



Bob Riley
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Steve Shivers
COMMISSIONER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gadsden resident retires after 36 years with state disability department

MONTGOMERY – Gadsden resident Steve Shivers recently retired from his position as commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS).

Shivers worked at ADRS for 36 years, serving as its commissioner for the last nine. Under his leadership, the department earned a strong national reputation for its progressive work in the areas of transition, services for the deaf, services for the blind, employer services, and early intervention services.

As ADRS commissioner, Shivers oversaw a department of 800 employees serving babies, children and adults with disabilities through 33 community-based offices reaching residents in all 67 counties. In fiscal year 2008, the department served some 74,000 Alabamians statewide.

Most recently, he directed the relocation of all of the department's administrative offices, Montgomery area direct service offices, and children's clinic to a more convenient, one-stop location near downtown Montgomery. In October, Gov. Bob Riley, staff, and children and adults with disabilities joined him for the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new facility.

During his tenure with ADRS, Shivers also strengthened the department's partnerships with other agencies, including with the state Medicaid Agency, state Department of Public Health, and the state Department of Youth Services.

Shivers joined the department in 1972 and rose through the department's ranks, holding the positions of rehabilitation counselor, unit supervisor, assistant to the director of Field Services, and assistant commissioner before becoming commissioner in 2000.

Whatever his position, though, his passion for helping people with disabilities remained constant.

"To me, independence for every individual who has a disability is important," he said. "That's the desire of my heart."

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.