

Helen Keller Hospital

Employer: Helen Keller Hospital

Location: Sheffield

Description: Helen Keller Hospital is a 185bed, not-for-profit hospital that provides

health care for the residents of northwest Alabama

Number of Employees: 900

ADRS Employer Development Coordinator: Dawn Huntzinger, Muscle

Shoals VRS

Human resources director: Pamela Bryant

For Pamela Bryant, human resources director at Helen Keller Hospital, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is just a short phone call away.

Pamela calls Dawn Huntzinger, ADRS employer development coordinator, if she needs assistance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accommodations, has questions about an employee with a disability, or wants to hire someone with a disability.

"My relationship with Dawn is priceless," Bryant said. "I know I can always call and she is quick to respond."

Bryant has been the human resources director for 16 years and has worked with ADRS from the beginning, maintaining the relationship that the previous human resources director had with the department.

Through the years, Dawn has assisted Helen Keller with the hiring of and accommodations for a number of people with disabilities.

"There have been so many, I've lost count," she said.

With Dawn's assistance, Helen Keller Hospital has hired people with all kinds of disabilities, including individuals who are blind, have Williams syndrome, and have learning disabilities.

Pamela is impressed that Dawn understands the hospital so well that she only recommends the most qualified applicants to her.

"I know that if she brings a client to us, she's already checked them out, recognizes their ethics and skills," Pamela said. "She knows our jobs and what we need."