

ALABAMA DISABILITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN!!



Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Alabama State House
11 South Union Street
Montgomery
10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Budget cuts to the Alabama Department of Mental Health will have a devastating toll on people with intellectual disabilities and those with mental health issues. Agencies that are reliant on this funding to serve these community members will be forced to close or reduce services. During this rally, agencies, family members and self-advocates will address their needs and concerns related to the impact budget cuts may have on the thousands of Alabamians who desperately need these services every day.

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and mental health diagnoses could lose vital treatment and/or community services such as supervised homes, personal care, employment training and services at Day Habilitation Centers.

Services which allow successful community living for persons with intellectual disabilities, serious mental illnesses, emotionally disturbed children and adolescents and people with substance abuse diagnoses could be impacted or eliminated by these cuts.

The loss in services will place a burden on families, law-enforcement officials, hospitals, and the community at large.

5,829 people with intellectual disabilities use these services; 3,193 are WAITING!!

Over 24,000 people with mental illness use mental health services!

Loss of dollars means loss of Federal matching dollars which creates a significant impact on overall dollars available to people in their communities!

Legislators and community members need to know the full impact these services have on people with disabilities, their families and their communities!

We urge all concerned citizens in Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore and surrounding counties, legislators, and members of city and county government to attend the meeting.

What could happen if the DMH Budget is cut?

Community Providers will be forced to lay off staff and, therefore, discontinue or reduce the provision of essential services.

People with disabilities and their families will not be able to access the services they need.

Local economies will become more depressed as they cope with the loss of jobs, closing of state and community services, and the lack of resources for consumers and families.

Up to 2,000 family members may be forced out of work because they will have to stay home to provide care, further adversely affecting the economy

The service system for persons with disabilities and those with mental health concerns will collapse with the DMH budget cuts proposed by legislators.

The most vulnerable Alabamians and their families will not be served and dollars will have to be spent on more costly services.

People in crisis situations cost more! Community based services allows the opportunity to prevent critical situations that lead to the need for hospitalization or institutional treatment.

Other systems will be strained – Law enforcement officers are not capable of providing supports to people with intellectual/developmental and mental health disabilities. Hospitals will be overwhelmed. Abuse, neglect, mistreatment and homelessness will rise and place a burden on communities.

The average citizen will see and feel the effects of a dysfunctional disability service system.

Statewide Mental Health Disability Awareness Campaign

Any Budget cuts will have a negative impact on our service delivery systems. The latest proposed by legislators however will have a significant impact on current and future services. Help us spread the word about our joint effort to bring AWARENESS to our concerns and service needs. Participate along with hundreds of others throughout the state who will be sharing how these cuts will impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illnesses, emotionally disturbed children and adolescents, and people with substance abuse diagnoses and their families. Plan to attend or support others to attend one of the Rally/Press Conferences below. We MUST inform our communities and Legislators about how any Budget cuts to the Department of Mental Health will negatively impact people needing these services and their communities! Contact those listed below for information about the event in your area.

FOR MAY 4

Florence - Riverbend Center for Mental Health, 635 W. College St., 6:30pm (Town Hall meeting)

DD - Donna Akins, 256/383-1472 donnaakins@comcast.net; MH - Bryan Libell, bryanlibell@rcmh.org

APPROXIMATELY 400 PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR THIS EVENT!!

FOR MAY 8

Enterprise - Coffee County Training Center, 801 Aviation Blvd., 2:00-3:30pm (Town Hall meeting)

MH/DD - Diane Baugher, 334-428-5011, diane.baugher@scamhc.org

FOR MAY 11, 2015

Mobile - BayPointe Children's Hospital (Gymnasium), 5800 Southland Dr., 10:30am-11:30am

Governor Robert Bentley will be speaking at this event!

DD - Deana Ferguson, VOA, 251/421-3003, deanna@voase.org MH - Tuerk Schlesinger, ceo@altapointe.org

Tuscaloosa - Snow Hinton Park, 1000 Hargrove Rd E, 11:00am - 1:00pm

DD - Greg Woods, The Arc of Tuscaloosa, 205/556-4900 greg@thearcoftuscaloosa.org

MH - Randy Phillips, rphillips@irmhc.org

Huntsville - Huntsville-Madison Public Library, 915 Monroe St, Huntsville, 2:00 pm

DD - Susan Klingel, The Arc of Madison County, 256/539-2266 sklingel@hsvarc.org

MH - Brian Davis, brian.davis@wellstone.com

Birmingham - Kelly Ingram Park, 6th Ave. north at 16th Street, 10:30am

DD - Chris Stewart, The Arc of Jefferson County, 205/705-1801 stewart@arcofjeff.com and Scarlet Thompson, 205-332-4937, sthompson@arcofjeff.com

MH - Richard Craig, rcraig@jbsmha.com

Oxford - Oxford Civic Center, 401 McCullars Ln, 11:00am - 1:00pm

DD - Tammy Moreno, 256/236-2857 tammymoreno@cablone.net

MH - Jacksonville NAMI Representative (Wanda Laird)

Wiregrass Area, Ozark - (Geneva, Dale, Coffee, Henry, Houston, Pike) Vivian B. Adams School, 2047 Stuart Tarter Road

DD - Ed Dorsey, 334/793-3102, edorsey@DHCIDB.com DD - Donna Logan, 334/723-9212, donnalogan@yahoo.com

DD - Hannah Parker, 334/774-5134, hannah.parker@vivianbadams.org

Gadsden- Convention Hall, 344 S. 1st St, 2pm

DD - Christy Woods, The Arc of Dekalb Co., 256/845-0165

MH - Shelia Hurley, shurley@cedmhc.org

FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

Montgomery - Statehouse, 11 S. Union St., Wednesday, May 13, 10:00-11:00am

DD - Terry Pezent 334/262-7688 (tpezent@thearcofalabama.com)

Greg Smith 334/281-6938 (marcexdir@bellsouth.net) The Arc/AL & Montgomery Arc

MH - Henry Parker, hparker@mamha.org, 279-7830 x7000 and Wanda Laird, wlaird@namialabama.org, 233-2993

FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Decatur - Decatur Utilities meeting facility, 1316 Somerville Road, SE, Ste1, 6:00-8:00pm

MH - Bill Giguere bgiguere@mhcnc.org or Marie Hood mhood@mhcnc.org 256/260-7324