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ALABAMA CELEBRATES DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH WITH A SHOWCASE OF SUCCESS

Montgomery, Ala. – It is estimated that more than three percent of Alabamians experience a developmental disability in their lifetime, which can be manifested by substantial functional limitations, including self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, independent living, and economic self-efficiency. To showcase the successes of the people we serve and the tremendous efforts of staff and community partners, Alabama is celebrating Developmental Disabilities Month in March.

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, seeks to increase public awareness about developmental disabilities and promote greater understanding of the issues. This month also seeks to remind that people with developmental disabilities are vital and vibrant members of our communities. Developmental disabilities continue to be marked by stigma and discrimination based on misinformation and this recognition helps to dispel the myths.

To help celebrate and bring attention to this important issue, Governor Kay Ivey proclaimed March 2018 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Alabama and kicked off the Arc of Alabama's annual disAbility Conference in Montgomery.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health thanks our partner organizations and recognizes the continuing need to educate our communities, policymakers, friends and family members, health care providers and businesses that the movement towards full inclusion in community life for persons with developmental disabilities is possible. Follow us on social media all month long and share this positive information using #DDAwarenessMonthAL.