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State health commissioner visits Shoals facilities in efficiency check

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By Marie Waxel [CONNECT](#)

FLORENCE, AL (WAFF) - The Commissioner for the Alabama Department of Mental Health spent the day in the Shoals Wednesday, touring state funded facilities and meeting with employees.

Jim Perdue says he's meeting with administrators to make sure they are spending their money efficiently to offer the best care they can on the budget they've received.

He says although the department did not have any cuts made to their budget, level funding is not acceptable to the mental health community.

"Level funded does not mean level services," he said. "With inflation and increasing doctor's care and medications, all that means is you're reducing services. If left unchecked, then the system will not continue to succeed."

Perdue says the battle to fund mental health in the state is not going to be easy but he is willing to step up to the challenge.

"I promise the taxpayers that if we collect money through legislative action or whatever, it will be efficiently spent and every dollar we can will reach the delivery and not hang in some bureaucratic organization," he said.

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