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Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
May 13, 2015

Protest Rallies against Proposed DMH Budget Cuts

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The people have spoken.

Faced with budget cuts that would gut mental health services for thousands of Alabamians, hundreds of families, consumers, and advocates rallied Monday in protests held throughout the state.

The signs at the rallies said it all: “Protect Programs,” “Put People First,” “Invest in Me,” “We Are Important,” “We Need To Be Heard,” “Budget Cuts Hurt People Like Me,” and “No Cuts to DMH.”

ADAP Executive Director James Tucker attended the Tuscaloosa rally. In front of a crowd of more than 400 people, he repeated his warning that the proposed cuts increase the chance of litigation on behalf of Alabamians with mental and intellectual disabilities.

Echoing the message he shared with the legislature in a recent [letter](#), Tucker said ADAP will do all within its power to preserve the legal rights of those served by the Department of Mental Health, as laid out in *Wyatt v. Stickney*, ADAP’s mental health class action brought against the Department.

“When Judge Thompson approved the Wyatt settlement in 2003, he warned that if the state fails to shoulder its responsibility, it will find itself back in court as sure as the night follows the day,” said Tucker. “That day now approaches.”

Similar rallies were held in other Alabama cities, see stories below on mental health issues in the State of Alabama.

News Courier

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Meeting to address mental health cuts

http://www.enewscourier.com/news/local_news/meeting-to-address-mental-health-cuts/article_8abd537c-f908-11e4-87e1-330d3b090e03.html

Madison County Record

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

United Way concerned about slashes in state funding

<http://www.madisoncountyrecord.com/2015/05/12/united-way-concerned-about-slashes-in-state-funding/>

APR

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Gambling bill hearing, potential mental health cuts and Alzheimer's research

<http://apr.org/post/gambling-bill-hearing-potential-mental-health-cuts-and-alzheimers-research>

Birmingham Business Journal

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Demonstrations occur around Alabama in support of mental health programs

http://www.bizjournals.com/birmingham/morning_call/2015/05/demonstrations-occur-around-alabama-in-support-of.html

Enterprise Ledger

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Residents raise concerns over possible mental health cuts

http://www.dothaneagle.com/enterprise_ledger/news/residents-raise-concerns-over-possible-mental-health-cuts/article_ab371b62-f816-11e4-b4ca-e7f7e02f831a.html

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Locking up mentally ill at odds with prison reform

http://www.al.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/05/locking_up_mentally_ill_at_odd.html

Dothan Eagle

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Ozark residents rally against mental health funding cuts

http://www.dothaneagle.com/news/local/ozark-residents-rally-against-mental-health-funding-cuts/article_761f2610-f864-11e4-a2b4-1399961e929a.html

Tuscaloosa News

Monday, May 11, 2015

"They're 'not just numbers:' " Hundreds rally in Tuscaloosa for mental health

<http://www.tuscaloosaneews.com/article/20150511/news/150519955?tc=ar>

Anniston Star

Monday, May 11, 2015

Advocates, clients rally for state mental health funding

http://www.annistonstar.com/news/advocates-clients-rally-for-state-mental-health-funding/article_a65afd60-f835-11e4-a61d-736d6c60ca93.html?_dc=128891437547.28139

AL.com

Monday, May 11, 2015

People with disabilities rally to stop budget cuts

http://www.al.com/news/birmingham/index.ssf/2015/05/people_with_disabilities_rally.html

WSFA

Monday, May 11, 2015

Mental health supporters rally in Tuscaloosa on Monday

<http://www.wsfa.com/story/29028485/mental-health-supporters-rally-in-tuscaloosa-on-monday>

AL.com

Monday, May 11, 2015

On question about mental health, Alabama governor again hints at Medicaid expansion

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/05/on_question_about_mental_healt.html

WAAY

Monday, May 11, 2015

Bentley outlines mental health cuts if tax increase doesn't pass

http://www.waaytv.com/appnews/bentley-outlines-mental-health-cuts-if-tax-increase-doesn-t/article_bc25f0f0-f7f9-11e4-96a0-f34141a5b761.html

WVTM

Monday, May 11, 2015

Supporters rally across Alabama to support mental health services

<http://www.wvtm13.com/news/supporters-rally-across-alabama-to-support-mental-health-services/32949876>

WBRC

Monday, May 11, 2015

Supporters of Alabama's mental health community come together for rally

<http://www.myfoxa.com/story/29034092/supporters-of-alabamas-mental-health-community-come->

WIAT

Monday, May 11, 2015

Birmingham residents rally for mental health

<http://wiat.com/2015/05/11/birmingham-residents-rally-for-mental-health/>

Contact [ADAP](#) if you want more information or advocacy assistance; we're here to help!



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