



Robert Bentley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Cary F. Boswell
COMMISSIONER

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADRS board names new commissioner

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services has named Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw as the new commissioner for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

The new commissioner succeeds Dr. Cary F. Boswell, who retired June 30.

Burdeshaw, who has served as the director of Human Resource Development (HRD) for the department for the past seven years, said she is honored by the board's appointment.

"I am humbled by the board's decision and its faith in me. ADRS has a rich history of solid leadership and people-focused services to Alabamians with disabilities, and I fully intend to continue that rich tradition," said Burdeshaw, who assumes the post July 1.

As commissioner, Burdeshaw will oversee a department of 800 employees serving babies, children, teens and adults with disabilities through 33 community-based offices reaching residents in all 67 counties. In fiscal year 2015, ADRS served more than 47,500 Alabamians statewide.

She will oversee the department's four major programs – Alabama's Early Intervention System, Children's Rehabilitation Service, Vocational Rehabilitation Service and the State of Alabama Independent Living (SAIL) Service.

Board Chair Jimmie Varnado praised Burdeshaw's qualifications and background.

"One of her biggest virtues is her ability to see the big picture," said Varnado. "Her history with the department has proven her to already be equipped to make decisions that will impact people. Not only does she have experience with direct services and meeting consumers face-to-face, she also has extensive knowledge of the inner workings on the support services side of the equation."

Burdeshaw has nearly two decades of service with the department. In addition to her role as director of HRD, she has served as the department's staff development and training coordinator, as a vocational rehabilitation counselor helping students transition from school to work, and as a SAIL case manager serving persons with the most-significant disabilities.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

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PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES