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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
April 25, 2015

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)

## ADAP Warns of Wyatt II

By Gerron Gadd

In response to the budget crisis plaguing the state, Alabama lawmakers proposed a 2016 General Fund Budget which includes draconian cuts for critical state agencies, including a \$35 million reduction in appropriations for the Department of Mental Health. That \$35 million reduction in state appropriations will result in a total loss of approximately \$90 million in funding for the Department of Mental Health when federal matching funds are included. As Commissioner Jim Reddoch explained during the Department of Mental Health's budget briefing on April 9, 2015, the proposed 2016 General Fund Budget threatens to dismantle the system of care for persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities in Alabama. In response to the proposed 2016 budget, ADAP Director James Tucker warned lawmakers that the cuts increase the risk of costly litigation on behalf of Alabamians whose right to services are well-established. Read Mr. Tucker's letter [here](#).

## Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Governor Robert Bentley has proclaimed that May 3-9, 2015, is Children's Mental Health Week. This week is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the triumphs and challenges in children's mental health and emphasizing the importance of family and youth in the mental health movement.



(L-R) Nathaniel Hollis (poster winner), Sherry Hollis, John Hollis, Joshua Hollis, Jacob King, Gayla Caddell, Dr. Beverly Bell-Shambley, and Commissioner Reddoch.

This week promotes the positive mental health, well-being and social development of all children and youth.



This year's statewide poster contest winner is Nathaniel Hollis, a youth from Maplesville, Alabama. Mr. Hollis and his family attended the Proclamation Signing on April 22, 2015.

In addition to the posters, Alabama Family Ties has partnered with Alabama Youth M.O.V.E. and has other awareness items produced by Alabama youth.

**Awareness Ribbon Pins - \$1.00 each**

**Awareness Ribbon Beaded Bracelets - \$5.00 each**

**Notecards - \$5.00 set**

(To order contact AFT at [jmlaking@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmlaking@bellsouth.net))

**PLEASE WEAR GREEN DURING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK!**

## ADAP Appoints Associate and Legal Directors

ADAP Executive Director James A. Tucker recently announced the appointment of new Associate and Legal Directors at ADAP.

Nancy Anderson, who has worked at ADAP since 2000, is now serving as the agency's Associate Director. She will assist with coordinating and managing the work of the federally funded protection and advocacy agency and will continue to supervise the work of the agency's Children's Advocacy Team. Nancy graduated from Wellesley College in 1983 and Rutgers University School of Law in 1999. Nancy can be reached at: [nanderso@adap.ua.edu](mailto:nanderso@adap.ua.edu)

Patrick Hackney has worked as the leader of the Community Access Team since October 2006, in addition to a stint in private practice in Tuscaloosa. As Legal Director, Patrick oversees all of ADAP's legal work. He is already involved as co-counsel in *Dunn v. Dunn* (the state's prison conditions case in which ADAP serves as co-counsel with the Southern Poverty Law Center and private counsel), among other cases. Patrick is an expert in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as Medicaid and other subjects. Patrick graduated from Samford University in 1994 and the University of Alabama School of Law in 1998. Patrick can be reached at: [jphackney@adap.ua.edu](mailto:jphackney@adap.ua.edu)

# ADA25 Legacy Tour Coming to Alabama

- **Birmingham Legacy Tour Bus Stop - May 19, 2015**
- **Montgomery Legacy Tour Bus Stop - May 21, 2015**

The ADA Legacy Tour is rolling across the country raising awareness and building excitement toward ADA25 - the 25th anniversary of the ADA in 2015! The Tour includes:

- The "Road to Freedom" ADA Bus - which traveled to 48 states in 2007 to raise support for the ADA Amendments Act - courtesy of the Disability Rights Center and driven by veteran disability rights photographer, Tom Olin;
- a four-panel display on the history of self-advocacy, courtesy of the Museum of disABILITY History;
- displays on The ADA Legacy Project and its effort to preserve disability history, celebrate disability history milestones, and educate future generations of disability advocates;
- the ADA quilt - add your signature to thousands of others who have participated in the Tour;
- displays on the history of the Road to Freedom Tour; and
- information, swag, events, workshops, artifacts, and other programming provided by local hosts. (Stay tuned for more details)

Click [here](#) for additional information about the ADA Legacy Project.

For locations in Alabama, click [here](#).

## Tornado Season and People with Disabilities

On April 27, 2011, central Alabama experienced two distinct waves of widespread severe weather. The first moved through during the early morning hours across northern portions of Central Alabama. National Weather Service meteorologists have completed the assessment of storm damage from this tragically historic day of tornadic activity and severe weather across Central Alabama on Wednesday, April 27th.

In total, there were 29 confirmed tornadoes in Central Alabama on this day, and 62 confirmed tornadoes across the State of Alabama. The combined tornado damage path length in Central Alabama was 691.02 miles. Sixteen of the tornadoes had damage path lengths over 10 miles long. Eight of the tornadoes had damage path lengths over 25 miles long. There were at least 1998 injuries reported and **over 200 people lost their lives.**

### Know the Difference

**Tornado Watch** - Tornadoes are possible in and near the watch area. Review and discuss your emergency plans, and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued or you suspect a tornado is approaching. Acting early helps to save lives!

**Tornado Warning** - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Tornado warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Go immediately underground to a basement, storm cellar or an interior room (closet, hallway or bathroom).

### If you are a person with a disability you need to take additional steps:

- Stock a basic emergency supply kit
- **Inventory what you use EVERYDAY to be independent!** Add those items to your emergency kit. Do you take medication each day? Are you on a special diet? Don't forget

supplies for your service animal.

- **The power will probably be out for hours, maybe days**, how are you going to charge your power wheelchair ...your cell phone ...assistive technology?



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