

RAN
UAB[®] REGIONAL AUTISM NETWORK





**Topics To
Be
Covered**

**The Alabama Interagency Autism
Coordinating Council (AIACC)**

UAB Regional Autism Network Staff

**The Regional Autism Network As a
Whole**

**UAB Regions Covered (Map of All
Regions)**



**Topics To
Be
Covered**

Review of our responsibilities (We Are Unique and Diverse)

How we respond to referrals and our process

Example of two calls.

Questions or Comments

Resources

Autism Council's Charge



The Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council was created to meet the urgent and substantial need to develop and implement a statewide comprehensive, coordinated, multidisciplinary, interagency system of care for individuals with ASD and their families.

UAB Regional Autism Network (RAN)

Staff with expertise in autism and related disabilities.

- Sarah O'Kelley, PhD – Principal Investigator
- Kristina Ford, SLP | RAN-Director
- Gwendolyn Brown: RAN-Family Navigator
- Angelica Jaimes Rice, SLP | RAN-Coordinator
- Alecia Mercier- Developmental Psychology Doctoral Student
- Alexis Morell- Psychology Doctoral Student



Definition

- ▶ Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the normal functioning of the brain, impacting development in the areas of **social interaction, behavior and communication skills.**

*Autism Society of America



Regional Autism Network



WHO WE SERVE:

Alabama's RAN serves those who have questions, concerns, or resource needs regarding themselves, a family member, friend, client, patient, or a student with diagnosed or suspected Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

WHAT WE DO:

- Professional training programs
- Technical assistance and consultation services
- Individual and direct family assistance in the home, community, and school
- Public education programs

WHO WE ARE:

Alabama's RAN is staffed by experts in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Each RAN strives to connect people with ASD, their families, educators, and service providers to the information and/or services that best meet their needs.



CONTACT US:

- Region I—University of Alabama in Huntsville 256-824-5700
ia1ran@uah.edu
- Region II—University of Alabama 205-348-3131
ua-ran@ua.edu
- Region III—University of South Alabama 251-410-4533
isaran@health.southalabama.edu
- Region IV—Auburn University 334-844-2004
auran@auburn.edu
- Region V—University of Alabama at Birmingham 205-934-1112
labran@uab.edu

ADMH AUTISM SERVICES



Intensive Care Coordination:

Identification, coordination, and monitoring of an array of supports through needs assessment, case planning, service arrangement, social support, re-assessment, and follow-up/monitoring by a single case manager.



Behavior Support:

Development and monitoring of a behavior support plan designed to diminish, extinguish, or improve specific behaviors. The behavior therapist coordinates and trains others to implement the plan as well as provide crisis management.



Therapeutic Mentoring:

Support, coaching, and training for an individual in age-appropriate behaviors, interpersonal communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, and relating appropriately to peers and adults.



In-Home Therapy:

Treatment of the individual's behavioral and mental health needs, to include effective support to enhance the family's ability to improve the individual's functioning in the home and community.



Peer Support:

Promotion of socialization, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and maintenance of community living skills. Peer specialists encourage participation in service planning, engaging supports, improving self-management, decision making, and navigating child-serving agencies.



Psychoeducational Services:

Training to help individuals and families understand nature of diagnosis and effective strategies to maintain meaningful engagement in the community.



For Medicaid-eligible children and youth with autism
ages birth through 20 that require more intensive supports

1-800-499-1816 | autism.dmh@mh.alabama.gov | www.mh.alabama.gov/autism-services



Region 5-The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Region 5 Service Area by County:

- **Blount**
- **Calhoun**
- **Chilton**
- **Clay**
- **Cleburne**
- **Coosa**
- **Jefferson**
- **Randolph**
- **St. Clair**
- **Shelby**
- **Talladega**



Mission




- To foster strong connections and collaborations between individuals and families directly affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, professionals and providers, and the community to promote quality of life and enrich the fabric of society for all.



UAB Regional Autism Network Work Procedures and Processes

- **Check voicemail and UAB RAN email daily**
- **Fill out the intake form based on voicemail or email information**
- **Return all correspondence within 3-5 business days is desired.**
- **Regularly update resources based on direct assistance needs**

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- **Update resources on a monthly or every other month basis**
 - **Note common themes in calls and emails on a monthly or every other month basis**
 - **Discuss current and emerging issues with staff**
 - **Strategize ways to meet community needs within available resources**



WHAT WE DO


- **Provide community members with general information about Autism.**
- **Guide clients (calls & emails to resources available to meet individualized needs.**
- **Assist with problem-solving for individuals, families, and professionals who work with individuals with autism.**
- **Provide opportunities for training and consultations to parents and professionals that are specific to the needs identified in the region by utilizing the collective expertise of various departments and programs at our UCEDD|LEND and surrounding resources.**

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- **Identify and promote development of programs that are under-represented in the region, to benefit individuals with autism.**
 - **Provide information about Best Practice Standards developed and endorsed by the Alabama Interagency Coordinating Council (AIACC).**

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WHAT WE DO SIMPLY PUT


- **Information and Referral**
- **Technical Assistance and consultation**
- **Public Education and Professional Training**


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- **The RAN does not have "clients" as we are not direct service providers, but rather an agency supporting the Autism system of care.**
 - **Direct correspondence is offered to caregivers, while individuals working with the Autism population receive technical assistance and consultation.**
 - **The UAB RAN's main purpose is to support the Autism system of care, rather than providing direct services.**



Professional Training

- ▶ **Individual agencies and on-campus departments that work with the Autism population can receive professional training programs.**
- ▶ **The training programs focus on educating agencies and departments on how to fulfill their roles concerning Autism.**
- ▶ **Each training is customized to meet the specific needs of the requesting agency or provider.**
- ▶ **The UAB RAN may collaborate with other professionals from the university or community who have expertise in the required topic.**

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- ▶ **Professional trainings are not conducted daily but are scheduled upon request.**
 - ▶ **Before professional training, certain tasks need to be completed.**
 - ▶ **The tasks are necessary preparations for the training session.**

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- ▶ **The completion of these tasks ensures a successful training session.**
 - ▶ **The tasks are specific to each training and may vary depending on the topic and requirements.**
 - ▶ **The purpose of these tasks is to ensure that the training is effective and meets the needs of the agency or provider.**



Upcoming Events

- ▶ **APRIL 17 - COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOP
OVERALLSAFETY PANEL 9:30AM – 12:30PM
PELHAM LIBRARY**
- ▶ **MAY 1 - LUNCH AND LEARN (ZOOM) 11:00AM – 12:00PM
MELANIE EATON MEDICAID WAIVERS**
- ▶ **MAY 22 - COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOP
ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION 9:30AM – 12:30PM
TITUSVILLE BRANCH PUBLIC LIBRARY**
- ▶ **JUNE 5 - LUNCH AND LEARN* (ZOOM) VOICES OF
FATHERS WHO HAVE CHILDREN WITH (DIS)ABILITIES
*ZOOM EVENING HOUR**

**Want to be added to the UAB RAN email list?
Scan the code and send us an email!**



“Get to know the person first always!”

Gwendolyn Brown
UAB Regional Autism Network-Family Navigator
and LEND|UCEDD-Family Faculty

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Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities
(LEND)
University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

RESOURCES

- **Wrightslaw**
www.wrightslaw.com
- **APEC (Alabama Parent Education Center) @**
www.alabamaparentcenter.com
- **Alabama Department of Mental Health Autism Services (birth to 21st birthday)**
***Medicaid Eligible. Can be served along side the Medicaid Waiver**

[Office of Autism Services – Alabama Department of Mental Health](#)

- **The Full Life Ahead Foundation**
www.fulllifeahead.org



RESOURCES

- **The Autism Support of Alabama**
www.autism-alabama.org
- **NAMI Alabama (National Alliance on Mental Illness)**
www.namialabama.org
- **Disability Rights and Resources**
www.drradvocates.org
- **ADAP(Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program)**
www.adap.net



RESOURCES

- **Nationwide Children's :**

[Nationwide Children's Hospital
\(nationwidechildrens.org\)](http://nationwidechildrens.org)

- **Alabama Autism Collaboration for Home and Supports**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6kRepo9Nr9w3wHny8Be0aA>

- **Big Red Safety Toolkit**

[National Autism Association | Providing real help and hope for the autism community since 2003.](#)



RESOURCES

- **Civitan Sparks Clinic**

Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CEDD) at UAB- <https://sites.uab.edu/cedd/>

- **NICHE Best Schools**

<https://www.niche.com/k12/search/best-schools/s/alabama/?gradeLevel=elementary&gradeLevel=middle&gradeLevel=high&type=charter&type=magnet&type=traditional>

- **Saving for College Article**

<https://www.savingforcollege.com/article/colleges-that-cater-to-students-with-autism-spectrum-disorders>



RESOURCES

- **Safe in Home**

[SafeinHome | Remote Supports Technology](#)

- **Picture Exchange Communication System National Autism Resources**

[The Picture Exchange Communication System \(PECS\) \(nationalautismresources.com\)](#)

- **Parent2Parent USA**

<https://www.p2pusa.org/>



RESOURCES

- **Help Me Grow Alabama**

<https://helpmegrowalabama.org/what-we-do/contact/>

- **Assistive Technology (AT) Alternative Financing Resources**

<http://alabamarespite.org/assistive-technology-for-caregivers/at-alternative-financing-resources/>

- **Libby's Friends**

<http://libbysfriends.org/>

- **Sleep Strategies for Teens with Autism**

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/tool-kit/atnair-p-sleep-strategies-teens-autism>



RESOURCES

- **Project Lifesaver**

<https://projectlifesaver.org/>

- **Benefits Explorer**

<https://benefitexplorer.com/get-help>

- **Hum Smart Electric Toothbrushes**

<https://shop.colgate.com/products/hum-kids-smart-battery-powered-toothbrush>



RESOURCES

- **Engage Alabama Transition**

www.engageal.com

- **ADPH**

[Disability and Health | Alabama Department of Public Health \(ADPH\) \(alabamapublichealth.gov\)](http://alabamapublichealth.gov)

- **FAMILY ECHO: Autism**

[Family ECHO: Autism \(nationwidechildrens.org\)](http://nationwidechildrens.org)

- **The Is-Able Center**

[HOME \(isable.org\)](http://isable.org)

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- **Benefits Explorer**

<https://benefitexplorer.com/get-help>

- **Family Voices of Alabama**

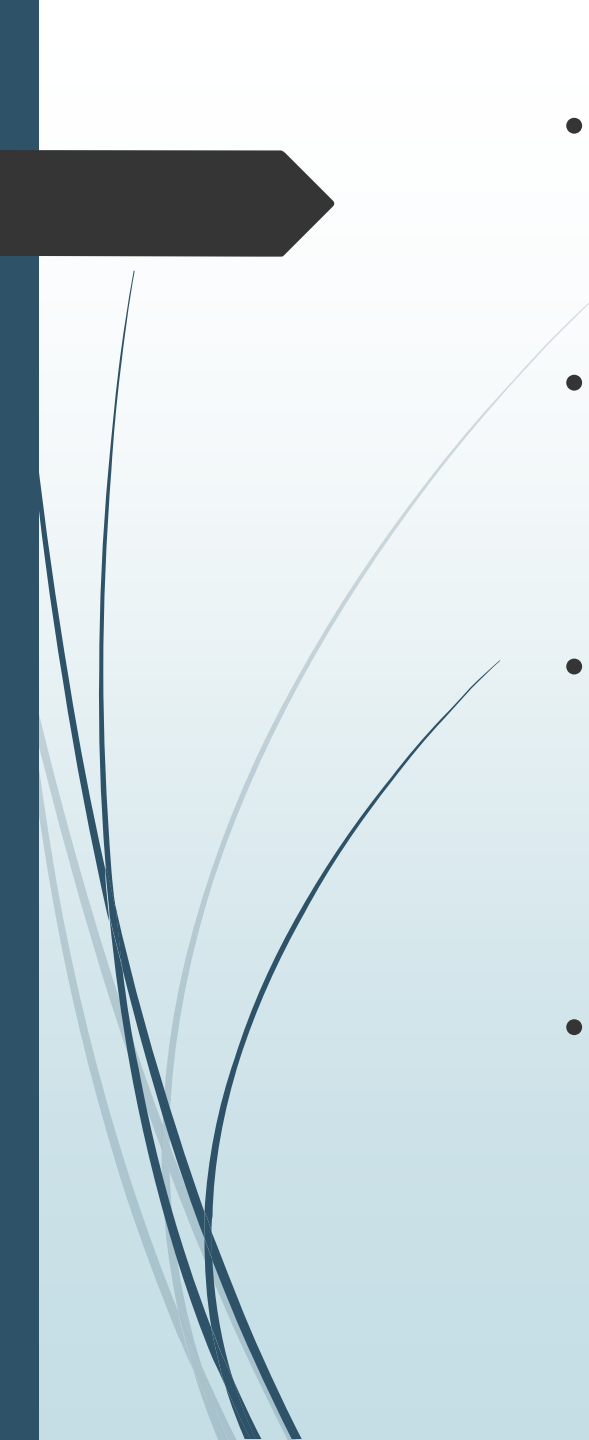
[HealthCareTransitionGuide.pdf \(familyvoicesal.org\)](#)

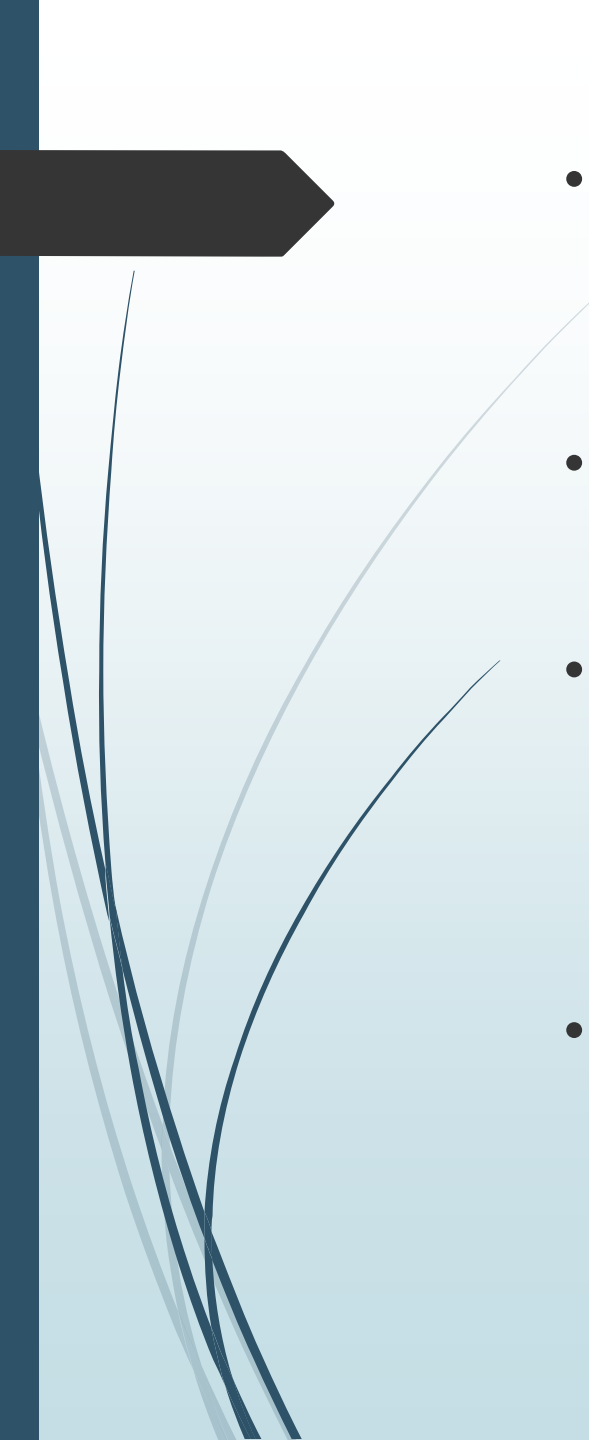
- **Adults with Autism**

[Resources and Services for Adults with Autism \(autismspeaks.org\)](#)

- **The Colby Act (option to guardianship)**

[Guardianship - Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program \(ADAP\)](#)

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- [A Guide for Transition to Adulthood | OAR \(researchautism.org\)](https://researchautism.org)
 - **Marisol Rose: “Not Just a Parent” – My Story of Transformation** <https://youtu.be/PR1040fuDB8>
 - **Abraham Salinas: Co-Parenting Children with Special Healthcare Needs: What Keeps Dads Awake at Night** <https://youtu.be/qAbHfaNFzl8>
 - **Megan Cote, Molly Black and Jana Villemez: Supporting Families of Children with Complex Health Care Needs in Grief Across the Lifespan** <https://youtu.be/mxfaNu6rZ1A>

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- <https://www.nannylane.com/find/special-needs-nanny/al/birmingham>
 - <https://www.parentcenterhub.org/priority-selfadvocacy/#youth>
 - https://www.icanconnect.org/?gclid=CjwKCAjwi8iXBhBeEiwAKbUofcrn7emGP6ySkDZVIXBkJeOWNG35D-dM-4JSfPRv765wvgLZmZe2xBoCkBIQAvD_BwE
 - [ADRS | Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services](#)

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- [People First of Alabama](#)

Peoplefirstal.net

- **TASH**

Tash.org

- **Alabama Department of Mental Health: Home and Community-Based Waivers**

[Home & Community-Based Services – Alabama Department of Mental Health](#)

- **Waivers Chart**

[Alabama Medicaid](#)

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- **Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

[Home | Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(acadv.org\)](http://acadv.org)

- **Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (list of transition resources)**

[Transitioning to Adulthood - Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program \(ADAP\) \(ua.edu\)](http://ua.edu)

- **Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities**

[Resources – Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities \(acdd.org\)](http://acdd.org)

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**

[Lifeline \(988lifeline.org\)](http://988lifeline.org)