



# North Alabama Mental Health Coalition

Meeting minutes for November 11, 2025

## **Attendees (in person):**

Daniel Adamek (Little Orange Fish)  
Annie Brasseale (VOP)  
Melissa Foster (UAH Nursing)  
Linda Howe (Just Serve)  
Kimberly Lamar (Magnolia Ranch)  
Jana Mason (Odyssey BH)  
Brian Moran (VFW Post 2702)  
Mia Pile (Pain Unwasted)  
Thomas Smith (Archway Recovery)  
Mack Yates (SVDP/VOP)

Edward Becher (Invisible Warriors)  
Darlene Burton (Salvation Army)  
Jennifer Gentry (Long Leaf Centers)  
Anita Jefferson (MHA)  
Marilyn Lands  
Beth McAnally (NOMA)  
Letricia Ogutu (Wellstone)  
Audrey Rushing (Not One More Alabama)  
Shayla Tarrant (Pasadena Villa)  
Rochell Hammond

Nancy Becher (Invisible Warriors)  
Roxanne Crawford (Bradford at Madison)  
Traci Harris (Elm Foundation)  
Stephanie Jennings (Best Life Recovery)  
Lucy Lollar (Best Life)  
Amber Moon (Unpack It Counseling)  
Alyssa Perry (Wellstone)  
Darlene Showalter (UAH Nursing)  
Hannah Willoughby (Project Transition)

## ***1. Welcome and Introductions – Daniel Adamek***

Introductions are important because you need to be able find out who can help you.

## ***2. Coalition Updates – Daniel Adamek***

*Due to the holidays, we will NOT meet in December.* In January we will meet at [Kids to Love](#) (located at **140 Castle Dr. in Madison**). 75 – 80% of foster children end up in trouble or jail. Please come. If this works out, we may consider this as an occasional meeting location in the future.

Former president of SVDP (Jim Jenkins) will be our advocate for homeless starting in January.

We continue to get requests for announcements from members and would like to send them along with minutes or agendas instead of sending out multiple email announcements. Please send announcements for upcoming events to Annie, but be aware that they will only go out with the next mailing of meeting minutes or an agenda, unless it is something of a time urgent nature. Daniel is still working on a calendar for the coalition.

## ***3. Review of Action Items– Daniel Adamek***

Tracy mentioned that on January 20, 2026 at 1:00 pm there will be a community meeting at the Elm Foundation concerning mental health. Daniel will be a part of that. There are different people who will be attending that meeting including churches and they want to broaden their reach. Everyone is invited to attend.

Daniel mentioned about the partnership with Little Orange Fish and the [Regional Autism Network \(RAN\) at UAH](#). He is developing the “Here for You” project (a resourcing tool) for RAN. They are working on the next phase.

The Shine Conference held at UAH last month about the new neighborhood nursing program went well and we will be hearing about the program later in this meeting.

Marilyn Lands explained three initiatives that she is working on:

1. Share Program (Supportive Housing Achieving Resilience Everyday) is looking at the cycle of people with mental health issues revolving from the hospital to the jail. There were 30 people (mayors, law enforcement, etc.) at a meeting to kick this off. There is a video from the [Urban Institute in Denver](#) of a program they initiated 5 years ago and 80% of the participants are still housed. There is a sheet to sign up if you are interested.
2. Prevention Programs for K through 12 working with Lee Marshall. They will be meeting next Monday (Nov. 17).
3. Expungement Program where certain mental health issues don’t show up on permanent records. She is working with Tammy Leeth on this.

Marilyn brought signup sheets for all of these programs.

[Invisible Warriors](#) is having a Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday November 22 from 12:00 – 4:00 pm at their location. It is a free meal for female veterans and their friends and family.

Huntsville Military Women's Community Center was gifted a building; however, it is not possible to work there for health reasons. They are looking for someone to donate space for them. They need space for 5 offices and a larger space for events and group meetings.

Daniel asked if there were any updates about NAMI. Someone mentioned that they had been in touch with Suzanne and there is a meeting this week.

One member spoke about her desire to help churches get information about mental health. They are starting a program called Friday Nite Live talk show. They will have different professionals come in and talk about mental health issues and how to survive the holidays. It will be televised through different churches. The show will be held next Friday from 7 to 8:30 pm at First Seventh Day Adventist church (1303 Evangel Drive).

**4. Featured Presentation – “[Transforming Community Health: How Neighborhood Nursing Bridges Education, Research, and Access to Care](#)” – Dr. Melissa Foster and Dr. Darlene Showalter**

The [Neighborhood Nursing program is spearheaded by UAH](#), but they have other community partners.

Melissa shared information about Alabama citizens: Third worst in longevity (how long you live depends on your zip code), second worst for veteran suicide, and the worst for maternal mortality.

John Hopkins has a neighborhood nursing program and Costa Rica has a community based preventative healthcare program and they merged those. They are not just looking at healthcare, but all the social determinants of health. They wanted to create a free accessible health service where people are located: in schools, churches, and in areas where they reside.

The mission is to create sustainable models for neighborhood-based care. It must be sustainable. They want to improve health care access, reduce disparities, and promote health and wellness. UAH is the workhorse for it (they will provide the labor), but they welcome knowledge from others.

They hope to start the program in January in four communities (Triana, Northwood, Brookside and Bob Harrison). In 2027, the plans are to have a state wide rollout. In the spring they will start with Care fairs and hopefully by spring 2027, they will roll out home visits.

Darlene said her specialty is community service and engagement. We are trying to reach a very vulnerable population. She had a vision of health fairs, but when they met with focus groups the emphasis became on working together and longevity. The goal is to arrive and stay with communities.

Darlene presented a model of what the program would look like. The community members go through three stations (Intake with questions, vital signs and then blood and urine), and what happens next depends on the findings of the first three stations. A seasoned faculty member will review what has been collected and then a decision will be made as to what care is needed. They hope to connect community members with continued health care treatment.

There is not one location where all of this will roll out. They want to look at the needs of each community, for example, not every community will have a need for children's health care. She calls the model a “living” document because it changes.

Daniel asked if there are any gaps they foresee. Darlene responded that they are going to be asking questions and need to do something with the findings. They are going to need support from the local resources every Monday, Wednesday and Friday when they run the program. They will need to help people link up with healthcare on a permanent basis. Questions arise such as how do they get to the permanent health care and who provides the transportation to get there.

Another gap is inconsistency. They need to have all the resources available Monday, Wednesday and Friday when the program is running.

Someone asked about substance abuse. Darlene said they will hopefully detect it as they go through intake. The nursing students will be trained on how to ask related questions.

Someone else asked if this is just for uninsured people. Darlene explained that they will be asked about insurance on intake and that information will be needed when they are connected with permanent health care providers.

When community members get the individual assessment, there needs to be someone there to help out. The organization needs to be ready to receive them. For example, a crisis counselor needs to be there on site.

They want to be in the community for 10 weeks. The model from John's Hopkins has a continuous care component. They hope that everyone who goes to this health fair will end up with a provider.

A concern about follow-up was brought up. Someone who worked in addiction emphasized the importance of following up. When we are referring to home health, there will definitely be follow up. UAH does not have a social work department, but A&M does and they are a partner in this program. Someone mentioned that R.O.S.S. does have peer specialists and they would be a good resource. Peer support would be important.

They recognize that there are gaps. Darlene is worried about asking questions during intake without having the support to back up what they find out. After care is key. Intake and stabilization are important. The more community partners, the better the system. When the health fair is over, what is next? Do the resources needed currently exist in the community? They don't have all the answers.

Daniel brought up that the data collected could also be useful to inform and do policy development. Darlene mentioned that there is a vision, but how it is operational hasn't been decided yet.

Mack asked if there is someone working on the transportation issue. They haven't found that solution, but conversations are going on.

Note that this [presentation is already available online](https://northalabamamentalhealthcoalition.org/resources) on the coalition website (<https://northalabamamentalhealthcoalition.org/resources>) under the Resources tab.

If you need more information, contact [Melissa.foster@uah.com](mailto:Melissa.foster@uah.com) or [Darlene.showalter@uah.edu](mailto:Darlene.showalter@uah.edu).

### ***Next Meeting***

Tuesday January 13, 2025  
11:00 am at **Kids To Love**  
140 Castle Drive,  
Madison, AL 35758