALICE KIDD NURSING FACILITY

The Alice Kidd Nursing Facility serves elderly consumers and is located on the campus of Bryce Hospital. The nursing home

had a capacity of 30 beds. The facility served 38 elderly consumers. Ms. Nedra Moncrief-Craig continued to serve as director of the Alice Kidd Nursing Facility.

TAYLOR HARDIN SECURE MEDICAL FACILITY

Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility is a maximum-security forensic facility in Tuscaloosa. The facility provides evaluation and treatment services pursuant to orders issued in criminal cases by circuit courts from all 67 counties. Taylor Hardin has a capacity of 114 beds. During FY 06, Taylor Hardin served 233 consumers with 112 admissions and 92 discharges. Mr. James F. Reddoch, Jr., continued as facility director.

MARY STARKE HARPER GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY CENTER

The Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center, located on Bryce Campus in Tuscaloosa, served 381 elderly consumers in FY 06. Harper has a capacity of 96 beds. There were 279 admissions and 249 discharges during the year. Dr. Beverly Bell-Shambley continued as facility director.

NORTH ALABAMA REGIONAL HOSPITAL

North Alabama Regional Hospital (NARH) is located in Decatur and provides acute care services in the northern part of the state. In FY 06, NARH served 768 consumers and had a capacity of 74 beds at any given time. The facility admitted 689 consumers during the year and discharged 683. Mr. Charles Cutts continued as facility director.

GREIL MEMORIAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Greil Hospital is located in Montgomery and provides short-term acute care for consumers in the central part of the state. Greil has a capacity of 66 beds. During FY 06, the facility served 682 consumers, with 604 admissions and

602 discharges. Mr. Allen Stewart served as facility director.

BRYCE HOSPITAL

Bryce Hospital was established in 1861 in Tuscaloosa and is the oldest publicly operated mental illness facility in Alabama. In FY 06, the hospital had a capacity of 318 beds. During the year, Bryce served 1,116 consumers with 734 admissions and 694 discharges. Mr. David L. Bennett continued as facility director.



Bryce Hospital was established in 1861 and is the oldest publicly operated mental illness facility in Alabama, with a proud and distinguished tradition of service to Alabamians with mental illness.

Mental Illness Support Services

OFFICE OF DEAF SERVICES

The Office of Deaf Services (ODS) is responsible for developing and implementing programs that meet the linguistic and cultural needs of DMH/MR's consumers who are deaf or hard of hearing. Services are designed to be affirmative and supporting to consumers who traditionally have not been able to benefit from services offered by the department.

Key Initiatives:

- Regional Coordinators carried an average of 43 consumers on their caseloads in any given month; had direct contact with more than 1,600 consumers and family members; provided 105 clinical or communication assessments; and provided more than 5,000 hours of interpretive services for consumers, in addition to direct clinical services provided by staff. This is in spite of having three staff interpreter positions vacant for the entire year.
- In FY 06, the Bailey Deaf Unit was operating at 12 hours a day, seven days a week and will open for 24/7 operations as soon as the last three deaf care workers are hired. This is projected to be in March of 2007.
- *The Signs of Mental Health*, our well-received quarterly newsletter, reaches hundreds of people around the country. The office has also established a literature database containing more than 1,000 articles on mental health and deafness. This database has become a resource widely accessed by professionals seeking information.
- ODS has provided or sponsored more than 175 hours of training in mental health interpreting, representing 57 percent of all



These ladies attended this year's Annual Recovery Conference at Shocco Springs. More than 850 consumers with mental illnesses attended the three-day event.



Dr. Thomas Patton, III received the Dr. Peter Bryce Award for his dedication, professionalism and extensive knowledge in providing care for consumers of mental health services. David Bennett, facility director of Bryce Hospital, accepted the award on his behalf.

- the continuing education credits awarded by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf for mental health interpreting in 2006.
- ODS has been actively involved on a national level including participation in revising RID Standard Practice Papers for Mental Health Interpreting, for which they consulted with Northeastern University in Boston.
- ODS has been officially recognized as a sponsor for continuing education under the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf system, and in FY 06 conducted 96 separate training events with 2, 921 participants.

OFFICE OF CONSUMER RELATIONS

The Office of Consumer Relations provides information and technical support and assistance to consumers and consumer organizations throughout the state. It ensures that consumers have input into the management and decision-making process of the Mental Illness Division.

Key Initiatives:

- Coordinated departmental funding and provided technical support to consumer organizations and programs around the state

including:

- CONTACT/Wings Across Alabama, a statewide consumer organization.
- The Visionary Guild, a statewide organization of artists and writers with mental illness.
- Consumer run drop-in centers in Mobile, Selma, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and Huntsville.
- The Alabama Minority Consumer Council (AMCC), a statewide consumer organization that provides information and addresses issues of importance to minority individuals with mental illness.
- Local peer support/self-help groups across the state.
- Coordinated the 14th Annual Alabama Recovery Conference at Shocco Springs, with attendance of more than 850 with the majority being consumers.
- Participated in the Law Enforcement and Disabilities program (LEAD) at the Montgomery Police Academy, Montgomery Police Department in-service training and the State Trooper Academy in Selma.
- Assisted in coordinating The Capitol Showcase art exhibit at the Alabama State Capitol and assisted the Visionary Guild in planning and holding a retreat for artists and writers.

OFFICE OF CERTIFICATION SERVICES

The Office of Certification Services performs compliance reviews on all covered entities to assure that they comply with standards of operation and treatment. In addition to conducting on-site reviews of provider organizations, the staff provides technical assistance to providers to enhance compliance with the standards. They also provide valuable input into the planning and development of new services.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed new policies and procedures for the certification process in collaboration with other divisions within the department to assure a consistent and well-coordinated certification process.
- Refined the certification scoring process to better reflect the performance of the providers.

OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

The Office of Performance Improvement provides opportunities for input in DMH/MR performance improvement systems from consumers, family members, providers, consumer groups, advocacy organizations and advocates. The Performance Improvement (PI) Office also measures indicators related to standards of care and consumer satisfaction in facilities and community programs.

Key Initiatives:

- The PI Committee reviewed data related to the number of clients successfully discharged after temporary visits to community residential programs and assisted with the collection of data relative to movement of consumers in the MI continuum of care.
- The PI Office coordinated and provided four regional training sessions for CMHC staff on Special Incident Reporting Procedures.
- PI Office staff participated in four joint social worker/utilization review coordinator meetings to assist in coordination of data collection and processes to facilitate care across the inpatient to community continuum.

PERSPECTIVES



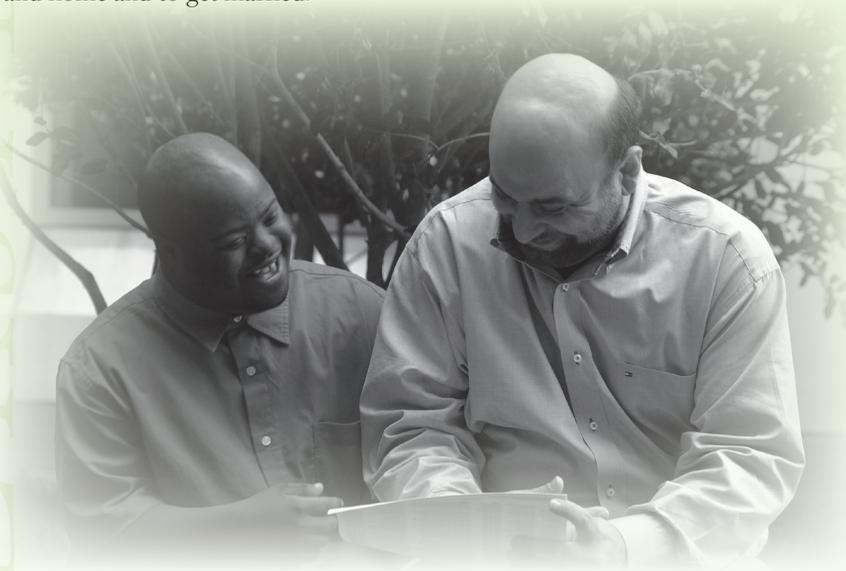
Division of Mental Retardation Services

PERSPECTIVES: Individuals with cognitive developmental disabilities...give back.

Down Syndrome has never slowed Keith down. In fact, as Keith's mother says, "He does not see his disability and somehow is not convinced that he has a disability." Keith just wishes others felt the same. He says, "I don't let it affect my life, and I wish people could see the world for what it is and give ALL people respect."

Respect has been something Keith has earned from everybody with whom he has come in contact. He works two part-time jobs in Montgomery, one at a research company and another with an insurance company. Keith is responsible for keeping the front area clean, delivering mail and multiple other office duties. Keith enjoys keeping up with his paychecks and doing his own financial management.

In his spare time, his activities are almost too numerous to name. He is a big wrestling and baseball fan, and travels frequently to different wrestling matches and games with Montevallo baseball team. He ushers at church, swims, enjoys bike riding and horseback riding, and has taken some courses at a local college. Keith's plans for the future are likely to keep him just as busy, as he hopes one day to own his own car and home and to get married.



PERSPECTIVES: Community Providers help people with disabilities use their abilities to...give back.

At the ARC of Jackson County in Scottsboro, Business Buddies is an employment mentor program for people with developmental disabilities. The ARC went out into the community and recruited volunteers, and matched them with the employees who use the ARC's services. By doing things together, like going shopping, discussing job-related issues, or even talking about football, volunteers learn more about people with developmental disabilities, and in turn assist the employees with opportunities for inclusion in the community.

Community mentors include homemakers, beauticians, various business owners, family physicians, retired military officers, newspaper reporters and elected officials. One of the volunteers is dance instructor Melanie Varner, whose buddy is Becky Treece. "We worked it out so that once a week I teach Becky tap dancing. We've performed for her friends at ARC a couple of times, and she gets all excited. It's a great setting to show off her talent."

Mentors sometimes learn more than they teach. Through Business Buddies they get to see firsthand what kind of abilities and personalities the employees have. The effect of this interaction is greater respect and less stigma for people with cognitive disabilities. The program also provides real employee enhancement for the clients and more community inclusion. Business Buddies is a model program for helping people with disabilities use their ABILITIES.



DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Facts

Mental retardation is a life-long condition that affects many areas of an individual's life. Specifically, mental retardation is diagnosed when someone is assessed to have intellectual functioning/IQ below a score of 70, and significant challenges or limitations in two or more life/adaptive skills areas, with both of these conditions being present before the age of 18. Therefore, supports and services must be available from birth throughout the individual's life.

Community Services

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Office of Community Services is organized into five regions throughout the state. Each office is staffed with individuals who work in collaboration with local providers, 310 corporations, family support groups, and other entities to enhance services and assist individuals with mental retardation in developing skills that will enable them to be more self-sufficient and have greater self-esteem within their community.

Key Initiatives:

- Implemented proposed rate setting procedures, and the IRBI formula was modified for FY 07 to include the cost of the Medication Administration Training and Monitoring, in compliance with the rules of the Alabama Board of Nursing.
- Concentrated quality enhancement efforts in one agency to provide for a philosophical shift from a program-centered approach to a person-centered approach to services.
- Improved case management/brokerage system by decreasing caseloads to 30, increasing the number of waiver slots, and



Every year, hundreds of people with disabilities rally for their rights at the Alabama State House. There are more than 12,000 Alabamians with cognitive disabilities living in the community receiving services.

promoting person-centered planning approaches and inclusion in conjunction with community programs.

- Developed and maintained an integrated electronic data management system that replaced the old system of reporting information.
- The development of MRSIS and the finalization of rate setting were the initial steps in moving toward individualized budgets for persons in the system.

REGION I COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Greater Etowah 310 will begin construction of an approximately 9,000 square foot facility for day habilitation.
- In July of 2006, partners from the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Foundation, Etowah Rehab Services, Summit Health and Management, and the Northeast Alabama MR/DD Authority joined together to purchase the Cory School building from Gadsden City Schools. The school, which

is now called Etowah Academy, opened in September and is exclusively for students with developmental disabilities from the 6th through 12th grades.

- The past year was a challenging year for The Arc of Jackson County. They suffered the loss of their long time director, Arlene Ainsworth. She was selected by The Arc of Alabama as the recipient for their Sally Hershberger Award of Courage. This selection was made prior to Arlene's death; however, the presentation was made the day of her funeral.
- Gene Airheart won The Arc of Alabama's Volunteer of the Year Award. Mr. Airheart has been a board member for The Arc of Jackson County for almost as many years as they have been providing services.

REGION II COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Continued to coordinate funding and provide technical assistance for the expansion of services to accommodate 54 individuals from this region who received services through the MR waiver and eight who received services through the Living at Home waiver.
- Awarded funding to Ability Alliance of West Alabama to develop a prevention and training project called Safety in Homes and Communities.
- Several new service providers were welcomed including Connecting Hearts (provides residential and hourly services), Future Living (provides residential, hourly services, and respite), Revitalizing Housing in Our Community (provides residential services) and Life Enrichment (provides residential services).

REGION III COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Hosted training for providers, including SRV and Person Centered Planning, Grass-roots Advocacy, Guardianship, Medication

Administration Training, Nurse Practice Act and Voter Training for Consumers, Families and staff.

- Provided training to all DHR staff in all ten counties in southwest Alabama regarding the Medicaid Waiver.
- Provided new services to people who were on the following waiting lists: day-43; residential-45, supports-38.

REGION IV COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Provided new services to 15 individuals within the region through funded vacancies.
- A grant with Auburn University's Psychology Department has been expanded to provide practicum training in selected program sites for graduate students completing the requirements to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts. This program provides direct services to a day program in Macon County and to children and adults in Montgomery, Elmore and Lee Counties.
- Regional nurses coordinated the initial discussions and developments for implementation of the Nurse Practice Act.



Elias Johnson, who works as a Mental Health Worker I at the W. D. Partlow Developmental Center, was recognized as the FY 06 Caring Hands Award winner. He has demonstrated compassion and professionalism in caring for individuals with mental disabilities.

REGION V COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Region V Community Services Staff planned, coordinated and achieved the move of thirty-four individuals into homes of their own this fiscal year.
- There were eight new homes developed for individuals in the region.
- Community staff participated and gave technical assistance on the file review visit to Gadsden UPC, Early Intervention Program.

W. D. PARTLOW DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

W. D. Partlow Developmental Center, the first residential facility in the state with services for individuals with mental retardation, was opened in 1923 in Tuscaloosa. During the 80s, eight cottages were renovated into beautiful barrier-free homes, and two homes, each containing five six-bed apartments, were constructed. In addition, a new infirmary and two day-program buildings were added. During FY 03, a major refurbishing took place in each home in anticipation of the Governor's approval of the consolidation plan. With the closure of the A.P. Brewer Developmental Center, W. D. Partlow Developmental Center remained the only state-operated residential center in the state, which currently has the budgeted capacity to serve 210 individuals and employs more than 550 staff.

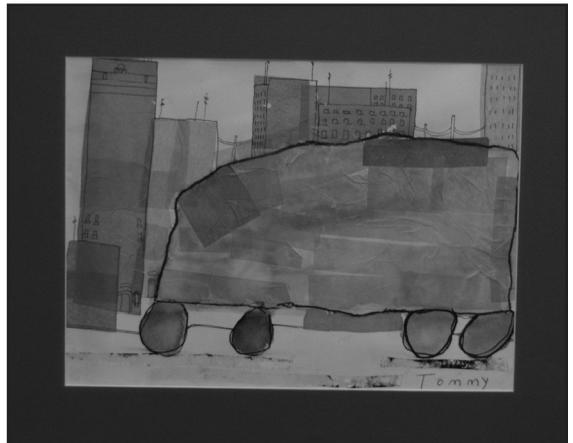
Mental Retardation Support Services

OFFICE OF CONSUMER EMPOWERMENT

The Office of Consumer Empowerment is responsible for providing leadership and support in the self-advocacy and self-determination initiatives in Alabama. It also encourages individuals with cognitive disabilities to be active and to participate in governmental and civic activities that promote their rights, needs and desires to become self-reliant, contributing members of the community in which they live.

Key Initiatives:

- Attended City Council meeting in Linden in reference to discriminatory practices regarding housing people with cognitive disabilities.
- Continued to develop resources for initiative continuation through Alabama Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.
- Assisted People First of Alabama with annual conference, elections and officer training.
- Director attended National ARC convention in San Diego, California, and conducted a Family and Siblings workshop.
- Director attended The Disability Policy Conference held in Washington, D.C., and conducted a workshop for people attending for the first time.



The painting above is entitled SUV in the City by Consumer Tommy. He is a 51-year-old man with developmental disabilities. He lives at home with his parents and attends The Arc of South Talladega County. He said, "I see pictures in a book and then draw them. I like going to art class. My favorite art is painting motorcycles."

OFFICE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL AND BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

The Office of Psychological and Behavioral Services develops, implements and monitors the division's overall psychological and behavioral services in the state. The office supervises the activities of three Comprehensive

Support Services Teams (CSS). The CSS teams were developed as part of the consolidation plan to provide support to people in the areas where a developmental center closed. Thus, there is one CSS Team that provides services to the northern portion of the state, one to the central portion of the state, and one to the southern portion of the state.

Key Initiatives:

- The Behavior Analysis Task Force completed guidelines which outline the minimum requirements for providing behavioral services to consumers in the state (Behavioral Services Procedural Guidelines).
- CSS behavioral staff provided 5,872 behavioral services to consumers during this fiscal year. The services were provided to adults and to children in a variety of settings, which included community group homes, community day programs, family homes, schools, psychiatric hospital units, CSS clinics or offices, jails and the state operated developmental center (SODC). (Note: These numbers do not include the services provided by the behavioral staff of the SODC, only of CSS behavioral staff.)
- The CSS primary care physicians, psychiatrists, and dentists provided services to an average of 29, 142, and 59 consumers per quarter, respectively. The total number of services provided by these professional team members during the year was 226, 897, and 246, respectively. Services were provided in community medical/dental offices and CSS clinics/offices.
- CSS behavioral staff conducted 504 training sessions for community providers covering a variety of topics relevant to challenging behaviors. Additionally, they provided 218 training sessions that addressed behavioral supports for specific individuals.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION

The Office of Community Certification conducts on-site reviews of programs which provide services to consumers with mental retardation, as required by Alabama law. Currently, more than 200 certified providers offer services to consumers in over 1,200 sites throughout the state. The certification program reviews are designed to ensure that services are of the highest quality possible and that the health and welfare is maintained of all of the individuals served.

Key Initiatives:

- Conducted 328 surveys to include residential, day habilitation, case management services, and hourly services.
- Awarded 148 two-year certifications and 180 one-year certifications.
- Reviewed and approved 129 applications for a Temporary Operating Authority (TOA) and conducted initial certification reviews of each.



The Annual Camp Partlow Trail & Road Duathlon was again a great success. Approximately 100 people entered the event to raise raise money for Partlow programs.

- Worked in collaboration with the Alabama Board of Nursing to establish a community standard of care of training requirements for supervising nurses and direct support professionals assisting with the administration of medication.

OFFICE OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT

The Office of Quality Enhancement implements and monitors the division's quality enhancement programs for state developmental centers and for the community service provider network throughout the state.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed, implemented and monitored the division's overall Quality Enhancement Program for its state operated developmental center (SODC), five Regional Community Services Offices, and their community service providers.
- Administered approximately 400 consumer satisfaction surveys for participation in the National Indicators Project.
- Regional QE staff and RCS staff continued participating in a "Train the Trainer" Person Centered Planning and Positive Behavior Support Model in conjunction with contracted faculty and staff from the University of South Florida.
- Monitored the implementation of a standardized Incident and Prevention Management Plan for the community program to monitor and manage 26 types of reportable incidents, including investigations of allegations of abuse, neglect, mistreatment and exploitation. Worked with the Office of Data Management to develop and implement a statewide incident data system which allows for analysis of trends and identification of needed systems improvement activities.
- Conducted a comprehensive analysis of the Individual and Family Support Program through a qualitative and quantitative process using face-to-face interviews, mail surveys and phone surveys with participants with disabilities and their families.
- Provided education and support to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families related to the Individual and Family Support Program through training on how to access supports and services.

PERSPECTIVES



Division of Substance Abuse Services

PERSPECTIVES: Before treatment...homeless After treatment...UAB Employee of the Year.

Janet has experienced some of the lowest lows a person can reach, but through a spiritual experience and her own perseverance, she has transformed her life. "Cocaine destroyed my career at The University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) as an X-ray Tech and eventually led me into the 15-year hell of homelessness, eating out of dumpsters and selling my body for a "push on a stem." I lived in basements and slept in filth. I got pregnant. As the baby neared term, I decided to go to the hospital, have the baby and leave. All I wanted was another "hit." On the delivery table, I felt the presence of God. I had planned to go back to the crack house, but God had a different plan the day that my little girl was born.

"As the hospital prepared me for discharge, I begged for the social worker to let me keep my little girl. The social worker made arrangements for us to go to Olivia's House, a rehab center where moms can live with their children. After a year in residential treatment, I reached the job readiness stage of the program. I was hired at University Hospital as an X-ray technician... my former career, and I was recently awarded "Employee of the Year" for 2006 for the entire UAB system! I get to see my little girl grow up, we have an apartment and I am relatively self-sufficient.

I thank God every day for the DMH/MR and Olivia's House."



PERSPECTIVES: Community providers promote recovery and...give back

The Chemical Addictions Program, Inc. (CAP) in Montgomery is continually developing initiatives to ensure it is providing the newest and best services to its clients. CAP has recently become the first substance abuse treatment facility in the state to implement the Nurse Delegation Program. This program is a collaboration of the Alabama Nursing Board and the department to ensure that residential assistants are properly dispensing medication. The Alabama Nursing Board developed the training, which required the RN and LPN at the center to go through training to become Medical Assistance Supervisors. They then trained the residential assistants to become Medication Assistance Certified workers. The training involved 12 hours of classroom studies, as well as 12 hours of hands-on practical experience that required the trainees to show how to properly put drops in patients' eyes, take blood pressure, dispense medication and more. After completing and passing tests given after the training, all resident assistant's at the facilities are now trained.

CAP is currently piloting an evidence-based client-centered motivational treatment sponsored by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that focuses on encouraging and uplifting patients through their recovery process in a variety of ways, including a strong family support element. An early recovery and relapse prevention session is one of the first portions of the treatment, and during this period, counselors invite family members to attend the sessions to provide their support and learn how they can aid in the recovery process.

CAP provides a variety of substance abuse treatment services to both residential and outpatient clients. An in-patient facility serves 24 males, and outpatient services are provided to more than 1,500 adults and adolescents, including services at two Department of Youth Services facilities located in Montgomery and Birmingham.



DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

The Division of Substance Abuse Services contracts with community organizations who provide services for thousands of Alabamians per year who have substance abuse problems. Addiction and substance dependency knows no demographic or socioeconomic bounds. Although the department operates no addiction treatment facilities, it maintains strict certification standards and plays a significant role in providing funding for a large number of community prevention and treatment programs.

Key Initiatives for the Year:

- The substance abuse system improvement initiative began as a result of a \$200,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Resources for Recovery Project. The goal of the initiative is to make Alabama's substance abuse system "One of the Best in the Nation." The initiative included:
 - Executive Order #23, which created the Alabama Commission for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse.
 - Development of an expanded treatment service array modeled after the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Patient Placement Criteria.
 - Contracted with Harmony Information Systems for the development of the Alabama Substance Abuse Information System (ASAIS), which is a web-based system designed to: formalize the client enrollment process, including the assignment of a state-wide unique client identifier; improve the billing process; enhance financial management; implement an outcome monitoring system; improve budget and contract management; and provide a data warehouse allowing easy access for outcome-based data analysis.



Substance abuse disorders can effect family members rich or poor, male or female, mothers or fathers, employed or unemployed, and young or old. No one knows the exact cause, however, it somewhat depends on genetics/biological traits based on family history.

- Published a Request for Proposal for the expansion of substance abuse treatment services for male parolees at the L.I.F.E. Tech facility in Thomasville. The contract for \$500,000 was awarded to the Human Resource Development Institute (H.R.D.I.).
- Published a Request for Proposal for the creation of residential treatment services for co-occurring disorders in females. Contracts were awarded to Emma's Harvest Home and Second Chance, both in Mobile. These pilot projects were selected specifically to help address the acute care crisis at Searcy Hospital.

Community Treatment Programs

OFFICE OF TREATMENT SERVICES

The Office of Treatment Services manages adolescent, adult, co-occurring disorders and opiate replacement therapy within the Substance Abuse Services Division.

Key Initiatives:

- The treatment service delivery system in Alabama is predicated on the American Society of Addiction Medicine that identifies four primary patient levels of care and identifies placement criteria for each level of care. The

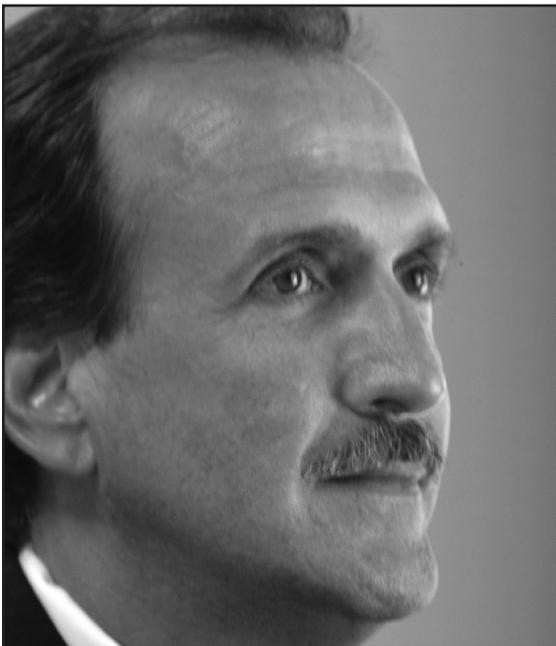
patient placement is based upon his or her condition as it is reflected through the intake assessment. This system helps to ensure the most appropriate treatment is provided to those consumers in need.

OFFICE OF CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

The Office of Certification and Training manages the program certification process, provides certification and technical assistance services, and provides a comprehensive statewide training and workforce development program for the Substance Abuse Services Division.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed new operating procedures for the SASD certification program.
- Monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of the training/workforce development



Consumer Buren works to give others the same help he received in his journey through substance abuse recovery. He believes it is important to get involved in advocacy because he feels he has a debt he owes to society and because, "If people in recovery don't believe in others who are currently facing substance abuse issues, who will? A lot of people want to end their addiction, but don't know how or don't have access to services."

program, and implemented necessary modifications.

- Monitored and evaluated contract surveyors to ensure a high level of integrity and continuity of certification surveys are maintained.
- Maintained certification status for more than one hundred community substance abuse programs.

OFFICE OF BILLING AND CONTRACTS

The Office of Billing and Contracts manages all aspects of the billing and contracts management processes, including client enrollment, contract utilization, claims adjudication, and provider reimbursement.

Key Initiatives:

- Reviewed, analyzed and tracked provider claims, services rendered, and recipient utilization patterns.
- Enrolled all providers into SASD's management information system.
- Provided contracts and reimbursable billing services in an expedient manner.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION SERVICES

The Office of Information Services is responsible for data collection, dissemination and reporting for the Substance Abuse Services Division. Responsibilities include reporting for the Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS), National Outcome Measures (NOMS), Substance Abuse Waiting List, client profile summaries, as well as the management of the Alabama Substance Abuse Information System (ASAIS).

Key Initiatives:

- Met federal reporting requirements for Substance Abuse grant.
- Disseminated data on substance abuse services to the public.
- Designed and began implementation of the Alabama Substance Abuse Information System (ASAIS).

OFFICE OF PREVENTION

The Office of Prevention manages all aspects of substance abuse prevention within the Substance Abuse Services Division.

Key Initiatives:

- Contracted with and monitored prevention services across the state for all age groups.
- The State Incentive Grant (SIG) transferred from the Alabama Department of Economic & Community Affairs on April 1, 2006, to the Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Substance Abuse Services Division. Twelve community coalitions completed a strategic plan to incorporate a range of effective community-based prevention efforts.
- Coordinated all substance abuse prevention funding services within the state that is directed at communities, families, schools, and workplaces. Identified and filled gaps with effective and promising prevention approaches.
- Developed a comprehensive statewide strategy aimed at reducing drug use by youth. The proposed statewide prevention strategy incorporates a range of effective substance abuse community-based prevention efforts that are derived from research findings.

PERSPECTIVES



Division of Administration

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF FINANCE

The Office of Finance coordinates and provides centralized financial management of state, federal, and local funds, budgeting, payment processing, purchasing, and payroll services for the department.

Key Initiatives:

- Processed payroll warrants, deductions, W-2 forms, insurance, retirement applications and other related payroll activities for 2,716 employees.
- Participated in SMART Budgeting and received the High Performer Designation for demonstrating the ability to effectively manage performance measurement and consistently adhere to State Finance Department policies.
- Conducted forum for small businesses to provide information about business opportunities with DMHMR.
- Converted employees' payroll payment frequency from bi-weekly to semi-monthly, and extensive training for the semi-monthly payroll was conducted.

BUREAU OF DATA MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Data Management provides information system services, including data, communication, video, and installation/configuration of hardware for the DMH/MR Central Office and the department's facilities. The Bureau staff provides essential information technology support services to ensure that the Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse delivery systems operate as efficiently as possible.

Key Initiatives:

- Implemented procedures to comply with Alabama's new Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.



Dan Evans, IT Manager, Data Management Bureau Chief, was selected as the FY 06 Employee of the Year for the entire DMH/MR. Those who nominated Dan wished to remain anonymous, but said, "Although Dan does not have direct contact with our consumers, he has a complete understanding of the department's mission. He also keeps us focused on the fact that everything we do is related to the consumer."

- Implemented a new Incident Prevention and Management System for MR Community Services.
- Implemented major processing and reporting modifications to support the change from bi-weekly employee payroll to semi-monthly payroll.
- Participated in the Strategic Information Technology (I.T.) Plan for the DMH/MR to include network infrastructure, computer equipment and applications software.
- Developed a new residential vacancy monitoring instrument based on consultation with Community Programs staff, the Utilization Review Coordinators, and the Directors of Social Work from the state hospitals.

BUREAU OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Central to its mission, the Bureau of Human Resources Management assesses personnel needs and actively recruits the most qualified and professional workforce available in order to provide quality patient care.

Key Initiatives:

- Continued ongoing efforts to strengthen

recruitment and retention of psychiatrists by attending National Psychiatric Conventions.

- Increased salary ranges for direct care staff to improve recruitment, selection and retention, with ongoing efforts to develop a Workforce Succession Plan.
- Completed the construction of a web page with all inclusive job announcements of vacancies within the DMH/MR.
- Initiated continuing efforts to analyze external labor markets by conducting surveys to ensure competitive salaries.

OFFICE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The ongoing mission of the Office of Staff Development is to facilitate the delivery of training and educational programs and activities department-wide, providing support and assistance to the department's service divisions and to their facility training efforts, providing activities and opportunities for continuing education and other certification credits, as well as serving as the central repository for system-wide training records.

Key Initiatives:

- Became certified as a provider of alcohol and drug abuse Continuing Education credits through the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC).
- Facilitated supervisory training through State Personnel Department at on-site DMH/MR facilities across the state.
- Implemented the new State Board of Nursing requirement for recording and reporting of nurses' participation in departmental sponsored continuing educational training activities, using a tri-corder to scan Board of Nursing-issued licenses and consequently submit electronic records by uploading data from the device directly to the Alabama Board of Nursing online database.
- Coordinated four "Prospective Community

Provider Orientation" sessions for persons who had interest in becoming a community provider for persons with mental illness, mental retardation, and/or substance abuse problems. These sessions were designed as an educational forum to help persons become familiar with the mental health system in Alabama and the certification application process. A total 293 persons attended provider orientation in FY 06.

- Coordinated a total of 181 training and educational activities during the fiscal year. Approximately 90% of these activities provided continuing education credits.

OFFICE OF CERTIFICATION

The Office of Certification is responsible for inspecting and certifying all community facilities and providing technical assistance for code compliance for all renovations or new construction projects for facilities that are already certified or will be seeking certification from the department.

Key Initiatives:

- Conducted more than 4,398 inspections and reviews of residences and facilities across the state.
- Conducted an on-site review of physical plant projects at Searcy Hospital, Bryce Hospital and Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital.
- Performed life safety reviews at Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital, Bryce Hospital, North Alabama Regional Hospital and Partlow Developmental Center.

OFFICE OF PRE-ADMISSION SCREENING

The Office of Pre-Admission Screening is federally mandated by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1987. OBRA Pre-admission Screening Resident Review (PASRR) requires all applicants and residents of Medicaid certified nursing facilities (NF) to be screened for

suspected mental illness (MI) and mental retardation/related condition (MR/RC). This act also requires all applicants and residents of Medicaid-certified nursing facilities with mental illness and mental retardation/related conditions to be evaluated for mental health services and level of care needs.

Key Initiatives:

- Screened 36,768 nursing facility applicants and residents for suspected MI and MR/RC.
- Identified 2,755 nursing facility applicants and residents with a diagnosis of MI and MR/RC for appropriate placement.
- Monitored 2,808 NF residents with a diagnosis of MI and MR/RC for significant change resulting in 262 follow-up evaluations to determine service needs and continued NF eligibility.
- Conducted 14 training sessions to community and state providers.

OFFICE OF CONTRACTS

The Office of Contracts is a new office developed in FY 04 and staffed in early FY 05. The Office expedites the contracting process, and saves time and money by using the electronic method of sending/receiving information on contracts.

Key Initiatives:

- Issued Requests for Proposals (RFP) required for professional service contracts for all facilities and Central Office.
- Issued all contracts and amendments to contractors and reviewed them when returned for consistency with the approved format language.
- Transformed the contract process to electronic signatures and eliminated expensive and time-consuming paper medium.
- Continued to educate the facilities and Central Office staff about the Contracts Office and the services it provides.

OFFICE OF LAND & ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (DMH/MR) has significant real estate holdings throughout Alabama. The Office of Land and Asset Management oversees DMH/MR land and physical plant assets.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed and managed a comprehensive departmental Land-Use Plan.
- Negotiated and renewed leases.
- Managed contracts related to major construction at DMH/MR facilities and for projects of the Mental Health Finance Authority.
- Replaced the Lake Partlow Dam.
- Began a roof replacement project at Partlow Developmental Center that will replace 17 roofs, as well as a kitchen renovation project at the center.
- Completed a major bathroom renovation project at Searcy.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES

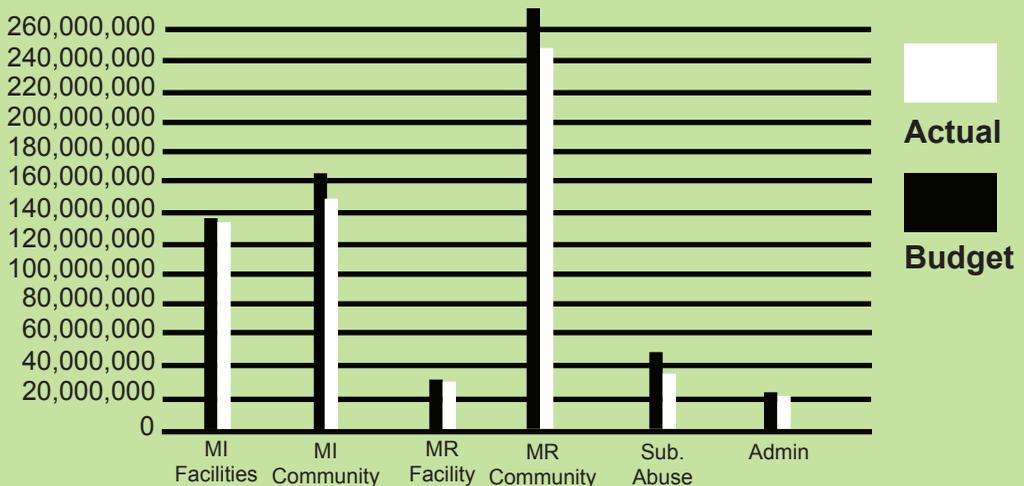
Departmental printing, mail, property inventory and the logistics of distributing office supplies are coordinated by the Administrative Support Services.

Key Initiatives:

- Provided technical assistance for printing needs of the Central Office.
- Managed the Document Services Center to provide copies, brochures/hand-outs for departmental meetings.
- Continued to assist in supporting the divisions by delivering the mail in a timely manner, providing technical expertise for printing, picking up and distributing office supplies, managing departmental inventory and providing quality copies, brochures, etc.

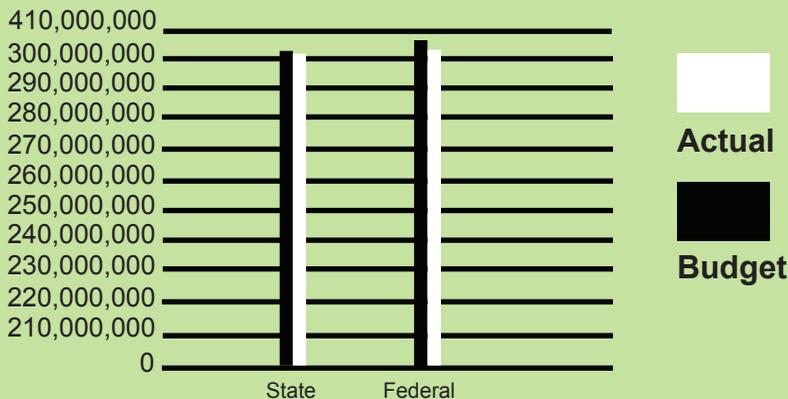
Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Expenditures and Encumbrances
FY 2005-2006

MI Facilities	Budget	Actual	Percent of Actual to Budget
Bryce	45,639,215	45,512,613	98.72%
Searcy	42,172,355	41,757,593	99.02%
Hardin	11,938,443	11,920,200	99.85%
Greil	10,921,125	10,638,288	97.41%
North AL	11,750,222	11,737,537	99.89%
Kidd	3,725,393	3,546,147	95.19%
Harper	11,772,419	11,649,155	98.95%
Total	137,919,172	136,761,533	99.16%
MR Facility			
Partlow	31,350,832	30,827,195	98.33%
Total	31,350,832	30,827,195	98.33%
Community Programs			
Mental Illness	162,041,495	149,390,833	92.19%
Substance Abuse	44,093,293	34,260,000	77.70%
Mental Retardation	267,522,536	245,642,933	91.82%
Total	473,657,324	429,293,766	90.63%
Central Admin	24,800,173	21,240,076	85.64%
GRAND TOTAL	667,727,501	618,122,570	92.57%



Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation General Revenue
FY 2005-2006

State Revenues	FY 2005-2006		Difference Actual vs. Budgeted	
	Budget	Actual	Actual	Budget
Cigarette Tax	8,411,610	7,295,204	(1,116,406)	86.73%
Tobacco Settlement	4,574,718	3,159,042	(1,415,676)	69.05%
Special Education Trust Fund	20,682,245	20,642,245	0	100.00%
Special Mental Health Fund	146,106,880	146,106,880	0	100.00%
State General Fund	125,893,353	125,893,353	0	100.00%
Indigent Offenders Treatment	115,000	115,000	0	100.00%
Judicial Fines	0	153	153	
Total	305,783,806	303,251,877	(2,531,929)	99.17%
Federal, Local, Misc. Revenues				
Other Income	7,761,646	7,130,139	(631,507)	91.86%
Restricted Funds (Donated)	7,934,378	7,601,438	(332,940)	95.80%
Medicaid, Title XIX Facilities	29,478,692	29,015,270	(463,422)	98.43%
Medicaid, XIX MR Community	173,846,616	164,668,394	(9,178,222)	94.72%
Medicaid, XIX MI Community	74,262,002	64,164,743	(10,097,259)	86.40%
Medicaid, XIX Sub Abuse Community	2,196,128	2,507,475	311,347	114.18%
Medicaid, PL 100-203 OBRA	571,721	382,787	(188,934)	66.95%
Medicare	10,551,158	9,860,216	(690,942)	93.45%
Federal Block Grants	37,202,343	26,627,063	(10,575,280)	71.57%
Federal Grants	16,639,011	13,504,811	(3,134,200)	81.16%
Total	360,443,695	325,462,336	(34,981,359)	90.29%
Other Items				
Departmental Receipts	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	100.00%
Total	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	100.00%
GRAND TOTAL	667,727,501	630,214,213	(37,513,288)	94.38%



PERSPECTIVES



Commissioner's Office, Bureaus,
& Central Office Support

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE & CONSTITUENT AFFAIRS

The Office of Legislative and Constituent Affairs is responsible for developing, negotiating and monitoring legislation that may impact department operations and/or services. The office responds to constituent inquiries across the state as they relate to mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse matters.

Key Initiatives:

- Kept Commissioner and staff apprised of any legislation that could potentially affect the department and/or the mental health system and its stakeholders.
- Assisted legislators, the Governor and any other elected officials with constituent issues as they relate to mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse matters.
- During FY 06, the number of constituent requests referred to this office was approximately 150.
- Worked with the Legislature on budgetary challenges facing the department and service delivery system.

OFFICE OF RIGHTS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY

The Wyatt case essentially established consumer rights and minimum standards of care. In 1986, the Office of Rights Protection & Advocacy was established to provide a quick response advocacy network for consumers. Individuals from across the state benefit from the services provided by the 26 certified advocates of this office. Consumers, who are residents of state facilities, as well as those who are served in certified community programs, may contact these internal advocates at any time for advice and assistance.

Key Initiatives:

- Maintained a 24-hour toll-free Advocacy access line seven days per week. The office



The department seeks consumer input through a survey at the annual Alabama Recovery Conference in Shocco Springs.

- received 10,954 calls.
- Conducted 2,093 unannounced site visits of community-based programs, 383 monitoring visits of DMH/MR operated facilities, and 127 investigations of possible rights violations.
- Presented 287 training programs on rights-related issues, handled 7,555 information and referral requests and participated in 8,392 rights-related meetings and contacts.
- Provided Investigative Training for community providers and DMH/MR facility staff.
- Participated on the Mental Health Court Advisory Boards for Birmingham and Montgomery.
- Participated on the Regional Planning Committees appointed by the Commissioner.

OFFICE OF POLICY & PLANNING

The Office of Policy & Planning coordinates the formulation of policies, procedures, strategic plans and special projects.

Key Initiatives:

- Assisted in the formulation of SMART Budgeting and Management.
- Continued to report and coordinate the implementation of performance-based budgeting and reporting.

- Provided support for the Alabama Family Trust with 123 trust accounts totaling \$2.15 million.
- Tracked the DMH/MR Housing Initiative with the Alabama Housing Finance Authority, which continues above a 90% occupancy rate in units available in the Black Belt Counties.
- Represented the Department on numerous planning initiatives including Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness, Alabama Affordable Housing Coalition, Alabama Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Advisory Council, Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Council, Justice and Mental Health Collaboration, and the Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force.

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
& COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The Office of Public Information and Community Relations is responsible for developing public education campaigns designed to overcome unwarranted stigma against persons with mental disabilities. Additionally, the office also seeks to inform the public about the department's mission and encourage early intervention, treatment and recovery. When there are issues of interest to the media, the staff investigates the facts and drafts responses on behalf of the department.

Key Initiatives:

- Developed and issued responses to 138 media calls related to departmental events, issues, or initiatives.
- Organized the second annual Capitol Showcase, a consumer art exhibit held in the State Capitol.
- Partnered with NAMI Alabama and the MI Planning Council in a public information campaign utilizing TV commercials with consumers and family members. During

the campaign, over 500 phone calls were received at NAMI Alabama headquarters and numerous consumer and family members expressed appreciation for the messages. The spots generated over 16 million advertising impressions over a three month period according to Neilson TV ratings

- Co-sponsored a Health and Wellness Expo at the Birmingham Jefferson Civic Center in Birmingham, with over 25,000 in attendance, and manned a booth at the Teachers Mega Conference, with over 10,000 in attendance.
- Worked with the University of Alabama Child Development Resources Division, the Alabama Children's Trust Fund and corporate sponsor Wal-Mart to develop a state-wide media campaign advertising a 1-800 number for "stressed out parents" who needed assistance in their parenting skills. The Wal-Mart Foundation donated \$150,000 to the campaign, and other corporate sponsors are participating with in-kind assistance to promote awareness of The Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) as a free, confidential resource for Alabama parents.



The Office of Public Information worked along with the DMH/MR Office Children's Services to create a new service for parents called Pal, the Parenting Assistance Line. Stressed out parents can call 1-866-962-3030 for parenting tips and assistance.

BUREAU OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

By statute, the department has its own Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) as an internal investigative law enforcement agency with jurisdiction on mental health properties. BSI maintains offices in Tuscaloosa and Montgomery. Three agents and an administrative assistant are assigned to the Montgomery office, and one agent is assigned to the Tuscaloosa office.

Key Initiatives:

- Investigated allegations of criminal conduct occurring within the DMH/MR.
- Sponsored and conducted training seminars for mental health police and others charged with investigating incidents for the department.
- Investigated and/or reviewed 81 cases, an increase of 42 percent from FY 05.
- Conducted criminal background checks on prospective employees of the DMH/MR.

BUREAU OF LEGAL SERVICES

The Bureau of Legal Services represents the department's interest in legal matters.

Key Initiatives:

- Litigated and managed private firm representation in 44 major lawsuits in state and federal trial courts of general jurisdiction throughout the state. The types of cases ranged from mental illness/mental retardation (MI/MR) services-related cases to personal injury and personnel-related lawsuits.
- Litigated approximately 56 cases where individuals had been adjudicated not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect (NGRI).
- Conducted 648 recommitment hearings.
- Chaired Committees on Certification Standards and Acute Care Legal Matters, which included conducting the department's first Guardian-Ad-Litem Training.

OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Office of Children's Services is responsible for the coordination of service delivery to children and adolescents whose needs cross the three service divisions (MI, MR and SA). The Office works with each division in the development of new initiatives that enable the department to move towards a more comprehensive system of care for children and adolescents with mental illness, mental retardation and substance abuse problems.

Key Initiatives:

- Served as a single point of contact in the department for individuals and organizations across the state that require assistance with issues relating to mental health care and youth.
- Coordinated and monitored all services through the "Our Kids" initiative, which is a collaboration between three state child-serving agencies.
- Partnered with the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to offer conference on trauma and post-traumatic stress in children, titled "Safe and Sound II: Fostering Resiliency After the Storm."
- Partnered with DHR to offer trauma training to professionals through the University of Alabama's College of Continuing Studies. The 60-hour training goes towards the participant's certification as a trauma specialist.
- Transitioned early intervention services into the Office of Children's Services.

THE ALABAMA FAMILY TRUST

The Alabama Family Trust (AFT) was legislatively established to assist families in planning for the future of their loved ones with disabilities. The trust is an allowable mechanism designed to protect vital governmental entitlements, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), while ensuring the availability

of funding for primary and supplemental needs to provide optimum care of their family member and/or loved one.

Restructured two years ago to further assist those in need, this special needs trust serves the state of Alabama in a way that is both cost effective and meaningful to the beneficiaries and their families.

In the 2006 Regular Alabama Legislative Session, the AFT was instrumental in passing an amendment into law allowing this special needs trust to help out-of-state residents with disabilities. In fact, the AFT is currently working towards establishing agreements among the appropriate governmental entities so those in need can be served within the following states: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

Key Initiatives:

- Actively managed trust investment portfolios with respect to fund performance and earnings growth potential.
- Coordinated and developed state agency relations in the introduction and operation of this special needs trust in a multitude of states.
- Experienced unprecedented growth: 96 percent since last year at this time.
- Maintained 280 active trust accounts with a combined value of almost \$6 million.

THE ALABAMA COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

The Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation serves as the designated state agency for the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities (ACDD). The Council was established by the Governor through an Executive Order to meet the requirements of the Federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). ACDD's function is to increase the independence, produc-

tivity, inclusion and community integration of people with developmental disabilities. ACDD activities demonstrate new ideas for enhancing people's lives through training activities, community education and support, by making information available to policy-makers, and eliminating barriers.

Key Initiatives:

- Provided 430 adults with developmental disabilities with jobs of their choice through Council grants and projects.
- 1,525 students had the educational supports they needed to reach their educational goals through Council activities.
- Partnered with Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program to assist state parks in becoming more accessible for individuals with disabilities.
- Through Council efforts, 388 people were trained in leadership, self-advocacy and self-determination skills.
- Collaborated with the Mobile Independent Living Center on the Disaster Planning for Persons with Developmental Disabilities project in southwest Alabama.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Division of Mental Illness

Phone: (334) 242-3643

Fax: (334) 242-3025/242-0796

Office of Mental Illness Community Programs

(334) 242-3200

Office of Mental Illness Facilities

(334) 242-3643

Office of Deaf Services

(334) 353-4703

Office of Consumer Relations

(334) 242-3456

Office of Performance Improvement

(334) 242-3208

Mental Illness Facilities:

Bryce Hospital

(205) 759-0799

Alice Kidd Nursing Facility

(205) 759-0633

Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility

(205) 556-7060

Mary Starke Harper Geriatric Psychiatry Center

(205) 759-0900

North Alabama Regional Hospital

(256) 560-2200

Greil Memorial Psychiatric Hospital

(334) 262-0363

Searcy Hospital

(251) 662-6700

Division of Mental Retardation

Phone: (334) 242-3701

Fax: (334) 242-0542

Office of Mental Retardation Community Programs

(334)242-3701

Office of Mental Retardation Certification

(334) 242-3708/353-7037

Office of Consumer Empowerment

(334) 353-7032

Region I Community Services

(256) 552-3720

Region II Community Services

(205) 554-4155

Region III Community Services

(251) 621-4760

Region IV Community Services

(334) 514-4040

Region V Community Services

(205) 942-0018

Division of Substance Abuse Services

Phone: (334) 242-3961

Fax: (334) 242-0759

Methadone Services

(334) 242-3957

Office of Performance Improvement

(334) 242-3967

Office of Certification

(334) 242-3956

Office of Research, Evaluation & Information

(334) 242-3966

Office of Prevention

(334) 242-3954

Office of Billing & Payment

(334) 242-3969

Division of Administration

Phone: (334) 353-3895

Fax: (334) 353-9165

Bureau of Finance & Accounting

(334) 242-3992

Office of Compensation Services

(334) 242-3192

Bureau of Data Management

(334) 242-3305

Bureau of Human Resources Management

(334) 242-3112

Office of Staff Development

(334) 242-3177

Office of Certification

(334) 242-3937

Office of Pre-Admission Screening (OBRA)

(334) 242-3946

Office of Contracts

(334) 353-7440

Office of Land & Asset Management

(334) 242-2057

Administrative Support Services

(334) 242-3931/242-3934

Commissioner's Office

Phone: (334) 242-3107

Fax: (334) 242-0684

Office of Legislative & Constituent Affairs

(334) 242-3107

Office of Rights Protection & Advocacy Services

(334) 242-3454/800-367-0955

Office of Policy and Planning

(334) 242-3706

Office of Public Information & Community Relations

(334) 242-3417

Bureau of Special Investigations

(334) 242-3274

Bureau of Legal Services

(334) 242-3038

Office of Children's Services

(334) 353-7110

The Alabama Family Trust & Special Projects

(334) 242-3063/800-711-1303

Developmental Disabilities

(334)242-3973/800-232-2158

In Loving Memory

We remember with affection and honor those
consumers and department employees who have passed on
during FY 2005-2006





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