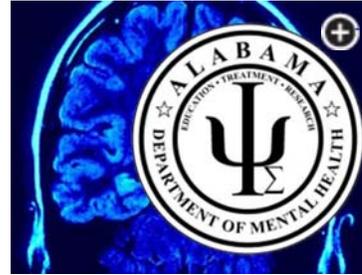


Ala. Mental Health Comm. to testify before Senate Committee

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MONTGOMERY, AL - Alabama Department of Mental Health Commissioner Zelia Baugh will be traveling to Washington D.C. this week to testify before a U.S. Senate Committee on a successful initiative in Alabama.



Commissioner Baugh will be sharing her knowledge before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in a hearing titled "*Olmstead* Enforcement Update: Using the ADA to Promote Community Integration."

The hearing refers to the United States Supreme Court case, *Olmstead vs. L.C.*, which ruled individuals with mental illnesses can move to community-based care instead of facilities and hospitals.

The HELP Committee held a similar hearing two years ago and is gathering information on the progress of community-based integration. Commissioner Baugh will be testifying on Alabama's accomplishments with community inclusion and how the state of Alabama has been amongst the leaders of community-based care.

The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, at 10 a.m. in Room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

INFORMATION SOURCE: Alabama Dept. of Mental Health

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