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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
April 19, 2013

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nationwide federally mandated protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP's mission is to provide quality, legally based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities in order to protect, promote and expand their rights.

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[www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net)

## Good News for People with Disabilities who Want to Work!

The Social Security Administration has recently announced that funding will be provided to ADAP and other Protection and Advocacy agencies around the nation to resume services under the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. Previously, the budget for the PABSS program had been eliminated. With the Continuing Resolution recently passed by Congress, this program has been reestablished.

Through the PABSS program, attorneys and advocates provide Social Security beneficiaries free assistance to help them overcome barriers that are preventing them from working or pursuing higher educational opportunities. The PABSS program has assisted many Alabamians in issues related to work and Social Security, and we are pleased to now be able to resume these services.

## Department of Mental Health Records Destruction Deadline Extended

In the April 5th edition of ADAP news, it was reported that the Department of Mental Health will begin destruction of noncurrent records including medical records of former patients or other business records/personnel records beginning April 1, 2013. ADAP recently learned the Department has extended this deadline to August 1, 2013. For additional information, including the Department's policies regarding record destruction, please [Click here](#)

## Alabama Warm Line

Alabama's peer-run Warm Line is manned by peers in recovery from mental illness. Call: 1-800-639-3000. Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m., Alabama Warm Line is also on Facebook. Go to their [page](#) and like the page and read more

## The “New” Alabama High School Diploma

By Trisha Powell Crain, [alabamaschoolconnect.org](http://alabamaschoolconnect.org)

April 18, 2013 - The only thing you can really count on is change, right? Well, Alabama's high school diploma requirements are changing again. If you are the parent or family member of a current high schooler, grades 9 through 12, *this change does not apply to your current high schooler*. However, for next year's entering 9th graders (this year's 8th graders), the path to a diploma will look a bit different. For these students, there will be one “exit document”: the Alabama High School Diploma (AHSD...a new acronym...yay). It was adopted [at the January State Board of Education meeting](#)

### Diploma Requirements for Children with Special Needs

If your child has a learning disability or is otherwise receiving special education services, you need to pay close attention to the courses your child is taking. The buzzword being used is “pathways”, what we might have referred to as “tracks” in previous years. Pathways for children with special needs are basically the series of courses the child takes through high school. For next year's 10th, and 11th grade students, who are currently pursuing an Alabama Occupational Diploma (AOD), the school district can choose to issue a regular diploma to students who complete course credit for the AOD. It is very important for you to understand which courses your high schooler with special needs is taking to ensure that your child is prepared for whatever college or career track that you expect your child to accomplish. [Read more](#)

## Alabama Youth Justice Alliance

On April 29, 2013 from 10:00-11:30 am, the Alabama Youth Justice Alliance will host a legislative wrap-up to talk about what's been done for kids this session, what remains to be done, and what children's issues the legislature should take up next session. We will hear from various organizations, including VOICES for Alabama's Children, the Children's First Foundation, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. There will also be a panel on hand to answer questions. This is a great opportunity to hear about legislative changes affecting kids and how our state can improve outcomes for our children. Please join us. Call-in number: 888-450-5996, Pass code: 1586600.

## Lane v. Kitzhaber

The United States moved to intervene in the class action lawsuit, [Lane v. Kitzhaber](#), No. 12-cv-138 (D. Or.). The United States' complaint in intervention alleges that the State of Oregon has violated Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act by unnecessarily segregating thousands of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in sheltered workshops, and by placing them at risk of such segregation, when they could be served in integrated employment settings. Individuals who are at risk of unnecessary segregation include youth with I/DD who are referred for admission to sheltered workshops after graduating from or exiting Oregon secondary schools.

The Department of Justice opened an investigation in October 2011 into whether Oregon is violating Title II of the ADA by placing persons with I/DD in segregated sheltered workshops when such persons are capable of working in integrated workplaces with appropriate supports and services, i.e., supported employment. The Center for Public Representation (CPR) and

Disability Rights Oregon (DRO), along with two private law firms, filed [Lane v. Kitzhaber](#) to challenge segregated workshop placements under Olmstead. On August 6, 2012, the court certified a class defined as “all individuals in Oregon with intellectual or developmental disabilities who are in, or who have been referred to, sheltered workshops” and “who are qualified for supported employment services.” In June 2012, the United States filed a Statement of Interest in support of class certification and issued a Letter of Findings concluding that Oregon’s sheltered workshop system violated Title II of the ADA and Olmstead.

To learn more about the Department’s efforts to enforce the Supreme Court’s decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* and about the Americans with Disabilities Act, go to [ADA.gov](#) or call the toll-free [ADA Information Line](#) at 800-514-0301 (voice) or 800-514-0383 (TTY).

## Home Use Devices: How to Prepare and Handle Power Outages for Medical Devices that Require Electricity

As a home medical device user, it is important that your device works during a power outage and that you have a plan in place to ensure you know what to do. This [booklet](#) will help you have an established plan to obtain and organize your medical device information, take necessary actions so that you can continue to use your device, have the necessary supplies for the operation of your device, and know where to go or what to do during a power outage. If you use more than one medical device, complete a booklet for each device and ask your healthcare professional to help you.



### HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL.

Are you a member of a group that needs a speaker for an upcoming meeting? If so, ADAP can fill this need. ADAP staff provides education/training sessions on a wide variety of disability-related topics including, but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We will also speak on specifically requested, disability-related topics. If you are interested in making arrangements for ADAP to come speak at one of your meetings, please contact Anita Davidson, one of ADAP's Legal Assistants, by calling 205-348-5107, or emailing her, [vhubbard@adap.ua.edu](mailto:vhubbard@adap.ua.edu)



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