



**DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING  
A NEEDS ASSESSMENT –  
*facilitated discussion***

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**ARCH Lifespan Respite Grantee/  
Partner Meeting  
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# INITIAL STEPS

- Feb. 2009 - Established a coalition of state and private agencies, HJR170 - *Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network*
- Summer-Fall 2009 - Compiled an inventory of available respite resources for caregivers
- Fall 2009 - Planned assessment to determine unmet needs



# EXTERNAL EVALUATION

- Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS) contracted with UAB Center for Educational Accountability (CEA) to evaluate Lifespan Respite Care
- CEA monitors whether AOA objectives are met by ADSS
- Evaluation addresses three priorities specified in the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006
  1. expand and enhance lifespan respite care
  2. statewide coordination of respite care services
  3. supplement and improve access to family caregivers

# APPROACH TO GATHER INFORMATION

- Qualitative and quantitative data from family caregivers & respite service providers (*in progress*), and network members (*planned*)



- 3 evaluation goals, to identify:
  1. **Current respite capacity & change**
  2. **Needed enhancements to respite provider training and service delivery**
  3. **Facilitators and barriers to a coordinated system of lifespan respite care**

- Collaborate with Network and its Capacity Workgroup
- Solicit suggested survey content
- Review “Evaluating and Reporting Outcomes: A Guide for Respite and Crisis Care Program Managers” (ARCH)
- Solicit review of draft
- Obtain necessary approvals (ADSS, UAB OIRB)
- Plan distribution through existing agency and individual contacts (Email templates, HTML links, newsletter inserts, recruitment letters)

“Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.”

Dr. Carl Sagan

- Survey items primarily objective and grouped in five general categories: *demographics, respite agency rules and service history, perceived caregiver needs, knowledge of other respite providers, and provider's training needs*
- Est. 30 minutes to complete written or online surveys
- No compensation for respondents
- Responses to-date:
  - **718 family caregivers**
  - **120 respite service providers**

**“Being thrust into the role of caregiver without any preparation is difficult under any circumstances.”**

Carol Levine

## *Sample Items Family Caregiver Survey*

**11. How do you expect respite services to help you as a caregiver?**

**12. What event(s) led you to seek respite services most recently?**

*(Select all that apply)*

- Relieve stress
- Improve relationship with my spouse or partner
- Improve relationship with other family member
- Care for myself
- Care for medical needs of another family member
- Safety issues
- Prevent alcohol or drug problems
- Care for personal business
- Participate in family support group/services
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

# Alabama Respite Care Coalition Survey1

## 16. In your experience, how true is each statement about respite services?

	Very True	Somewhat True	Not at all True	Does Not Apply
Trained respite staff met caregiving needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite offered a short-term break from caregiving.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite reduced the risk of neglect or mistreatment.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite provided safe and secure care.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite enabled me to focus on needs of others in my household.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite allowed me to enjoy social and recreational activities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite reduced my stress level as a caregiver.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Respite increased my ability to effectively provide care.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The person for whom I provide care felt positively about respite.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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