

**Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Strategic Plan for Developmental Disabilities Services
January 2016- January 2018**

Board Name: Ability Alliance of West Alabama

Counties Served: Bibb, Pickens and Tuscaloosa

1/13/2016

Purpose of Public Meeting:

- To provide an opportunity for individuals and families served by the agency and providers to review with representatives of the Board of Directors the relevancy of the agency's Mission Statement.
- To review the status of strategic plan goals and objectives from January 2014- January 2016
- To provide input for the agency's strategic plan and identify priorities for the next planning cycle.

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 (Grant ended on September 30, 2015)

Population(s) Served Description:

- Ability Alliance of West Alabama provides services for 513 individuals, as of 1/15/16.
- 407 are served in the ID Waiver, 17 in Living At Home
- Waiting list for the area as of 10/01/15

*** Information obtained from last waiting list dated 10/0/15**

County	Number of Individuals Currently Receiving Case Management Services	Number of Individuals Currently on Statewide Waiting List Who Receive Some Waiver Services	Number of individuals Currently on Statewide Waiting List Who Receive No Waiver Services
Bibb County	32	12	9
Pickens County	26	11	8
Tuscaloosa County	455	97	98
Totals	513	120	115

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of Ability Alliance of West Alabama (AAWA) to affect positively the quality of life for people 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 person's and family's needs.

Vision Statement:

Promoting community inclusion for persons 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 2016 calendar year January 13, 2016 for 2016-2018.
- Meetings with individuals and families served and providers were held on January 15, 2016.
- In addition, the agency mailed out surveys in December 2015 to persons and families served.
- The agency also provided a link to the survey online to providers and community partners in January 2016.
- Gathered information was compiled into a report reflecting current issues for persons we serve.

Planning Cycle Timeframe:

- The planning cycle time frame is from January, 2016 to January 2018.
- The next planning cycle time frame will be from January 2018 to January 2020.

Key Stakeholders & Roles who were invited or sent surveys;

- Persons 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
- PARA
- Local Police and Fire Departments
- Focus On Senior Citizens
- Area on Aging
- Emergency Management
- 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
- Review of financial data

Greatest Area(s) of Unmet Needs:

- Transportation
- Employment
- Increased and more immediate services to persons 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
- Personal safety
- Recreational opportunities through PARA and other local businesses

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 persons on the waiting list
- Availability or flexible funding not tied to waiver services
- Affordable access to community activities and services
- Information on personal safety

Current Funding Resources:

- Medicaid, state match for case management and waiver services and limited local funds
- Current funding for services in the area is 27,717,945 (based on data provided by DMH- DD Division Region 2 Community Services.

Future Funding Resources Needed:

- Need for more local control over state funds that are received for services and supports from DMH.
- Based on a review of funding for individuals currently receiving waiver services, the average cost per person is \$65,372.00. It is also anticipated that individuals who are on the waiting list who receive some services would need an average of \$10,000 in additional supports per year. Based on these figures, total dollars needed to serve individuals on the waiting list would total \$7,632,560.00.

Current Funding for Services in Bibb, Pickens, Tuscaloosa			
	1/31/2016		
	Numbers	Costs for Waiver Services and Case Management	Average Costs per person
Currently receiving CM/ Waiver Services	513	27,712,945.00	54,021.34
Additional Funding needed to serve waiting list	Numbers	Estimated Funding needed	
Individual's Partially Served	115	10,000.00	1,150,000.00
Individual's receiving no services	120	54,021.34	6,482,560.23
			7,632,560.23

Due to the limited funds available from the state of Alabama, it is unlikely that these resources will be available to address these needs. Continued legislative advocacy to address these needs will continue.

Goals and Objectives (3):**Goal 1:**

Complete list of all local transportation provider and the requirements to continue to provide access to transportation for persons with disabilities.

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 and Focus on Senior Citizens

Status:

The transportation grant that was utilized by AAWA ended September 30, 2015. Case Managers will continue to provide individuals and families information on available transportation resources.

Plans for 2016-2018

Continue to provide information to individuals and families served.
Develop a Flyer of Transportation Providers for distribution to individuals and families

Goal 2:

Increase employment opportunities for persons 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 persons opportunities to connect with others in the community

Progress:

Intake staff and CM staff continue with this process.

Status:

The current number of referrals to ADRS for 2015 is 15

Plans for 2016-2018:

Continue with current process.

Goal 3:

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

Objective:

Identifying resources within other agencies, Advocate for persons 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.

Progress:

CM continues with this process. The agency has also submitted a request to DMH to be considered as a pilot for a locally based managed care approach to begin to work with persons, families and providers in a resource allocation analysis, personal outcomes process that could lead to a more efficient methods of resource allocation that allows for services to be provided to the underserved and unserved in a more timely manner.

Status:

This was not explored during last planning cycle due to staff availability, but is still under consideration.

Plans for 2016-2018:

Continue to explore possibilities of pilot with DMH.

Goal 4:

Increase communication with families, persons, 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

Progress:

Presentation were provided to give information regarding community services

Status:

Presentation on Specialized Medical Supplies: 2/19/15

Project Vote: 7/10/15

Plans for 2016-2018:

As AAWA began to receive the results of the annual survey, we noticed that there were a number of persons concerned about personal safety. To address this area of concern, AAWA will explore local resources, such as the police and fire department, to assist persons served with learning ways to increase personal safety.

AAWA will address the concern of access to recreational activities by having a fitness fair. This fair will provide persons served and families the opportunity to learn about local businesses that provider fitness and health services.

In addition the agency will work with People First of Tuscaloosa and People First of Alabama to provide information on Voting and Self Advocacy.

Plan Monitoring & Evaluation:

Goals and strategies are monitored by the Basic Assurance Staff of Ability Alliance.

Progress:

As noted above

Status:

The agency also was certified for a two year period by DMH DD Division in May, 2015.

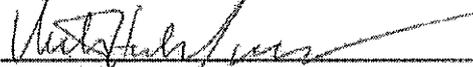
Plans for 2016-2018:

Continue to utilize Basis Assurance Process to monitor plan.

 Ashley Bryant-Walker 2-25-16

Plan prepared by Ashley Bryant-Walker

Date



2/25/16

Vicki Hicks Turnage
Executive Director

Date

Approved Board of Directors: February 25, 2016