

**Ability Alliance of West Alabama
Strategic Plan for Developmental Disabilities Services
January 2020 - January 2022**

Board Name: Ability Alliance of West Alabama

Catchment Area 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.
- Support Coordination and follow-along services once approved and enrolled for services
- Medicaid Waiver Services for individuals receiving waiver services through the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities

Population(s) Served:

- Children and adults with developmental disabilities who are eligible for services from the Department of Mental Health's Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Ability Alliance of West Alabama provides services for

County	Number of persons receiving case management services	Number of persons on statewide waiting list who receive some waiver services	Number of persons on statewide waiting list who receive no waiver services
Bibb County	13	1	8 (5 of 8 no CM services)
Pickens County	23	1	8 (5 of 8 no CM services)
Tuscaloosa County	410	23	65 (65 of 65 no CM services)
Pending	39	N/A	N/A
Totals	485	25	81

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 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 2020-2022. A meeting with persons, families served, and providers is held annually to gather information regarding needs and satisfaction with services provided and the agency mission statement on an annual basis. Gathered information is compiled into a report reflecting current issues for individuals we serve. As of 1/28/20, Support Coordination Services has a 95.65% overall satisfaction score from the consumer satisfaction surveys.

Planning Cycle Timeframe:

The planning cycle time frame is from January 2020 to January 2022.

Key Stakeholders & Roles:

Key stakeholders involved in planning process included individuals, families, providers of services, support coordinators and other community members.

Method of Needs Assessment:

General methods used to assess needs include:

- Survey of needs

- Annual meetings with individuals, families, and providers
- Review of the waiting list and needs for services
- Review of financial resources currently expended for services

During this planning cycle the following activities were conducted:

- A meeting with persons, families served, and providers were held on January 28, 2020.
- The agency mailed out surveys to persons and families served on November and December 2019.
- The agency also provided a link to the survey online to provider, families, and community partners.
- Gathered information in compiled into a report reflecting current issues for individuals we serve.

Greatest Area(s) of Unmet Needs:

- Housing
- Waiting List
- Behavioral Supports
- Friends
- Hourly Services
- Transportation

Needed Expansions:

- Additional funding for waiver services to reduce the number of individuals on the waiting list.
- Availability or flexible funding for good and services
- Increase availability of providers of in-home/out-of-home respite services
- Increased funding for Support Coordination

Current Funding Resources:

- Medicaid, state match for case management and waiver services
- 95%+ of individuals with intellectual disabilities served by the Department of Mental Health Division of Developmental Disabilities are served by Medicaid Waivers.
- \$ 28,000,000 allocated by DMH for Services in Tuscaloosa, Bibb, and Pickens Counties in FY 2018. Current figures were not available.

- \$ 1,657,890.67 for Support Coordination funding for Fiscal Year 2020

Future Funding Resources:

- Autism Waiver for Intensive Care Coordination
- Community Waiver-Support Coordination
- Need for more local control over state funds that are received for services and supports from DMH.

Goals and Objectives:

Goal: To have mission statement that is clearly understood by all people served and the community.

Objective: Revise agency mission statement by December 31, 2020.

Note: Suggested Revision:

It is the mission of AAWA to advocate, assist and support people with developmental disabilities and their families in living full, inclusive lives in our community.

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

Objective: Advocate for approval of as many waiver slots as available to decrease the number of individuals on the waiting list.

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

Objective: Develop and implement a plan to use agency website, Facebook, e-mail, and other forms of social media by December 2022 to provide information to families and community members

Plan Monitoring & Evaluation:

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

Quarterly but at a minimum six-month report on progress will be included in the agency's basis assurance plan.

Update prepared by Vicki Hicks Turnage