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MEDIA ALERT

February 21, 2012

Contact: See Information Below

**2012 MENTAL HEALTH & DISABILITIES LEGISLATIVE DAY TO
BE HELD IN MONTGOMERY TOMORROW**

WHAT: Hundreds of advocates and individuals receiving mental health services will gather to raise awareness of key issues regarding the future of the mental health system across the state.

WHEN: Wednesday, February 22, 2012; 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Alabama State House
11 South Union St., Montgomery

WHO: 2012 Mental Health Day & Disabilities Legislative Day is sponsored by a statewide coalition of mental health, disability and substance abuse organizations and stakeholders. A complete list of sponsors is included in the below Resources section of this media alert.

WHY: Tom Holmes, executive director of The Arc of Alabama says, “ADMH is facing a proposed 25 percent funding cut for FY 13, presenting the most serious threat in our lifetime to our state’s ability to provide services to the individuals it serves. Stakeholders want to make sure their voices are heard.” Advocates argue that adequate funding for mental health is not only the right thing to do; it is the less expensive alternative to crisis care and hospitalization.

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RESOURCES

- For more information, please contact Tom Holmes, executive director, The Arc of Alabama at 334-262-7688.
- Sponsors include State Representative DuWayne Bridges; The Arc of Alabama, Inc.; People First of Alabama; Alabama Conference of Executives of The Arc; Alabama Disability Advocacy Network; Wings Across Alabama; Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities; Alabama Council of Community Mental Health Boards; Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program; ADMH; Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services; Alabama Head Injury Foundation; Autism Society of Alabama; Independent Living Center of Mobile; Independent Living Resources of Greater Birmingham; Montgomery Independent Living Center; Mental Health America; NAMI Alabama; Disabilities Leadership Coalition of Alabama; Alabama Family Ties; Family Voices of Alabama; Glenwood, Inc.; Volunteers of America-Alabama; Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama.