

ALABAMA RESPITE COALITION

Creation and Authority

The Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network, also known as Alabama Respite, was created by a Joint Resolution of the Alabama Legislature, which was signed into law (Act 2012-410) by Governor Robert Bentley on May 9, 2012.

Purpose

Creation of a statewide coalition allows Alabama the opportunity to address issues caregivers face in accessing current respite resources in a productive process, limits duplication of effort when possible, and allows for collaboration on education and training.

Composition

The Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition is composed of members who shall be culturally, economically, and geographically diverse and representative of state demographics and appointed by the Governor or his or her designee. The membership may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1) Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee on Education; (2) Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; (3) Chair of the House of Representatives Health Committee; (4) Chair of the Senate Health Committee; (5) member from the Governor's Office on Disability; (6) member from the Department of Senior Services; (7) member from the Department of Medicaid; (8) member from the Department of Rehabilitation Services; (9) member from the Department of Human Resources; (10) member from the Alabama Health Department; (11) member from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities; (12) member from the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention; (13) member from the Department of Mental Health; (14) representative from a United Cerebral Palsy affiliate in Alabama; (15) representative from a statewide advocacy or support group; (16) representative from a community respite initiative or program; (17) representative from a collaborative training partner; (18) two family care givers representing diverse special needs populations; (19) two respite care providers; (20) representative from the Autism Society of Alabama; (21) a representative from the Alabama Hospice Organization; and, (22) representative from the American Association of Retired Person.

Duties

The coalition is tasked to build partnerships and coordinate respite efforts statewide; prepare Alabama to compete for federal funding; provide public awareness about respite to the citizens of Alabama; identify, coordinate and develop community resources; and build local partnerships and collaborations supporting respite services.

Organization

Alabama Respite is a statewide program of United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, Inc. The organization serves as the primary entity responsible for the

following activities: (1) address issues relating to respite care in our state; (2) maintain a statewide system to facilitate the availability and use of high-quality, cost-effective respite services; (3) develop and coordinate the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition; (4) collaborate with eligible state agencies and Governor's office to access funding through the Federal Lifespan Care Act; (5) identify statewide respite care providers; (6) maintain directory of respite services and link caregivers; (7) provide technical assistance to community-based organizations; (8) provide voucher respite services; (9) provide information and referrals; (10) provide access and interactive information; and (11) offer caregiver education and training.

Location

Alabama Respite's administrative office is located at 1856 Keats Drive, Huntsville, AL 35810. The main number is 256-859-8300. The toll free number is 866-737-8252 and the fax number is 256-859-4332. The website is www.alabamarespite.org.