

# Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

## Online News

March 22, 2012

### **Stakeholders & Public Officials Join Governor Bentley at Proclamation Signing Hour for Ricky Wyatt Day in Alabama**

MONTGOMERY - In remembrance of the significant role he played in the landmark *Wyatt v. Stickney* ruling and the historic transformation of the Alabama mental Health System, Governor Bentley proclaimed March 12, 2012, Ricky Wyatt Day in Alabama. Sadly, Wyatt passed away on November 1, 2011. Representatives from ADMH felt the 41st anniversary of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr.'s landmark ruling establishing the right to minimum standards of care would be a fitting time to honor Wyatt.

Yesterday, several mental health stakeholders and public officials joined Governor Bentley at the formal proclamation signing. Consumer advocate Jon Brock escorted Ricky's mother to the signing, where she was joined by ADMH Commissioner Zelia Baugh, ADMH Spokesman Tony Thompson, Senator Gerald Allen, Representative Chris England, George Wallace, Jr., ADMH Board Member Paul Davis, and James Tucker and Ellen Gillespie from the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program. Read more, [click here](#).

**Does your group need a training?** If so, ADAP staff can provide a training for any size group on a variety of disability issues. One of ADAP's mandates is to provide trainings to persons interested in disability issues. During our priority setting process, persons completing our on-line survey indicated that they need to receive information and be trained on disability issues. Based on these responses, ADAP added training objectives to our latest goals/priorities.

In the past, ADAP has trained persons on the rights of persons with disabilities in some of the following areas: special education, Americans with Disabilities Act, guardianships, Medicaid waivers, and voting. If you are interested in ADAP presenting to your group, please call 1-800-826-1675. Press "0" and inform the receptionist that you would like to request an ADAP staff member present a training to your group.

**Medicaid Road Show: Back by Popular Demand** With a grant from the Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities, ADAP made 4 presentations throughout Alabama on Alabama's Medicaid Waivers in September 2011. Due to the positive response from persons attending the training, ADAP will conduct an additional session. There will be no cost to attend this training and a limited number of scholarships may be available to cover travel, support and other relevant expenses associated with attendance. Please be on the lookout for more specific information on this training in future e-newsletters and ADAP's website, [www.adap.net](http://www.adap.net).

The Department of Education at Auburn University is hosting its second annual **Anti-Bullying Summit** on July 11-13 at the Grand Hotel in Fairhope. The goal of the Summit is to share information, current thinking, and research about bullying - a serious problem facing our schools and communities. The conference is designed to create on-going local, state, and national coalitions for PreK-12 educators, higher education faculty and administrators, student leaders, mental health practitioners, researchers, community leaders, policymakers, and other professionals who are engaged in on-going work to address PreK-20 bullying and cyber-bullying in learning environments. More information about the event can be found at [www.auburn.edu/antibullying](http://www.auburn.edu/antibullying).

The **Alabama Parent Education Center (APEC)**, Alabama's federally-funded parent training information center, is hosting two upcoming events in Tuscaloosa for parents of children with disabilities. On March 30, APEC is running an IEP workshop from 1 - 3 PM. On March 31, it is hosting its Leadership Academy from 9 AM - 4:30 PM. Both events will be at the main branch of the Tuscaloosa County Library on Jack Warner Parkway.

To register for the IEP workshop, contact Teresa Goodson at 334-567-2252 at extension 116 or via email at [tgoodson@alabamaparentcenter.com](mailto:tgoodson@alabamaparentcenter.com). To register for the Leadership Academy, follow this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LeadershipTuscaloosa>

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