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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
September 16, 2014

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nation's federally-funded protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP provides legal services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights. ADAP's vision is one of a society in which persons with disabilities are valued and exercise self-determination through meaningful choices, and have equality of opportunity. ADAP is part of the [National Disability Rights Network \(NDRN\)](#).

Find us on the Web  
[www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net)

## September is National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month

There are approximately 200,000 people living with spinal cord injuries (SCI) in the United States. Every 48 seconds in our country, a person becomes paralyzed. A majority of injuries occur from motor vehicle accidents, falls, work-related accidents, and sports injuries.

For ideas on how to bring awareness to your community about living, working and playing with a spinal cord injury, see the following websites for information and ways to take part in activities this month.

- <http://www.unitedspinal.org/september-is-national-spinal-cord-injury-awareness-month/>
- <http://www.makoa.org/nscia/fact02.html>
- <http://www.spinalcordinjuryzone.com/news/3001/national-spinal-cord-injury-awareness-month>

## DMH's Efforts to Comply with New Federal Requirements

The Alabama Department of Mental Health ("DMH") is in the process of ensuring Alabama's largest Home and Community Based Waivers ("HCBW") comply with new requirements from the federal government agency that provides funding for the waivers. The Intellectual Disabilities

("ID") and Living At Home ("LAH") waivers provide funding for community services for people with intellectual disabilities. Community services include, but are not limited to, assistance in obtaining and maintaining employment, group home, day habilitation, personal care, respite care and case management.

The new requirements establish guidelines for what constitutes a "community-based setting." These requirements are designed to ensure waiver recipients, persons with intellectual disabilities, have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting that is appropriate. In other words, waiver recipients must have opportunities to be true members of their integrated communities, including integrated employment, housing, and any other activity.

For more information on the new federal requirements and DMH's compliance efforts, click on the following link: [http://www.mh.alabama.gov/IDCP/?sm=c\\_b](http://www.mh.alabama.gov/IDCP/?sm=c_b)

## Lonnie J. Williams, Staff Attorney Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

Lonnie Williams is a Staff Attorney at the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP). He has worked at ADAP for the past nine years. Lonnie works on our Community Access Team. Lonnie works on many issues including guardianship and conservatorship, appropriate treatment of persons in institutions, community transition and integration, access, and freedom of choice. Lonnie grew up in Walker County, Alabama, and graduated from Dora High School in 1991. Lonnie received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1997 and his Juris Doctorate from the Birmingham School of Law in 2003. Lonnie has been a licensed attorney since 2003. Lonnie lives in Tuscaloosa with his wife and his four sons. Lonnie can be contacted at: [lwilliams@adap.ua.edu](mailto:lwilliams@adap.ua.edu)

## BirminghamSAFE Education and Advocacy on behalf of Persons with Food Allergies

*Q: What do milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat have in common?*

*A: These eight types of food account for over 90% of allergic reactions in persons with food allergies.*

Educating the community about food allergies and supporting families are two goals of BirminghamSAFE, a newly formed advocacy group headed up by parent Ann Marie Liskey.

"Too many schools and children's programs don't understand food allergies," says Ms. Liskey. "That lack of knowledge is a huge barrier to ensuring that our children are kept safe."

"We want to expand awareness among school and program leaders of preventive measures and emergency responses that can be taken to protect children."

Ms. Liskey says BirminghamSAFE also wants to educate families about their children's legal rights to appropriate accommodations to address their food allergies.

In the coming year, the organization will be following how the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) develops the allergy (anaphylaxis) preparedness program required under a

recently enacted state statute. The statute requires that by the start of the 2015-16 school year, the ALSDE must develop and each school district must implement a preparedness program, which includes a protocol for the use of premeasured autoinjectable epinephrine by students in emergencies.

On Saturday, November 1, BirminghamSAFE will serve as the host for the “FARE Walk for Food Allergy” at Rail Road Park in Birmingham.

For more information about BirminghamSAFE, contact Ms. Liskey at [info@birminghamSAFE.com](mailto:info@birminghamSAFE.com). Or, check out its website at <http://birminghamSAFE.com>.

## Every Child Matters Alabama Children’s Policy Council 2014 Regional Workshops

For five years, the Alabama Children’s Policy Council has presented regional workshops to enlighten, encourage and empower members of the community on issues that face today’s children and families. The Council has addressed issues from teen driving to suicide to human trafficking. In 2014, the council will host 9 workshops throughout the state with focus areas including cyber bullying and child abuse.

Remaining dates for 2014 are as follows:

### **Friday, September 19**

**9am—12pm**

Opelika Health Resource Center  
2027 Pepperell Parkway  
Opelika, AL

### **Friday, November 7**

**12:30pm—3:30pm**

Lawrence County Board of Education  
14131 Market Street  
Moulton, AL

### **Thursday, November 20**

**9am—12pm**

Huntsville Children’s Rehabilitation Services  
3000 Johnson Road  
Huntsville, AL

[Click here to download a flyer for these events.](#)

## Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered Conference October 9-12, 2014

The conference theme, “*The Sooner We’re Equal the Better,*” not only shows the best's pride as the *Sooner State*, but it also describes the efforts of self-advocates across America and the globe to enjoy the same rights as any citizen in any community while striving to live independent and fulfilling lives. This year’s conference will be at the Renaissance Hotel and Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. Speakers and sessions will focus on self-advocates’ journeys to equality and what others can do to have more equality in their own communities.

Twenty-five persons will be attending from Alabama's People First and transportation will be provided to Oklahoma City.

Contact Information: Vicki Turnage at Ability Alliance Phone: 1-(205) 333-2904 or e-mail: [aawa@abilityalliance.info](mailto:aawa@abilityalliance.info)

Brenda Doss at People First of Walker County 1-(205)-384-4953 or e-mail at: [bdoss1200@charter.net](mailto:bdoss1200@charter.net)

Susan Ellis at 1-(205)- 442-5066 or email: [pf.susan.200@gmail.com](mailto:pf.susan.200@gmail.com)

## The Arc of Alabama Annual Disability Conference October 29-31, 2014 Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama

The Arc of Alabama, Inc., sponsors an Annual State Convention hosted by one of its local chapters, showcasing the accomplishments of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends and advocates. The Convention also provides public education on a variety of issues and topics of interest to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, friends, and advocates.

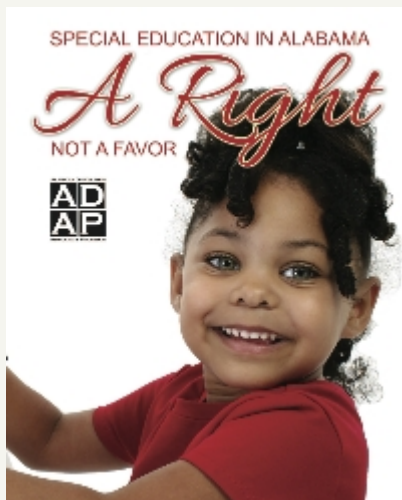
[Click here for Info Flyer](#)

[Click here for Registration Form](#)

[Click here for Tentative Conference Program](#)



Special Education in Alabama: A Right Not a Favor



ADAP is pleased to announce the publication of the newest edition of its popular special education parent manual – “Special Education in Alabama: A Right Not a Favor” (RNF).

RNF helps families and child advocates understand how to access special education services and ensure that eligible children with disabilities are provided the free, appropriate public education to which they are entitled. The manual is written in lay-friendly terms and is filled with helpful advocacy tips and resources.

Publication of RNF was underwritten by a generous grant from the [Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities](#).

The first edition of RNF was published in the mid-80’s. Since its last revision and printing in 2007, 50,000 free copies have been distributed across the state.

To view the manual on-line, click [here](#). To order copies, click [here](#).



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