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ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM
January 15, 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

ADAP Advisory Council – January 30, 2015

ADAP's two advisory councils will host a joint meeting on Friday, January 30, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The meeting will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public. If you plan to attend, please contact Vicki Hubbard at 1-205-348-5093 or via e-mail at vhubbard@adap.ua.edu. Please let Vicki know about any special accommodations you might need. For directions, click [here](#).

Disability Leadership Coalition of Alabama appoints Executive Director

The Disabilities Leadership Coalition of Alabama has appointed LaFayette (AL) attorney Bill Fuller as its first executive director.

Bill is a former five-term member of the Alabama House of Representatives and served as Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources. He recently served as executive director of the Alabama Family Trust and as legislative counsel for United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Birmingham. He will continue his private law practice, targeting disabilities discrimination, elder abuse prevention, special needs trusts, and children's mental health.

The Disability Leadership Coalition of Alabama is made up of more than twenty disability stakeholder groups (including ADAP) and provides outreach, education and advocacy on key state and national health care and civil justice issues. The Coalition is heavily engaged in work around the transformation of Alabama's Medicaid program to managed care, focusing on health

care access, affordability, and consumer protections for persons with disabilities. For information on the Coalition, contact Bill at billfuller@freshsprings.org.

Arise Policy Conference - February 5, 2015

On the Agenda: Identifying a Vision for Long Term Care in Alabama

Hundreds of energized Alabamians will gather at the 2015 Arise Policy Conference being held at Birmingham-Southern College on Thursday, February 5 to learn how public policy decisions on health care, housing, education and other issues affect the lives of all of us.

Speakers include Heather McGhee, president of the national policy group Demos; Dr. Michael Saag, a pioneering HIV researcher at UAB; and State Health Officer Dr. Don Williamson. Erin McGaffigan, founder of Collective Insight, and ADAP Executive Director James Tucker will lead a breakout session focusing on how stakeholders in Alabama can envision and advocate for a state system of person-centered long term services and supports.

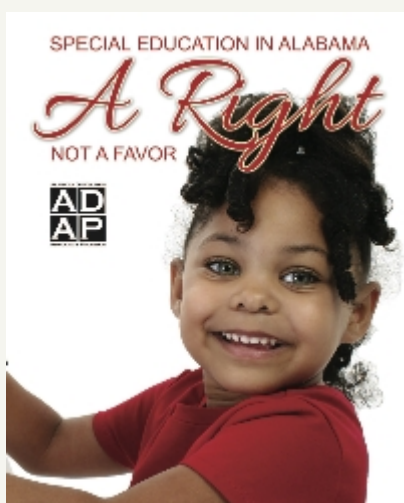
Alabama Arise promotes state policies to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians. Click [here](#) for conference schedule and registration information.

How the ABLE Act of 2014 Could Affect You

The Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act of 2014 was signed into law by President Obama on December 19, 2014. To learn about how this legislation expands life opportunities for persons with disabilities, click [here](#).



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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