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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
September 18, 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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## Upholding Medicaid Managed Care Quality Requirements

The Aging and Disability Partnership for Managed Long Term Services and Supports Announces a free live webcast on Upholding Medicaid Managed Care Quality Requirements on September 19, 2013, 3:00 to 4:30 ET\* The Americans with Disabilities Act, Rehabilitation Act, and Affordable Care Act explicitly address disability non-discrimination and require health care providers to be physically and programmatically accessible to people with disabilities. Presenters will discuss these requirements and address some of the more common compliance questions raised by managed care providers. This Webcast is Open to Everyone.

Presenters: Jane Perkins, Litigation Director, National Health Law Program; Sarah Somers, Managing Attorney, National Health Law Program Elizabeth Priaulx, Senior Disability Legal Specialist, National Disability Rights Network

Who may join: This Webcast is Open to Everyone

Registration: Please complete the on-line registration form, [click here](#). (This will take you to a website that says TASC, but don't be confused, the website is free and open to everyone)

Once the registration is submitted, registrants will receive an e-mail with login details.

\*If you would rather listen at another time, a transcript and audio of this webcast will be posted within 10 days of the live broadcast on the Website of the Aging and Disability Partnership for Managed Long Term Services and Supports at: <http://mltssnetwork.org/events/webinar-civil-rights-protections-and-mltss/> and the National Disability Rights Network website



## How Changes in Alabama Medicaid Will Impact Persons with Disabilities

During the last session, the Alabama Legislature made sweeping changes to our Medicaid program. The changes were about how people eligible for and using Medicaid cards will receive services. This includes children and adults with disabilities and chronic health conditions. It covers medical, therapy, hospital and prescription services. Alabama has decided to change Medicaid from an insurance plan that pays the physician or medical provider for services to paying a Regional Care Organization (RCO). They will pay a specific amount each month for each person. The RCO will have to pay health care providers for all “medically necessary” services within the total they receive from the State. It is likely that five RCOs will be started by October 1, 2015. Each of the RCOs will develop a network of physicians, behavioral health providers and other medical providers for all services. It is critical that these providers be skilled in working with children and adults with disabilities, chronic health conditions and behavioral health needs. (The term “disabilities” is used throughout this document to include individuals with behavioral health needs and chronic health conditions.)

Each person receiving services through the RCO will be assigned a Care Coordinator. This coordinator will assist people in receiving appropriate health care, behavioral health care and make sure a person is taking their medications correctly. They will also make sure a person is following the directions of their physician and other health care professionals. To read the report on Transforming Medicaid in Alabama to “Managed Care”: Impact on the Lives of Children and Adults with Disabilities, Preliminary Analysis and Recommendations of Alabama Act 2013-261 (SB 340) To Establish Regional Care Organizations by Disabilities Leadership Coalition of Alabama, [click here](#).



## Alabama State Plan Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence

Disability Rights and Resources is partnering with the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ACADV) in the process to updating the 2010 Alabama State Plan Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence. Several systems statewide--including judicial, health care, education, mental health, and prison systems--have become increasingly involved in responding to violence against women. In order to effectively address violence against women, there must be an understanding of the special characteristics of these crimes; without a nuanced understanding of the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence, a victim's life can inadvertently be placed in danger, and perpetrators are less likely to be held accountable for their actions. The 2010 State Plan included guidance for these statewide systems in regard to responding to domestic and sexual violence. In preparation for updating the State Plan, the ACADV is seeking to add specific recommendations for responding to intimate partner/interpersonal violence involving persons with disabilities.

In particular, the ACADV is looking for responses to the following questions:

1. How does domestic/sexual violence impact persons with disabilities?
2. What current responses are most effective for domestic/sexual violence victims from the disability community?
3. What new responses need to be implemented to better serve domestic/sexual violence victims with disabilities?
4. What do other professions need to know about the effects of domestic/sexual violence on



persons with disabilities?

5. What accountability measures would be most effective for responding to batterers who victimize persons with disabilities?

6. What training programs need to be developed to address domestic/sexual violence issues specific to persons with disabilities?

If you would like to provide your input, please address your response to Kathy Wells at [kwells@hiwaay.net](mailto:kwells@hiwaay.net). You can also contact Kathy at 205-475-5823.



## ADAP Provides Advocacy Services for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injuries

ADAP receives federal funds to advocate for persons with disabilities. A portion of those funds are to be used specifically to provide services to persons with traumatic brain injuries (“TBI”). ADAP has served, and will continue to serve, persons with TBI in institutional settings by advocating for appropriate services and outplacement to less restrictive settings. ADAP will also continue to provide advocacy services to persons with TBI upon request.

During FY 14, ADAP plans to increase its efforts in assisting persons with TBI. ADAP will undertake several education/training sessions to help persons with TBI better understand their rights with respect to living in a truly integrated setting and receiving appropriate services. ADAP also plans to conduct an outreach project to inform professionals that serve persons with TBI about the services ADAP provides.

If you have or know someone who has a TBI and advocacy services are needed, please contact **ADAP**. If you are also interested in ADAP providing an education/training session to a group that serves persons with TBI.



## Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

ADAP provides advocacy services, training, and other related services for Beneficiaries of Social Security whose goal is to secure, regain or maintain gainful employment. It is PABSS’s goal to assist beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about vocational rehabilitation and employment services to further their employment goals. In addition, ADAP provides training about the work incentives that are offered by Social Security to allow a person to test their ability to work. Work incentives allow individuals to test their ability to work without any immediate effects on their benefits – both cash payments and health coverage.

ADAP would like to provide individuals interested in employment, their parents, staff and other stakeholders with training on work incentives. Common fears about obtaining employment concern the loss of Social Security Benefit payments and Health Care Coverage. ADAP can discuss how to navigate the work incentives process so that vital benefits are preserved.

Please let us know if your organization or group is interested in training. We will travel to you to provide the training. [Click here](#) to contact us.



### **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, [akdavidson@adap.ua.edu](mailto:akdavidson@adap.ua.edu)



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**Our mailing address is:**

The University of Alabama  
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program  
Box 870395 - Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0395  
website: [adap.net](http://adap.net)  
e-mail: [adap@adap.ua.edu](mailto:adap@adap.ua.edu)