



Kay Ivey
Governor



Graham L. Sisson, Jr.
Executive Director

State of Alabama Governor's Office on Disability FY 2017



It's All GOOD



**The Honorable
Kay Ivey
Governor
State of Alabama**



KAY IVEY, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALABAMA

This annual report contains some of the work the Governor's Office on Disability (GOOD) has done in FY 17 to help the 4,863,300 individuals with disabilities in Alabama (based on the 2016 U.S. Census Bureau). I rely on GOOD to provide reliable and helpful information on disability resources and the unmet needs of affected Alabamians. My administration is committed to increasing opportunities for people with disabilities in Alabama as well as increasing employment opportunities through Governor's Disability Job Fairs.

GOOD is an excellent resource. If you need assistance with disability-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact the Governor's Office on Disability.

Kay Ivey



Letter from Executive Director

I would like to thank the Governor and the Alabama Legislature for their continuing support of GOOD. Fiscal Year 2017 has been another year of positive growth and change for the office. GOOD continues to maintain nine local advisory committees around the state which provide grassroots input about unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities and increases the visibility of the office. Likewise, a State Advisory Council continues to provide overall input to GOOD from different persons with disabilities and disability organizations. GOOD partners with these local advisory groups to facilitate the GOOD mission statement and strategic plan and obtain information at the grassroots level.

The GOOD website has been revised to be even more user-friendly and includes additional resources.

GOOD is available to do training, accessibility surveying, and speaking at meetings or seminars at no cost. To schedule training, speaking engagements, or surveying, call the Alabama ADA Hotline at 800-205-9986.

Meetings continue to be held with other state agencies to foster collaboration and maximize state resources for people with disabilities. A special thanks is again given to the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services for its close partnership with GOOD.

Information about disability issues and training continues to be disseminated throughout the state. Awareness is a powerful tool which leads to greater access for individuals with disabilities. GOOD also continues its role of dispensing accurate information. Join the GOOD list by accessing the appropriate icon on GOOD's website at www.good.alabama.gov.

We look forward to the progression and inclusion of Alabamians with disabilities in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Dr. Graham L. Sisson, Jr.

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Featured Left to Right: Marlene Word, Deputy Director, Governor's Office on Disability, Dr. Graham L. Sisson, Jr., Executive Director, Governor's Office on Disability, The Honorable Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama.

Staff

Dr. Graham L. Sisson, Jr., Executive Director

Graham was appointed as Executive Director of the Governor's Office on Disability in October 2007 and was reappointed in January 2011. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Alabama in Accounting in 1987. Graham also attended Vanderbilt University and was awarded his Juris Doctorate in 1990. He was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1990. He received a certificate in Rehabilitation Leadership and Management from Auburn University in May, 2009. Graham served as an adjunct law professor teaching a disability law course at the Birmingham School of Law and taught a doctoral course in disability law and history at Auburn University. Graham is a 2016 graduate of Auburn University with a PhD in Rehabilitation, Counseling, and Leadership. He has lived with a disability since 1982.

Marlene Word, Deputy Director

Marlene was appointed as Executive Assistant of the Governor's Office on Disability in July 2013 and was appointed as Deputy Director in December 2016. Marlene attended Huntingdon College. She previously worked at Carr, Riggs and Ingram, Fire Guard Protection Systems, Legislative Reference Service, and Auburn University at Montgomery where she was an adjunct professor in the Communications Department. Marlene served as the Communications Director and Senior Manager of the third largest home health agency in the state, Central Alabama Home Health. Marlene was CEO and President of her publishing company, Dispatch Publishers, producing the weekly newspaper, *Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch* and the monthly national newspaper, *Civil Air Patrol News*. Marlene volunteered at Montgomery's American Cancer Society, Sunshine Center, and served as the publicity chairman for the Montgomery Civic Ballet. She also served as the charter president of the Maxwell Air Force Base Kiwanis Club. Marlene was appointed to the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition in January 2016.

GOOD Overview

The Governor's Office on Disability was created by Executive Order Number 43 in 1999. It was formed to serve as a statewide clearing house for information on disability and resources in Alabama. Its other major function is to act as a liaison to the Governor's Office on disability issues.

The Governor's Office on Disability's mission statement was revised in 2008 as follows:

“Facilitate the inclusion of Alabamians with disabilities in education, employment, housing, transportation, healthcare, and leisure.”

The Executive Order 15 in 2011 re-established the Governor's Office on Disability under the new administration. Because resources are scarce in Alabama, the Governor's Office on Disability seeks to maximize disability resources by identifying existing ones and fostering collaboration among public and private entities that serve people with disabilities.

The Governor's Office on Disability actively seeks to engage communication between individuals with disabilities and their families and entities that provide services to them. GOOD's website, www.good.alabama.gov, is one tool that is being expanded to facilitate open dialogue and access on disability resources and issues. To foster communication even more, GOOD developed a list serve. Anyone interested in issues affecting people with disabilities can join the GOOD list by accessing the website at www.good.alabama.gov, clicking the “Join the GOOD List” icon and entering in personal contact and email information. Periodically, cutting edge information on disability will be shared with list members.

Strategic Plan

(1) Legislation Initiative

Monitor Alabama's disability related legislation and policies and provide policy analysis to the Governor.

Objective 1: Monitor constituent issues with regard to policy formulation and recommendations for legislation.

Objective 2: Serve as a liaison to the Governor on all necessary matters of interest related to the GOOD mission.

(2) Collaboration Initiative

Establish a united voice to determine and meet the needs of the GOOD mission.

Objective 1: Utilize local advisory committees to determine the unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities.

Objective 2: Partner with public and private entities, inclusive of state agencies, that advance the achievement of the GOOD mission.

Objective 3: To accept and resolve referrals regarding disability issues from the Governor's Constituent Affairs Office and other referral resources.

(3) Consultation Initiative

Serve as advisor on public disability-related issues in Alabama.

Objective 1: Provide informal legal opinions on disability issues to the Governor's Legal Office.

Objective 2: Provide analytical information to the Governor's Legal Office relative to the GOOD mission.

Objective 3: Act as an expert resource regarding the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and related laws.

(4) Dissemination Initiative

Promote public awareness of actions and activities in fulfilling GOOD's mission.

Objective 1: Increase effective utilization of available resources for Alabamians with disabilities.

Objective 2: Establish a website as the primary dissemination method of GOOD actions, activities and publications.

Objective 3: Promote local and/or statewide media coverage of GOOD's actions and activities when possible.

GOOD Stewards

The Governor's Office on Disability understands the need for accountability and being good stewards of our State's funds. Along with this important commitment, we are also committed to being compassionate, responsive, and caring to each caller or contact we encounter. While we do track the number of calls we receive, we strive to make the caller feel like they are 'more than just a number.' We are proud that we exceeded our actual goal for the number of calls for the first time in the history of the agency in 2015 and met our goal in 2017.

The following are just a few of the many changes made beginning in 2014 and continued in the years that followed:

- Produce GOOD's Annual Reports using agency staff and distributing electronically
- Produce and print GOOD Agency brochures and other materials using agency staff
- Collaborate with other agencies and companies who provide resources

A GOOD Experience

While we do track the number of calls we receive, we strive to make the caller feel like they are 'more than just a number.'

FY 2017 Budget

Personnel Costs	\$50,293
Employee Benefits	\$20,820
Travel-in-State	\$516
Travel Out-of-State	0
Repairs & Maintenance	0
Rentals & Leases	0
Utilities & Communications	\$110
Professional Services	\$2,946
Supplies, Materials & Operating Expenses	\$2,113
Grants & Benefits	\$14,398
Other Equipment Purchases	\$2,992
Total	\$94,188

FY 2017 Smart Budget

Number of Inquiries

Projected	1100
Actual	805

Number responded to within 72 hours

Projected	100%
Actual	100%

Governor's Office on Disability

Goals and Accomplishments for FY 2017

I. Disability Summits, Conferences and Job Fairs

The Governor's Disability Employment Summit in October of 2017
Collaboration and Dissemination Initiatives with SACAP's Disability Summit in April of 2017

II. Convening Disability Consumer Advisory Councils

- 9 Regional Council Meetings during each fiscal year
- State Advisory Council meetings quarterly
- As part of GOOD's partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Improving the health of people with mobility limitations and intellectual disabilities by promoting inclusion and accessibility in public health programs and healthcare services. This topics was discussed at the 9 regional meetings. In addition ADPH provided EMA materials and weather radios to participants at these meetings.

III. Trainings/Disability Awareness

ADA

- In collaboration with the Alabama's ADA toll free information services conducted FY 2017
 - ◊ 15 ADA Trainings
 - ◊ 17 Accessibility Reviews/Consultations
- Partnership with Alabama Department of Public Health on "Improving the Health of People with Disabilities through State Based Public Health Programs" grant

IV. Information and Referral

- Number of inquiries on disability issues FY 2017
 - ◊ 805 inquiries

V. Website

- Continuously updating website, resources, and corresponding with members on the GOOD List

VI. Legislation Initiative

- GOOD worked on legislation to address some of the unmet needs of Alabamians with disabilities. This legislation included the following:
 - ◊ **Accessible Parking** - Authorize police to tow vehicles illegally parked in accessible parking and to ticket vehicles parked on access aisles
 - ◊ **New Assistive Devices Warranty Act** - Extend Lemon Law protection to purchasers of assistive devices
 - ◊ **Volunteer Transportation Provider Good Samaritan Act**- protect these transportation providers from simple negligence
 - ◊ **Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund**- make \$100 fine for the trust fund mandatory to protect it from diversion programs

VII. FAND—Functional and Access Needs in Disasters Task Force

GOOD took a leadership role in this statewide taskforce in 2013 and continued through 2017. Originally named the Special Populations Taskforce, it was renamed Functional and Access Needs in Disaster to accurately reflect its purpose of ensuring Alabamians with functional and accessible needs are not only considered, but included in all phases of emergency management.

Dr. Sisson co-chairs this group along with Elena Parker-Merriweather from the Alabama Department of Public Health. FAND has developed a strategic plan and subcommittees to create a statewide infrastructure to meet the needs of Alabamians with disabilities in disasters. Dr. Sisson continues to serve as liaison between FAND and the Governor's Mass Care and Sheltering Taskforce. Those interested in joining this effort should contact Dr. Sisson at 800-441-7607 extension 7189.

Governor's Office on Disability
Goals and Accomplishments for FY 2017

VIII. Partnerships



Amarex Corporation	Home Medical Equipment Licensure Board
Alabama Association of Regional Councils Conference	Jacksonville State University
Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities	Jefferson County Workforce Development
Alabama Community College Association	Lakeshore Foundation
Alabama Department of Public Health	Lee County Board of Education
Alabama Department of Human Resources	Limestone County DHR
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services	Long-term Care Rebalancing Committee (Medicaid Agency)
Alabama Disability Advocacy Program	Mass Care and Sheltering Taskforce
Alabama Emergency Management Agency	Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Alabama Fire College Medical Needs Shelter	Mobile Center for Independent Living
Alabama Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund	Montgomery Career Center
Alabama Governor's Office	Montgomery Center for Independent Living
Alabama Governor's Youth Leadership Forum	Montgomery Library for the Blind Advisory Committee
Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council	National Coalition of State Rehabilitation Councils
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind	OASIS Advisory Council
Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition	People First
Alabama Multiagency Feeding Plan	Phenix City Career Center
Alabama Statewide Assistive Technology Advisory Council	RespectAbility
Alabama State Interagency Transition Team	Roanoke Career Center
Alabama State University	Sheffield Towne Plaza
Alabama Transit Coalition	Shelton State Community College
Alabaster Career Centers	Southeast ADA Network Training Team
Auburn University	Sparks Clinic
Birmingham Career Center	Special Education Advisory Panel
Birmingham Committee on ADA	State of Alabama Independent Living Council
Blind Advisory Committee	State Rehabilitation Council
Brewton Career Center	Trenholm State
Calhoun Community College	Tuskegee Blind Veterans Group
Camp ASCCA	Tuscaloosa Career Center
Camp McDowell, Jasper	UAB/Civitan-Sparks Consumer Advisory Council
Central Alabama Community College	United Ability
City of Auburn	United Way of Birmingham
Dallas County EMA	University of South Alabama
Deaf/Blind Coalition	Valley Career Center
Demopolis Career Center	Voices of Alabama
DSPN Advisory Board, Huntingdon College	
Disabilities Rights & Resources	
Epilepsy Foundation	
Family Voices of Alabama	
Foley Career Center	
Governor's Preparedness Conference	
Governor's Summit on Disability Employment	
Gulf State Park	

Governor's Office on Disability Advisory Council through Fiscal Year 2017

Dr. Dave Martin, Chairman
Auburn, Alabama
Parent Advocate

Kent Crenshaw*
Montgomery, Alabama
Person with a disability

Michael Davis*
Mobile, Alabama
Person with a disability

Christine Fleming
Auburn University
Research Advocate

Jackie Franklin
Vina, Alabama
Person with a disability

Steve Hamerdinger
Montgomery, Alabama
Person with a disability

Dan Kessler
Birmingham, Alabama
Independent Living Center representative

John Stephenson
Jackson Gap, Alabama
Recreational Access representative

Courtney Tarver
Montgomery, Alabama
State Agency/ Mental Health Advocate

James Tucker
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Statewide Disability Advocacy Program

Karl Wade
Prattville, Alabama
Person with a disability

*Minority representative

Local Consumer Advisory Councils

Councils serve as an opportunity for grassroots input from people with disabilities and their families and are located in the following areas:

- Anniston
 - Birmingham
 - Dothan
- Gadsden
 - Huntsville/Decatur
 - Mobile
- Montgomery
 - Muscle Shoals
 - Tuscaloosa

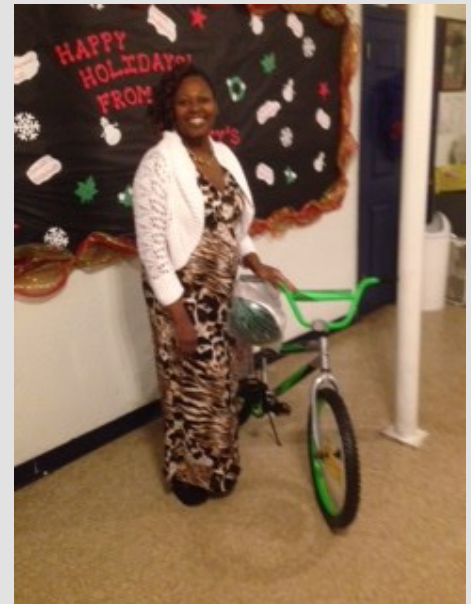
GOOD Community Partnerships for Consumer's Needs



Dr. Graham Sisson presented a Governor's Certificate of Recognition to **Chris Jones**, employee of **Disability, Rights and Resource (DR&R)**. DR&R responded to a call from a concerned citizen, **Charlotte Robinson**, regarding the needs of an individual with a disability. Mr. Jones arranged for volunteers from **Trinity United Methodist Church** in Homewood to assist them with the project. The group did extensive repairs to the home and yard in the heat of summer. Many thanks to members of the Church: **Mike Jolly, Thermon Jones, Karl Reed, Bill McCall, and Mike Huffstutler** and from DR&R, **Judy Roy and Chris Jones**.



A consumer with a disability called the **Governor's Office on Disability (GOOD)**. He was worried that he could not afford a bike for his son for Christmas. It was his only Christmas wish! GOOD called local resources and located a bike and helmet. **Jim Flora** with the **Mobile Center for Independent Living** picked up the bike and presented it to the consumer. This is just one example of GOOD's partnering with other agencies and organizations to help meet the needs of its consumers.



Tamita Humphrey with **Safe Haven Child Care Center** in Prichard answered the phone when **Marlene Word**, Deputy Director of **GOOD** called trying to locate a bike for a consumer with a disability. When Ms. Humphrey answered the phone, she said she had one 20" bike and helmet sitting behind her desk. It was the only one left after her organization distributed their donated Christmas items to children of families in need. The bike was the exact size the consumer with the disability told Ms. Word he needed. By partnering with other agencies and organizations, GOOD is able to assist consumers with a variety of needs.

U.S. & AL Civilians Living in the Community By Disability Status: 2016

State	Total	Disability		No Disability	
		Count	%	Count	%
U.S.	318,175,867	40,747,411	12.8	277,428,456	87.2
AL	4,782,529	787,132	16.5	3,995,397	83.5

U.S. & AL Civilians Living in the Community—Hearing Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Hearing	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	11,430,339	3.6	28.0
AL	4,783,491	778,819	198,012	4.1	25.4

U.S. & AL Civilians Living in the Community—Vision Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Vision	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	7,668,316	2.4	18.8
AL	4,783,491	778,819	150,555	3.1	19.3

U.S. & AL Civilians Living in the Community—Cognitive Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Cognitive	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	15,490,907	4.9	37.9
AL	4,783,491	778,819	299,350	6.3	38.4

U.S. & AL Living in the Community—Ambulatory Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Ambulatory	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	21,235,966	6.7	52.0
AL	4,783,491	778,819	440,024	9.2	56.5

U.S. & AL Living in the Community—Self Care Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Self-Care	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	8,131,154	2.6	19.9
AL	4,783,491	778,819	148,508	3.1	19.1

U.S. AL Living in the Community—Independent Living Disability 2016

State	Total	Disability	Count	Independent Living	
				% Total	% Disability
U.S.	318,251,368	40,852,226	14,784,957	4.6	36.2
AL	4,783,491	778,819	289,740	6.1	37.2

Employment—Civilians with Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	20,761,092	7,461,001	35.9
AL	421,135	115,799	27.5

Employment—Civilians with Hearing Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	4,005,393	2,071,694	51.7
AL	74,181	32,379	43.6

Employment—Civilians with Vision Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	3,928,723	1,710,056	43.5
AL	78,860	23,534	29.8

Employment—Civilians with Cognitive Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	8,931,533	2,352,368	26.3
AL	181,891	34,692	19.1

Employment—Civilians with Ambulatory Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Employed Count	% [1]
U.S.	10,097,156	2,502,518	24.8
AL	226,915	43,555	19.2

Employment—Civilians with Self-Care Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	3,653,028	564,411	15.5
AL	68,890	8,750	12.7

Employment—Civilians with Independent Living Disabilities Ages 18 to 64 Years Living in the Community for the U.S. & AL

State	Total	Employed	
		Count	% [1]
U.S.	7,412,570	1,257,947	17.0
AL	150,400	14,640	9.7



It's All GOOD

Join The GOOD List

www.good.alabama.gov

The Governor's Office on Disability

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