

# Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services

## Montgomery, Alabama

### AGENDA

Friday, December 7, 2018

Call to Order	Jimmie Varnado, Chair
Prayer	
Verification of Quorum	Karen Freeman
Verification of Open Meeting Act Notice	Jimmie Varnado
Approval of Agenda	Jimmie Varnado
Approval of Minutes for the Sept. 14, 2018 meeting	Jimmie Varnado
<b><i>New Business:</i></b>	Jimmie Varnado
Building A Ramp Changes Lives In A Day	Dr. Stephen Kayes
Approval - ADRS 2018 Annual Report	Jimmie Varnado
Consumer Success Story	Video Presentation
Nomination/Election of Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services <i>Chair, Vice-Chair</i>	Jimmie Varnado
Update to Division Reports	Executive Leadership Team
Commissioner's Comments	Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
<b><i>Announcements:</i></b>	
Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services meetings for <b>2019:</b>	
• <b>Friday, March 15, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.</b> , Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room	
• <b>Friday, June 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m., Location: TBD</b>	
• <b>Friday, September 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.</b> , Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room	
• <b>Friday, December 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.</b> , Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room	
Board Business/Discussion	Jimmie Varnado
Adjourn	Jimmie Varnado

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services  
Minutes  
Dec. 7, 2018

**Call to Order**

Mr. Jimmie Varnado, board chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. in the large conference room at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services State Office in Montgomery.

**Prayer**

Mrs. Betsy Prince, division director of Alabama's Early Intervention System, opened the board meeting with a prayer.

**Verification of Quorum**

*Board members present:* Mr. Jimmie Varnado, board chair; Eddie Williams, board vice-chair; Mrs. Penny Foster; Dr. Stephen Kayes; Mrs. Leah Patterson Lust; Mr. Mitch Strickland; and Mr. Charles Wilkinson. A quorum was declared.

**Verification of the Open Meeting Act Notice**

Mrs. Karen Freeman verified that the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services meeting for Dec. 7, 2018, was successfully posted on the Alabama secretary of state's website on Feb. 12, 2018.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Varnado asked for a motion to approve the agenda. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Strickland and seconded by Mr. Williams. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes for Sept. 14, 2018 Meeting**

The minutes from the Sept. 14, 2018, meeting were mailed prior to the board meeting. Mr. Varnado stated that if there are no corrections, the minutes would stand approved as written. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

**New Business**

***Building A Ramp Changes Lives In A Day***

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Alabama Lions Club recently established a partnership to construct wheelchair ramps for individuals with disabilities in the Mobile area.

Dr. Kayes and Mr. Bynum Duren, rehabilitation engineer specialist, highlighted success stories in which club members and Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Service Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Services staff partnered on the construction of eight wheelchair ramps in the Mobile area through the State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) program. The project could expand as a statewide partnership between other chapters and the department.

Mrs. Lisa Alford, the Executive Leadership Team, Commissioner Burdeshaw, and members of the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services expressed appreciation to Dr. Kayes, Lion Ron Seybold, and the Alabama Lions Club for their efforts with this collaborative project.

### ***Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services 2018 Annual Report and Consumer Success Story***

Mr. Rich Couch, public information specialist, and Mr. Paul Dunbar, audiovisual specialist, highlighted a consumer success story about Butler County/McKenzie native Chelsea Huggins that was featured in the 2018 Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services annual report. Ms. Huggins died Oct. 11, 2018, in a car accident. The story and video were produced prior to her death.

Mr. Varnado moved that the board approve and adopt the 2018 Annual Report submitted and to authorize the staff of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services' Office of Communications and Information (OCI) to make any necessary minor text and design changes prior to its publication. Mr. Wilkinson seconded the motion. The 2018 Annual Report was approved and adopted unanimously.

On behalf of the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services, Mr. Varnado expressed appreciation to Kathleen McGehee, director of the Office of Communications and Information, and OCI staff for the publication.

### ***Nomination/Election of Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services Chair***

Mr. Varnado opened nominations from the floor for potential candidates for board chair. Mr. Strickland made a motion to nominate Mr. Williams for a two-year term as Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kayes, and Mr. Williams was unanimously approved.

### ***Nomination/Election of Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services Vice-Chair***

Mr. Varnado opened nominations from the floor for potential candidates for board vice-chair. Dr. Kayes made a motion to nominate Mrs. Foster for a two-year term as Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Mr. Varnado, and Mrs. Foster was unanimously approved.

### ***Outstanding Service as Board Chair - Mr. Jimmie Varnado***

Commissioner Burdeshaw, the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services, and ADRS leadership expressed their appreciation to Mr. Varnado for his many years of hard work and dedication as board chair.

Mr. Varnado thanked everyone for the kind remarks and stated he enjoyed serving as board chair on the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services.

### ***Special Recognition – Mr. Dave Rainey***

On behalf of Gov. Kay Ivey, the state of Alabama, and the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services, Mr. Varnado presented Mr. Rainey with a Certificate of Recognition for his 26 years of loyal and dedicated service to the citizens of the state of Alabama.

Mr. Rainey thanked everyone for the kind remarks and stated he enjoyed working at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

## Update to Division Reports

The division directors were provided an opportunity to give updates to their written reports.

## Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Burdeshaw provided an update to her written report.

Commissioner Burdeshaw reported the proposed changes to the **Alabama's Early Intervention System (AEIS)** eligibility criteria were tabled by the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) leadership along with the Alabama Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (AEICC) chair at the Dec. 5, 2018, AEICC meeting. Instead, she said, ADRS will focus on developing strategies to secure additional state funding to meet AEIS's growing needs. An AEIS fact sheet that includes resource information was distributed to members of the board as well as the Executive Leadership Team. Commissioner Burdeshaw asked everyone to use the fact sheet when discussing AEIS's budget request with senators and/or representatives in their local areas. She stated that lawmakers are very interested in hearing from their constituents before coming to Montgomery for the next legislative session, which begins March 5, 2019. She requested that everyone please keep ADRS up to date on any contacts and/or visits with legislators and stated that everyone could reach out to AEIS staff or ADRS leadership staff for assistance, if needed. She said that she and various ADRS leadership staff were scheduled to meet with Finance Director Kelly Butler on Dec. 12, 2018. Commissioner Burdeshaw expressed her appreciation and said she was looking forward to working together towards securing funding needed to sustain AEIS.

## Announcements

The next quarterly board meeting will be **Friday, March 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** in the large conference room at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services State Office in Montgomery.

Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services board meetings for **2019**:

- **Friday, March 15, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**, ADRS, Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room
- **Friday, June 14, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**, **Potential Location: Huntsville**
- **Friday, Sept. 13, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**, ADRS, Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room
- **Friday, Dec. 6, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**, ADRS, Montgomery/State Office, Large Conference Room

## Board Business/Discussion

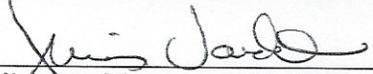
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Minutes were taken by Karen Freeman.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jane E. Burdeshaw, Commissioner

Approved:

  
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Jimmie Varnado, Chair