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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
August 15, 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.

Find Us On The Web  
[www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net)

## Are You Registered To Vote in August 27 2013 Elections? Deadline to Register is August 16



Birmingham, Mobile and Tuscaloosa will hold municipal elections on August 27, 2013. Are you registered to vote? The old saying of "every vote counts" is especially true for local elections. To vote in these municipal elections, you must register to vote by Friday, August 16. For information on how to register and to print Alabama's voter registration form [click here](#). Even if you don't live in one of those cities, now is a good time to register. Special elections are often held throughout the year and elections for several statewide offices will be held in 2014. Let your voice be heard; register to vote and cast your ballot on Election Day!

## *Employment First In Alabama: "The Next Step" - One Day Workshop Featuring Michael Callahan*



What will Alabama's move toward integrated employment mean for you, your family member or your client?

The Alabama Developmental Disabilities (DD) Network invites you to a free one-day workshop to

learn about Alabama's move toward integrated employment for persons with disabilities. The program will be held on Monday, August 26, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Marriot Legends at Capitol Hill (Prattville).

Michael Callahan, President of **Marc Gold and Associates**, will speak on "Customized Employment: Assuring Access to Employment for All," addressing the unique features that distinguish customized employment from traditional, competitive jobs. Examples and stories of individuals with a variety of disabilities will be discussed. The role of the Discovery process, developed by Callahan and his colleagues, will be described.

Submit your **registration form** to Cindy Sweeney by fax ((205) 975-2380) or email ([csweeney@uab.edu](mailto:csweeney@uab.edu)). For more information, contact Cindy at (205) 934-1059. While the workshop is free, we ask participants to pre-register since lunch will be served. Registration deadline is August 15, 2013.

Alabama's DD Network is comprised of the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, and the UAB Civitan International Research Center/Sparks Clinics.

## ADAP Public Meeting to Set Advocacy Goals – August 23 at Hoover Public Library



ADAP is hosting a public meeting on Friday, August 23, 2013 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the **Hoover Public Library** to review its advocacy plans for FY14 on behalf of persons with disabilities. Come to this public forum and share your thoughts about ADAP's work and the civil rights of persons with disabilities!

Individuals wanting to attend this meeting who need accommodations due to disability should contact Vicki Hubbard by email at [vhubbard@adap.ua.edu](mailto:vhubbard@adap.ua.edu) or by phone at 1-800-826-1675 by August 21, 2013. Individuals who plan to address the group will need to sign up in advance at the meeting. There will be a five (5) minute time limit per speaker.

If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to share your views about ADAP's work, you can provide comments via phone, letter, or through an on-line survey:

- To provide comments by phone, call (800) 826-1675
- To provide comments by letter, write ADAP/Public Meeting Comments at Box 870395, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
- To provide comments through an anonymous on-line survey, log onto <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ADAP14SURVEY>

## Survey your Polling Site for Accessibility



Have you ever had problems accessing your polling place? The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Help America Vote Act (HAVA) seek to ensure that persons with disabilities have full and equal access to the voting process.

The ADA mandates that polling sites be fully accessible to persons

with disabilities. The ADA requires, among other things, adequate and accessible parking, accessible entrances, and a clear path of travel both to the accessible entrance and within the polling place itself.

HAVA requires that the actual process of casting a ballot must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Alabama has chosen to address this issue through the use of a voting machine called the Automark. The Automark allows persons with various disabilities to cast a vote independently. Each polling site should have an Automark that is turned on and ready for use. In addition, there should be at least one poll worker at each site who knows how to operate the Automark and be able to assist if problems come up.

The next time you go to vote, use ADAP's simple [survey](#) to determine whether your polling place is fully accessible to persons with disabilities. If you discover access issues at your polling site, send the completed survey, along with your contact information, to ADAP for further investigation. Together, we can work to ensure all polling places in Alabama are fully accessible to ALL voters. Voting is a fundamental right we should all protect.

## "NGRI"



Over the past few years, the number of people with a mental illness living and being treated in large state hospitals has declined. Many consumers are now living in group homes, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. One group of consumers faces more difficulty in successfully moving to community-based care. Persons who have been categorized as “not guilty by reason of mental illness” or “NGRI” in a prior criminal prosecution have additional barriers to overcome before being allowed to move to a less restrictive environment. To understand NGRI and post-NGRI processes, [click here](#).

## Landmark Settlement for New York City Adult Home Residents Scattered-Site Housing, Community Services Enable Independence, Integration



A recent landmark [settlement](#) between lawyers for adult home residents, the U.S. Department of Justice and New York State ensures that thousands of residents of 23 large "adult homes"-board and care homes serving primarily people with mental illnesses-will have the opportunity to live in their own homes with the services they need to succeed and be participants in their communities.

"With this agreement, Governor Cuomo and his administration have shown a real commitment to the civil rights and dignity of adult home residents. Thousands of people with mental illness who are now stuck in institutions will have the opportunity to live full lives in the community, with the services and supports they want and need to succeed," stated Cliff Zucker, general counsel of Disability Rights New York (formerly Disability Advocates Inc.).

"With the right services, virtually all adult home residents with mental illnesses can live in their own homes and be full members of their community," stated Ira Burnim, legal director of the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. "These residents will finally have the opportunity to leave institutions and lead lives like the rest of society."

When asked how he felt about the settlement, which would provide adult home residents with mental illnesses the opportunity to live more independently, Plaintiff Raymond O'Toole answered, "Freedom is here - almost. Freedom and the ability to grow."



## HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL.

Does your agency or group need a speaker for an upcoming meeting? ADAP provides education and training on a wide variety of topics including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We can 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, contact Anita Davidson

at (205) 348-5107 or email her at [akdavidson@adap.ua.edu](mailto:akdavidson@adap.ua.edu)



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