

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

Online News

September 14, 2012

Voters face difficult choice on Sept 18th

Should Alabama access its state savings account or risk massive funding cuts for Medicaid, prisons and other public services?

That is the choice we face at the polls on Sept. 18, 2012.

Voters will decide on a proposed constitutional amendment to move \$437.4 million over three years from the Alabama Trust Fund to the General Fund.

To learn what the issues are, check out the [Arise fact sheet](#).

It lays out the history of the Alabama Trust Fund, explains what the amendment would do, and outlines what would happen if the amendment passes or if it fails.

Assistive Technology (AT) Survey for Parents

How do schools plan for and provide AT to students with disabilities?

Assistive technology (AT) can help children with disabilities participate more independently in their schools.

It can help them access and progress in their coursework.

AT can be low tech (ex. pencil grips) or high tech (ex. augmentative communication devices or touch screens).

Federal and state law require a child's IEP Team to consider his need for AT.

ADAP wants to understand how your IEP Team considered your child's need for AT, how satisfied you are with how AT was planned for your child, and how AT is provided. This will help us determine how we can improve access to AT for Alabama students.

If you are the parent of a child with a disability, please complete this short [on-line survey](#)-- whether your child presently uses AT or not.

Questions? Contact ADAP at (800) 826-1675 or via email at adap@adap.ua.edu.

Special Education Family Forum
with State Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice

State School Superintendent Dr. Tommy Bice and Department of Education special education staff will speak at a **Special Education Family Forum** on Monday, September 24 from 6-7:30 pm at the headquarters of United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham (UCP).

Potential Topics Include:

- ε Special Education Initiatives that May Affect Your Child
- ε Writing IEPs to Standards
- ε How to Work with Your Child's School to Ensure Success!
- ε Impact of Plan 2020: What Does it Mean for Your Child?

An open Q&A will follow the presentation. This is a great chance to share your questions and concerns about special education in Alabama!

The Forum will be held in the LINCPOINT Building at the UCP headquarters at [101 Oslo Circle, Birmingham](#).

The Forum is being hosted by ADAP, the Alabama Parent Education Center (APEC), the Alabama School Connection (ASC), and UCP. For more information, contact ADAP at (800) 826-1675 or via email at adap@adap.ua.edu.

ADAP to Monitor Closure of Two State Hospitals

In an ongoing effort to downsize its state hospital system and increase the provision of services in more integrated community settings, the Alabama Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) announced recently that two of its remaining six state hospitals will close. Greil Hospital, with a population of approximately 60 residents in Montgomery, will cease new admissions on August 17 and close on August 31. Searcy Hospital, with a population of approximately 240 residents in Mobile County, is slated to close on October 31, 2012.

ADAP is monitoring the development of detailed plans by DMH and community providers for care of persons formerly served within the confines of the two hospitals. Community providers will provide crisis services to persons who are subject to a probate commitment to the custody of DMH. A majority of persons leaving the hospitals will move to more integrated homes in the community and some individuals will remain in longer-term settings at Bryce or elsewhere. After people leave the two hospitals, an ADAP staff person will make at least one face-to-face visit with each. Where there are issues related to the move that need to be addressed, ADAP will open a case to seek a satisfactory resolution.

For further information, contact:

- ε ADAP Attorney Dave Slawkowski (Searcy monitoring) - dslawkowski@adap.ua.edu
- ε ADAP Attorney James Tucker (Greil monitoring) - jtucker@adap.ua.edu

Apply to serve on the NYLN Governing Board! Great opportunity for Youth with Disabilities

The National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN) is accepting applications for its Governing Board (GB).

NYLN is a youth-led, cross-disability organization. It works to build power among people with disabilities between the ages of 16- 28 years old, to support them in their role as the next generation of leadership in the Disability Rights Movement. It is the only youth-led disability rights nonprofit organization in the country.

[Applications](#) for the Board are due September 30th, but must be postmarked by Saturday, September 29, 2012.

Questions? Contact Jessica Croner, President, jessica.croner@gmail.com or Betsy Valnes, Executive Director, betsy.valnes@gmail.com, 866-480-6565, ext. 1

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