



Kay Ivey
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of REHABILITATION SERVICES



Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw
COMMISSIONER

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADRS board welcomes Leah Patterson Lust

Leah Patterson Lust was recently nominated to represent District 4 on the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services. She was nominated by Gov. Kay Ivey and approved by the Senate.

Lust, who sustained a spinal cord injury at age 17 in a car accident and uses a wheelchair for mobility, will provide the board with a more detailed view of the challenges faced by those with disabilities. She said it is an honor to represent the people of her region and the rest of the state to do her part to bring solutions to some of these challenges.

"I hope to represent north central Alabama well," she said. "The people in this area with disabilities and throughout the state have many needs. I hope that I can bring information to the table that will be beneficial and that will help the agency as it tries to meet the needs of the people."

When she was notified of her appointment, Lust said she was excited and is ready to get to work.

"I am eager to serve in whatever way that I can to be beneficial to the people of Alabama," she said. "I was honored to be mentioned and honored to serve. It really meant the world to me."

Lust is a graduate of the University of Alabama, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work.

Her career began at Druid City Hospital (DCH) in Tuscaloosa as a staff social

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worker for two years before moving to Cullman Regional Medical Center as director of social work for 10 years. Lust was elected probate judge of Cullman County, and after a six-year term joined The Delta Center Counseling Agency with Dr. Howard Rodgers, LPC. She assists individuals and families in the areas of crisis intervention, marriage and family, substance abuse, and grief and bereavement.

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services Commissioner Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw said Lust's experiences, both personally and professionally, make her a great addition to the board.

In a letter to Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, Burdeshaw expressed her desire to add Lust to the board.

"I believe Mrs. Patterson Lust is an outstanding candidate for this appointment and presents a unique opportunity for the Alabama Board of Rehabilitation Services to add a strong voice for Alabamians with disabilities," she said. "In my recent meeting with her, she expressed that she is humbled by the possibility of this new challenge and is eager to serve."

Lust is a current member of the Day Star House Board and a founding director of OASIS: Suicide Prevention Outreach. She is a past member of the state of Alabama Rehabilitation Council and a former chair of the state of Alabama Independent Living Council.

She lives in Cullman County with her husband of 16 years, Michael.

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