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Madison organization opens new Behavior Service Center

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By Lauren Bale CONNECT

MADISON, AL (WAFF) - Madison organization Ability Plus opened a new Behavior Service Center Tuesday to help people in our community with Autism and developmental Disabilities.

The center is designed to be a safe space for group therapy, observation and assessment. The new center has been more than a year in the making.

"We just want to thank everyone for coming out to this ribbon cutting," CEO and Executive Director Karockas Watkins said. "We're a nonprofit, we believe in a nonprofit way it's about serving our community first. It's not about money, it's about a mission."

Tuesday's mission focused on the grand opening of a new Behavior Service Center.

The center has a group therapy room, an observation room and an assessment room to figure out the best way to help each child.

"We want to make everything private, very person centered," Director of Opportunity Services Marcie Jefferson-Watkins said. "We want to make sure the children are getting very individualized care."

Employees say more and more people need their help now that state run mental health facilities are losing funding.

"Not just people coming for services but also people reaching out to us needing a resource," Chief Operations Officer James Cook said. "We spend a lot of time helping say a mom and dad who's resources have dried up."

Employees have a message for lawmakers.

"Come by Ability Plus and see what we do," Jefferson-Watkins said. "Go to other agencies and see the actual impact that these services are making in lives and then make your decision about what you think the cuts should be."

[Click here](#) for more information about the services offered at Ability Plus.

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