



ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM
July 15, 2013

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nationwide federally mandated protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP's mission is to provide quality, legally based advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities in order to protect, promote and expand their rights.

Find Us On The Web
www.adap.net

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program Public Meeting to Set Advocacy Objectives for FY 2014 to be held on August 23, 2013



The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) provides legal advocacy services to eligible Alabamians with disabilities to protect and promote their civil rights. To set the agency's advocacy objectives for FY 2014, ADAP is hosting a meeting where members of the public are invited to share their thoughts on ADAP's work on behalf of persons with disabilities.

ADAP Public Meeting
August 23, 2013 - 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Hoover Public Library
200 Municipal Drive - Hoover, Alabama 35216

Individuals wanting to attend this meeting who need accommodations due to disability should contact Vicki Hubbard by email at vhubbard@adap.ua.edu or by phone at 1-800-826-1675 by August 21, 2013.

Individuals who plan to address the group will need to sign up in advance at the meeting. There will be a five (5) minute limit.

If you cannot attend this meeting but would like to share your views about ADAP's work, you can provide comments via phone, letter, or through an on-line survey:

- To provide comments by phone, call 800-826-1675
- To provide comments by letter, write ADAP/Public Meeting Comments at
Box 870007, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35287

To provide comments through an anonymous on-line survey, log onto
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ADAP14SURVEY>

Employment First In Alabama – The Next Step



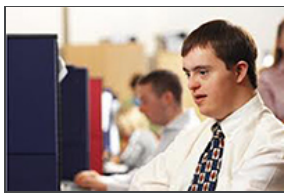
Monday August 26, 2013 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at The Marriot Legends at Capitol Hill (Prattville) we will be discussing the direction for employment of people with disabilities in Alabama that has been set by the Alabama Department of Mental Health. We are moving to supported and integrated employment! The Alabama DD Network invites you to a one-day workshop to learn about the next steps toward integrated employment.

Michael Callahan, President of Marc Gold and Associates, will be the speaker for the event. Michael will address “Customized Employment: Assuring Access to Employment for All”. This presentation will address the unique features that distinguish customized employment from traditional, competitive jobs. Examples and stories of individuals with a variety of disabilities will be discussed. The role of the Discovery process, developed by Mr. Callahan and his colleagues, will be described.

Michael has consulted throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe regarding employment and transition for the past 30 years. He has worked with Marc Gold and Associates (MG&A) for 34 years, and has served as president of the organization since Marc Gold’s death in 1982. He is co-author of two popular books on employment. He is currently a national board member for TASH and was a founding board member of APSE. Register before August 15, 2013 to reserve your seat at “The Next Step” luncheon.

Register by submitting the registration form to Cindy Sweeney or email - csweeney@uab.edu; fax: 1-(205)975-2380 or call Cindy for additional information, 1-(205)934-1059. [Click here](#), to obtain a copy of the registration form. Cost: Free (we ask participants to pre-register since lunch will be served.)

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)



ADAP has recently resumed its advocacy efforts for Beneficiaries of Social Security. Under the Protection and Advocacy Program for Beneficiaries of Social Security, ADAP provides advocacy and other related services for beneficiaries with disabilities who want to secure, regain or maintain gainful employment. It is PABSS’s goal to assist beneficiaries with disabilities in obtaining information and advice about vocational rehabilitation and employment services to further their employment goals. Please contact ADAP if you are interested in receiving additional information or education and training regarding the services provided under the PABSS program.

SSA.gov provides excellent information about working while disabled and work incentives including continuation of Medicare and Medicaid benefits. More information can be found at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10095.pdf and www.ssa.gov/redbook/index.html.

Voter Training in Mobile



In partnership with the Independent Living Center of Mobile, ADAP is presenting a training class on the rights of persons with disabilities to have full access to the election process. This training will be held on July 30, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. at the Cottage Hill Baptist Church in Mobile. There is no cost to attend the training, but we ask that attendees pre-register. For more information and a registration form, [click here](#).

Will Your Voice Be Heard On Election Day?



One of ADAP's annual priorities is to advocate for participation in the election process by persons with disabilities. ADAP receives federal funds specifically to promote the rights of persons with disabilities to exercise their right to vote.

ADAP attempts to accomplish the goal of participation in the election process by persons with disabilities in a number of ways: 1) training persons with disabilities on their rights to have an accessible election process; 2) educating election officials about the rights of persons with disabilities to have accessible polling sites and voting machines; 3) providing poll workers with information on appropriate ways to interact with persons with disabilities; and 4) surveying polling sites to make sure they are fully accessible. During the current year, ADAP is focusing its efforts in ensuring persons with disabilities are able to fully participate in the mayoral elections in Birmingham, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa. Mayoral elections in each city will be held on August 27, 2013. If you are not already a registered voter, you must register to vote by August 16, 2013 in order to vote in the 2013 mayoral election.

According to a 2011 report, voter turnout among persons with disabilities is between 4 – 21% less than persons without disabilities. The full report can be accessed [here](#). The most important thing persons with disabilities can do in any election is let their respective voices be heard by voting.

Use the following links for more information about registering to vote and your voter status.

[Alabama Voter Registration form](#). Check your voter status, [click here](#).



HAVE PRESENTATION. WILL TRAVEL

Are you a member of a group that needs a speaker for an upcoming meeting? If so, ADAP can fill this need. ADAP staff provides education/training sessions on a wide variety of disability-related

topics including, but not limited to: the Americans with Disabilities Act, Medicaid waivers, guardianships, special education, general disability rights, and transition services for youth who will soon become adults. We will also speak on specifically requested, disability-related topics. If you are interested in making arrangements for ADAP to come speak at one of your meetings, please contact Anita Davidson, one of ADAP's Legal Assistants, by calling 205-348-5107, or emailing her, akdavidson@adap.ua.edu



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