



# ANNUAL REPORT

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**2021**

WEST  
ALABAMA  
REGIONAL  
COMMISSION

# WARC Board of Directors, 2021-2022

Rob Robertson  
**Chairman**

## Bibb County

Rodney Stabler  
**County Commission**

Bobbie White  
**Mayor of Brent**

## Fayette County

Mike Freeman  
**County Commission**

Rod Northam  
**Mayor of Fayette**

## Greene County

Latasha Johnson  
**Mayor of Eutaw**

## Hale County

Arthur Crawford  
**County Commission Chair and Probate Judge**

Tony Lester  
**Mayor of Moundville**

## Lamar County

Stanley Allred  
**Mayor of Millport**

## Pickens County

Craig Patterson  
**Mayor of Gordo**

Mickey Walker  
**Mayor of Carrollton**

Stanley Allred  
**Vice-Chairman**

## Tuscaloosa County

Stan Acker  
**County Commission**

Joe Barger  
**Mayor of Brookwood**

Lee Busby  
**Tuscaloosa City Council**

Norman Crow  
**Tuscaloosa City Council**

John Faile  
**Tuscaloosa City Council**

Bobby Herndon  
**Mayor of Northport**

Raevan Howard  
**Tuscaloosa City Council**

Walt Maddox  
**Mayor of Tuscaloosa**

Brenda Morrison  
**Mayor of Vance**

Reginald Murray  
**County Commission**

Mark C. Nelson  
**County Commission**

Rob Robertson  
**County Commission Chair and Probate Judge**

Jerry Tingle  
**County Commission**

Matthew Wilson  
**Tuscaloosa City Council**

Dennis Stripling  
**Secretary**

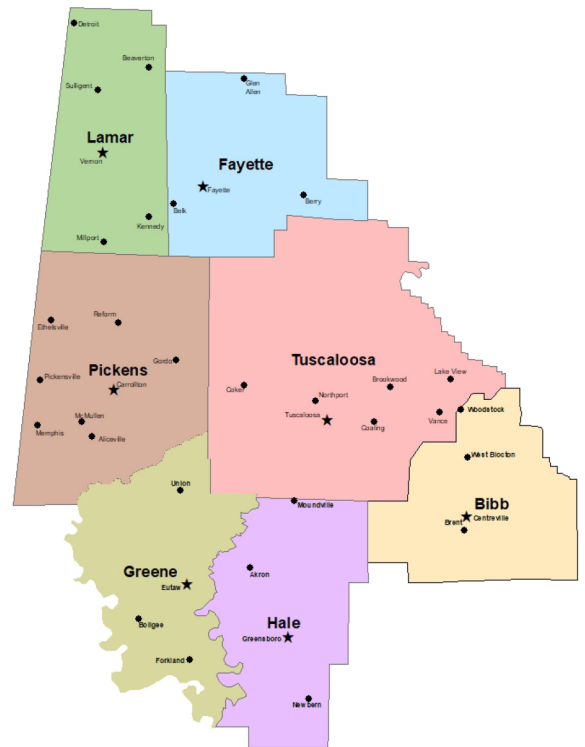
## West Alabama at Large

Allen J. Dunavant  
**Mayor of Glen Allen**

Mike Fields  
**Shelton State Community College**

Jimmy Madison  
**Mayor of Berry**

Sharon Nethery  
**County Commission Chair and Probate Judge**



## Local Government Membership

### Bibb County

City of Brent  
City of Centreville  
Town of West Blocton  
Town of Woodstock

### Fayette County

Town of Belk  
Town of Berry  
City of Fayette  
Town of Glen Allen

### Greene County

Town of Boligee  
City of Eutaw  
Town of Forkland  
Town of Union

### Hale County

Town of Akron  
City of Greensboro  
City of Moundville  
Town of Newbern

### Lamar County

Town of Beaverton  
Town of Detroit  
Town of Kennedy  
Town of Millport  
City of Sulligent  
City of Vernon

### Pickens County

City of Aliceville  
Town of Carrollton  
Town of Ethelsville  
Town of Gordo  
Town of McMullen  
Town of Memphis  
Town of Pickensville  
Town of Reform

### Tuscaloosa County

Town of Brookwood  
Town of Coaling  
Town of Coker  
Town of Lake View  
City of Northport  
City of Tuscaloosa  
Town of Vance

## Who We Are

The West Alabama Regional Commission (WARC) is one of the 12 regional councils in the State of Alabama. The councils serve local governments and citizens by coordinating region-wide projects and services, promoting cooperation among the local governments and carrying out state and federal programs on a regional basis. The West Alabama area is designated Planning District 2, or Region 2.

The WARC covers Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties. The commission is governed by an executive committee and a Board of Directors, made up of representatives from each of these seven counties and 35 municipalities, who annually elect a chairman and a vice-chairman. The Board is composed of citizens and policy-making elected officials from the member governments. It is with the Board's participation the WARC staff are enabled to carry out WARC's mission of improving the quality of life in West Alabama.



## From Our Director

If 2021 had a theme, I am proud to say for WARC it would be **GROWTH**.

Kelli Kimbrell, Director of the Area Agency on Aging, has navigated her department with the addition of several new positions, and employees, seamlessly following the retirement of longtime director Pam McDaniel last November. Under Kelli's leadership, the Medicaid Waiver program scored a 100 on their NCQA three-year reaccreditation in August. The Community and Economic Development has played an integral role in the growth and success of several West Alabama communities. Cory Johnson, Director of CED, has worked tirelessly with her team to assist, administer and oversee the completion of grants, and the resulting projects, across our seven-county region. Her department has also aided these same communities, through a partnership with the University of Alabama and funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA,) with the BETTER West Alabama Initiative. Transportation Planning is also under new leadership as Zane Davis was named director of the department last December. With the addition of a GIS Specialist in 2021, Transportation Planning is working within the local community to assist with GIS training for entities such as the Tuscaloosa County Parks and Recreation Authority (PARA).

I am excited to be directing this growing team and I look forward to the opportunities we as an agency can bring to the West Alabama community in the upcoming year!

  
Executive Director  
Dennis Stripling

# Area Agency on Aging (AAA)



During FY21, the AAA reached over 10,800 older adults and caregivers through various programs offered at the agency.

- **The Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)** assisted more than 2,800 individuals. Assistance includes screening, follow-up and enrollment into programs offered through the AAA and other providers in the region. Additionally, more than 4,100 “quick calls” were handled through ADRC. Marketing and outreach efforts reached more than 79,000 individuals.
- **The Alabama Cares Program** assisted more than 1,300 caregivers throughout the region
- **The Medicaid Waiver Program** served its highest number of clients to date - 965.
- **The Nutrition/Senior Activity Program** continued to serve clients despite numerous hardships caused by the pandemic. Centers were allowed to open to congregating settings in June 2021 at the discretion of the contractor. Approximately 165,000 meals were served through the senior centers or home delivered meals over the past year.
- **The State Health Insurance and Assistance Program (SHIP)** has assisted more than 3,800 Medicare beneficiaries with their coverage questions and options. During the FY21 Open Enrollment Period (OEP), around 1,700 clients visited the AAA for unbiased counseling.

# Community and Economic Development

- **The Community & Economic Development Department** launched a new initiative in 2021 to support recovery and revitalization in our seven-county West Alabama region as we continue to navigate an economy altered by a global pandemic. The program, **BETTER (Bringing Economic Tools To Enrich and Revitalize)**, explores the impacts in West Alabama while building capacity at all levels to strengthen the region and its municipalities. During the past year, a variety of BETTER activities brought us together despite the challenges of COVID-19 including training for local leaders and clerks as well as action planning for counties and municipalities.
- **The Community & Economic Development Department** assisted local municipalities in the West Alabama region to receive and carry out grants totaling \$4,317,178. The department has submitted additional requests during FY21 totaling \$943,429 that are under review and pending approval.
- **The Grant and Loan Guide for Local Governments in West Alabama** and the **West Alabama Mining and Manufacturing Directory** were updated and posted to [www.warc.info](http://www.warc.info) during 2021.
- **The Division C Mitigation Plan and the Northwest Alabama Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan - Div. E** have been completed. WARC and the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission prepared the 10-county Division C plan which includes Bibb, Greene, Hale, Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties; and WARC assisted the Northwest Alabama Council of Local Governments with the 7-county Division E plan that includes Lamar County.
- **The Town of Gordo** was awarded Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds in the amount of \$163,484 to replace and upgrade three sewer lift stations.
- **The Hale County Commission** was awarded \$200,000 from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant-CV (ADECA CDBG-CV) fund to purchase an ambulance.
- **The Pickens County Commission** was awarded \$300,000 from the ADECA CDBG-CV fund to construct an EMA climate-controlled storage facility with space for the Pickens County Coroner to operate.

## FY21 Highlights from the BETTER West Alabama Initiative

BETTER sponsored nine elected officials and staff to attend the annual AARC Training Conference held virtually in 2020.

Local West Alabama leaders attended a regional leadership training program sponsored by BETTER in partnership with the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development.

BETTER W AL sponsored 17 West Alabama clerks to attend sessions offered by the Municipal Clerk's Institute.

BETTER ACTION PLANNING for counties and municipalities will be completed in 2021.

These activities were made possible through funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA)



**Over 42,328 people in the West Alabama region will benefit from Community Development grants assisted by WARC in FY21.**

# Transportation Planning



Transportation Planning created new, interactive web maps including regional traffic counts, safety observations, and a county features map hub.



- **The Tuscaloosa Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** approved seven new projects to be funded by the MPO program (Surface Transportation Attributable Funding). The seven projects were located in the City of Northport and City of Tuscaloosa totaling \$14,382,532.
- **The West Alabama Rural Planning Organization (RPO)** adopted its Long-Range Transportation Plan -2021. This marks the fourth RPO LRTP developed by the West Alabama Regional Commission since 2006.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** has begun the process of providing contract-redistricting assistance following the release on the 2020 Census data.
- **For the third year**, the WARC Transportation Planning Department provided contract-GIS service for the City of Northport.
- **The Tuscaloosa Area MPO and West Alabama RPO** adopted the *West Alabama Coordinated Public Transit Plan 2021 Report*.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** contracted with Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation Authority (PARA) to provide GIS training.
- **The WARC Transportation Planning Department** contracted with the town of Vance to GPS and map their sewer system. WARC also mapped fire hydrant locations and updated the zoning map. In addition to paper maps, interactive web maps were also created.

# Meet our Staff

Dennis Stripling  
**Executive Director**

Kelli Kimbrell  
**Deputy Director and Director of Area Agency on Aging**

Cory Johnson  
**Director of Community & Economic Development**

Zane Davis  
**Transportation Planning Director**

Dawn Wade  
**Fiscal Officer**

## Administrative

Michelle Carter  
**Public Information & Human Resources Manager**

Ivy Lake  
**Office Manager**

## Accounting

Matt Kyndard  
Accountant

## Aging

Ashley Adcox  
Aging Services Director

Rashonda Alexander  
Medicaid Case Manager

Lauren Ballard  
Community Health Programs Coordinator

Brittani Blackston  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Kellie Blount  
Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) Coordinator

Tera Booth  
Medicaid Case Manager

Leah Bosch  
Medicaid Case Management Coordinator

Fredericka Brinkley  
Personal Choices Counselor

Kayla Clark  
SHIP Coordinator

Kacey Davidson  
Transition Coordinator

Aleisha Dunning  
Aging & Disability Resource Center Counselor

Shelia Elledge  
Contracts & Budget Manager

Valerie Ellis  
Medicaid Case Manager

Amelia Fenimore  
Quality Assurance Officer

Beth Gartman  
Medicaid Case Manager

Debbie Gregory  
Aging & Disability Resource Center Counselor

Tranjula Hamilton  
Self-Directed Programs Coordinator

Hannah Hamner  
Medicaid Case Management Coordinator

Zoe Hatch  
Medicaid Case Manager

Evet Hayes  
Aging Program Assistant

Jacqueline Hines  
Personal Choices Counselor

Courtney Hollie  
Long Term Care Ombudsman

Kamille Horne  
Medicaid Case Manager

Martha Jason  
Medicaid Case Manager

Sylvia Johnson  
Medicaid Case Manager

Tammy Lindley  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Debbie Brooker  
Medicaid Administrative Assistant

Jessica May  
Medicaid Case Manager

Courtney Miller  
Medicaid Case Manager

Robin Montgomery  
Medicaid Case Management Coordinator

Michaela Moss  
Medicaid Case Manager

Grace Nunn  
Quality Assurance Manager

Lupita Odom  
Aging & Disability Resource Center Counselor

Tracy Parady  
RN Team Leader

Alyssa Pentz Seigler  
Medicaid Case Manager

Nikki Poe  
Aging Services Coordinator

Misty Richardson  
Nutrition Project Coordinator

Lyndsi Robbins  
Medicaid Case Manager Supervisor

Ashlei Schwartz  
Medicaid Case Manager

Jessica Srivner  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Ashley Sherrill  
Medicaid Case Manager

Jessica Sorrells  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Carolyn Sparks  
Medicaid Case Management Coordinator

Jana Stockton  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Samantha Trull  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Monica Vargas  
Aging & Disability Resource Center Counselor

Reneithyia Watson  
Medicaid Case Manager II

Leslie Wheat  
Assessment Coordinator

Quyanetta Williams  
Personal Choices Counselor

## Community & Economic Development

Pamela Trammell  
Planner

## Transportation Planning

Molly Elmore  
GIS Specialist

Chris Wriley  
Senior Transportation Planner



**West Alabama Regional Commission**

P.O. Box 509 | 4200 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL 35476

Phone: 205-333-2990 | Fax: 205-333-2713

[www.warc.info](http://www.warc.info) | [warc@westal.org](mailto:warc@westal.org)