

**Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Strategic Plan for Developmental Disabilities Services
January 2014- January 2016**

Board Name: Ability Alliance of West Alabama

County(ies) Served: Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa

Description of Services/Supports Provided:

- Single point of entry into the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities.
- Assessment and evaluation for eligibility determination and placement on the statewide waiting list for services from the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities for Medicaid Home and Community based services.
- Case Management and follow-along services once approved and enrolled for services
- Medicaid Waiver Crisis and Behavioral Therapy services for individuals receiving waiver services through the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Transportation supports through Alabama Department of Transportation New Freedom Grant

Population(s) Served

Description: Adult and Children with intellectual disabilities. Ability Alliance of West Alabama provides services for 718 individuals.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Ability Alliance of West Alabama (AAWA) to affect positively the quality of life for persons with intellectual disabilities by helping to ensure that appropriate and quality services and supports are available and accessible throughout their lifespan. AAWA expects that all services will ensure full participation in all life experiences through a person-driven, family support, proactive, and creative system which allows services and support options to be tailored to the individual and family's needs.

Vision Statement:

Promoting community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities in Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties of West Alabama.

Description of Planning Cycle:

The planning cycle for AAWA is for a two year planning period.
We developed a plan for the 2014 calendar year January 2014 for 2014-2016

Meetings with individuals and families served was held on January 23, 2014
A Meeting with providers was held on January 23, 2014,
The agency mailed out surveys and provided link to the survey online to individuals and families served in November 2013.
The agency also mailed out surveys and provided a link to the survey online to providers and community partners in November 2013.
Gathered information is compiled into a report reflecting current issues for individuals we serve.

Planning Cycle Timeframe:

The planning cycle time frame is from January, 2014 to January 2016.

Key Stakeholders & Roles:

Individuals receiving services, families and AAWA board members
Hourly, Day and Residential Providers of Waiver Services in Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa Counties
Tuscaloosa County DHR
Bibb County DHR
Pickens County DHR
ADRS
ADAP
Easter Seals of West Alabama
Maude Whatley Health Center
North Harbor
Region 2 Community Services of DMH Division of DD Services

Method of Needs Assessment:

Consumer satisfaction surveys, providers surveys, family meetings and provider meetings

Greatest Area(s) of Unmet Needs:

- Transportation
- Employment
- Increased and more immediate services to individuals on the waiting list for services and supports
- Safe and affordable housing
- Increase in communication by case managers with families and individuals regarding generic services and supports

Needed Expansions:

- Expansion is needed for on demand transportation services in the county and rural areas.
- Additional funding for waiver services to reduce the number of individuals on the waiting list
- Availability or flexible funding that is not tied to waiver services

Current Funding Resources:

Medicaid, state match for case management and waiver services and limited local funding for transportation match for ALDOT New Freedom Grant

Future Funding Resources:

None anticipated

Need for more local control over state funds that are received for services and supports from DMH.

Three Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Continue to provide access to transportation for individuals with disabilities through Together We Ride, information and referral and coordination with other ALDOT providers in the area

Objective: Send out information on an annual basis on Medicaid non-Emergency Transportation Program, Easter Seals JARC Project. UCP New Freedom program and Tuscaloosa Transit Services, On Demand and Bus Services

Goal: Increase employment opportunities for individuals through education and promotion of an employment first philosophy that promote choice and responsibility

Objective: Continue referrals to ADRS at admission continue participating in follow up meetings with ADRS, encourage supported employment as a first option over day habilitation

Advocate for individuals to receive waiver services for supported employment in the work place in IPP meetings, encourage utilization of hourly services to create meaningful day activities that provide individuals opportunities to connect with others in the community

Goal: Advocate and assist with decreasing the number of individual on the waiting list for waiver services and increase the number of wavier slots.

Objective: Identifying resources within other agencies, advocate for individuals to be served on the waiting list though timely updates of criticality scores, advocate for more flexible use of state funding and local control over these resources.

Goal: Increase communication with families, individuals, and providers in regard to generic community supports and services available in the community

Objective: Collaborate and or arrange for at least two presentations on generic services and supports available in the community

Plan Monitoring & Evaluation:

Goals and strategies will be monitored by the Basic Assurance Staff of Ability Alliance

Quarterly reports on progress will be included in the agencies basis assurance plan.