Start-Up Process and Coalition History

• In 2000, Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities (DD Council) issued an RFP to develop a single point of contact for caregivers of children with disabilities up to age 19 to receive information and referral about respite services in Alabama.

• United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, Inc., (UCP) was awarded a three-year grant from the DD Council. UCP convened a task force of more than 45 caregivers, disability organizations, faith-based staff and state agencies to develop a directory of respite services in Alabama and create a statewide strategic plan. The task force was organized into four committees: funding, advocacy, public awareness and resources.

• Alabama Respite Resource Network (Alabama Respite), a statewide program began in 2000, to accomplish the task outlined in the strategic plan and from that document a project management plan emerged.

• In 2003, after the introduction of the Lifespan Respite Care Act, Alabama Respite changed their mission to include caregivers across the lifespan and made a name change to Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network®.

• Alabama Respite staff planned and carried out significant state legislative education, and in 2007, received a small line item through the state Education Budget. Alabama Respite contracts with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services to fund a portion of its operational needs.

• In 2009, House Joint Resolution 170 was passed by the Alabama Legislature establishing Alabama Respite as the state’s lead entity to coordinate the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition. (Coalition). HJR170 created the Coalition composed of members appointed by the Governor who shall be culturally, economically, and geographically diverse and representative of the state demographics. The appointed key Coalition stakeholders include state senators and representatives, state agency commissioners, for- and non-profit organizations and consumers.

• In 2012, using the 2009 resolution as a guide, the Alabama Legislature introduced HJR170 as a state statute, which became the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network Act 2012-410.

Structure

• Alabama Respite staff coordinates the Coalition. The Coalition has three primary workgroups (Public Awareness, Education/Resources and Capacity Building).

Staff

• The Coalition has no staff.

Funding

• The Coalition has no funding.

Membership

• The Coalition is made up of 28 members appointed by the Governor including policy makers, state agency personnel from agencies serving clients with disabilities or chronic illnesses, non- and for-profit organizations and caregivers.

Meetings and Communication

• The Coalition meets at least twice a year in its entirety; however, the workgroups meet as needed to address respite issues and concerns. Alabama Respite maintains contact with membership on a regular basis.
**Major Activities**

- The Coalition is tasked to:
  1. build partnerships and coordinate respite efforts statewide, and prepare Alabama to compete for federal funding as the Lifespan Respite Act is funded;
  2. provide public awareness about respite to Alabama citizens;
  3. identify, coordinate, and develop community/funding resources for respite services; and
  4. build local partnerships and collaborations regarding respite services.

**Documents/Resources Available**

- Website: http://www.alabamarespite.org
- Alabama Respite’s Brochures:
  - Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network
  - Give me a Break
  - Information for Our Respite Provider
  - Faith-Based Respite Ministry
  - Guide for Hiring and Keeping Respite Providers
- Alabama Respite’s Resource Directory hosted on website
- Logo
- Voucher Respite Funding Documents
- Emergency Respite Funding Guidelines and Documents
- The Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network Act (2012-410) establishing the Coalition and naming Alabama Respite as the state’s lead entity for respite information and referral services.
- Sharing the Care Tool Kit
- Faith-Based Respite Program Tool Kit

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