

ALABAMA



SELF-ADVOCACY

Some of Our Self-Advocacy Organizations:

- People First of Alabama:
 - Run by it's members who elect the officers, helping people with developmental disabilities become empowered, focuses on the areas of:
 - Reducing waiting lists
 - Community involvement
 - Employment
 - Housing
 - Transportation
- Alabama Disability Advocacy Network (AL-DAN):
 - Grassroots cross disability coalition for networking and advocacy education
- Wings Across Alabama (WINGS):
 - Focuses on outreach, education, and advocacy. Help to articulate the voice of consumers in the planning process with DMH. Provides educational programs focusing on recovery.

Resources

Name of Self-Advocacy Organization	Who Provides the Resource(s)?	What Resource(s) is Provided?
People First of Alabama	Alabama Dept. of Mental Health	Grant money
	Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities	Grant money
AL-DAN	Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities	Grant money
	Alabama Centers for Independent Living	Office space
WINGS	Alabama Dept. of Mental Health	Grant money
	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration	Grant money

Things That Have Worked

- Adequate funding from state and federal agencies and organizations
- Developing a regional structure that included leadership/advocacy training
- Having common goals and messages



Challenges and Struggles

- On-going funding
- Decreased commitment of allies/advisors
- Lack of services: Transportation, employment, etc.
- Public awareness of self-advocacy organizations



We are Most Proud Of

- Have held regional and statewide summits
- Respectful language bill passed in state legislature
- Name change from the Alabama Department of Mental Retardation to Department of Mental Health
- Closing of four institutions



Our Goals and Dreams

- That people with disabilities are able to influence programs, policies, and legislation at a state, local, and national level.
- Improved collaboration among self-advocacy organizations and state agencies/organizations.
- Develop autism self-advocacy organization.
- Develop new supporters.



Alabama's Team

- Matthew Grafton People First
- Matthew Foster YLF/People First
- Rizwan Mahmood YLF/People First
- Mike Marion People First
- Judith Daly People First
- Darren Morris SABE
- Jerimie Goike Autism Self-Advocate
- Cindy Sweeney UCEDD
- Myra Jones DD Council
- Delshonda Thomas ADAP
- Jerryln London ADMH
- Debra Florea AL-DAN Monitor

