

**AADD, All About  
Developmental Disabilities**

**The Arc of Georgia**

**Atlanta ADAPT**

**Brain and Spinal Injury Trust  
Fund**

**Center for Leadership in  
Disability, Georgia State  
University**

**CETPA, Inc.**

**disABILITY Link NW**

**GAACP, Georgia Association of  
Community Care Providers**

**Georgia Advocacy Office**

**Georgia Council on  
Developmental Disabilities**

**Georgia Council on Substance  
Abuse**

**Georgia Mental Health  
Consumer Network**

**Georgia Parent Support  
Network, Inc.**

**Institute on Human  
Development &  
Disability/UCEDD, University  
of Georgia**

**Mental Health America of  
Georgia**

**Mental Health and Disability  
Rights Project, Atlanta Legal  
Aid Society, Inc.**

**NAMI Georgia**

**People First of Georgia**

**Shepherd Center**

**SPADD Service Providers  
Association for Developmental  
Disabilities**

**Statewide Independent Living  
Council of Georgia, Inc.**

January 26, 2011

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor  
203 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**Re: Olmstead Committee, Olmstead Coordinator, and Olmstead Plan**

Dear Governor Deal:

We congratulate you on your inauguration as Governor of Georgia. We, the twenty-one organizations listed above, are advocates and self-advocates for people with disabilities. Over the past two and a half years we have been keenly interested in the work of Georgia's Olmstead Planning Committee, Olmstead Plan, and Olmstead Coordinator, William Janes. We believe Georgia is at a particularly important juncture with regard to the system of community-based services and supports for people with disabilities. While the state has entered into a Settlement Agreement with the United States Department of Justice regarding certain people with mental illness and developmental disabilities currently residing in institutions, the Settlement Agreement does not impact thousands of other Georgians with disabilities, particularly individuals with physical disabilities, individuals in nursing facilities, children and adolescents with disabilities, and individuals who will not be able to access the services prescribed in the Justice Department agreement. The Olmstead Planning Committee has provided a forum for state leaders, leaders of state departments, advocates, and self-advocates to come together to create a plan. Individuals representing all the disability areas have spent hundreds of hours – many of them volunteers -- working on a revised Olmstead Plan.

We were excited to read your recent letter in Making a Difference Magazine in which you stated, "As a state, we must provide a stronger, more effective community-based infrastructure to meet the individual needs of people with disabilities." It is our hope that the Olmstead Planning Committee, which was appointed by Governor Perdue in 2008 will continue to be part of the process of planning a coordinated, comprehensive community support system. For more than a year now, the committee has been led by Mr. William Janes. Mr. Janes has been a great asset to Georgia, and he has earned the respect of the Olmstead Committee members, advocates, self-advocates, providers, and state leaders. **Together, we respectfully request that the Olmstead Planning Committee continue under the exemplary leadership of William Janes.**

Last year, the Georgia House of Representatives passed HR 1713, which calls on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Community Health, and the Department of Human Services to work with the Olmstead Coordinator to develop a strategic plan regarding community services for people with disabilities and a companion funding plan. Creating such a plan is the reason why the Olmstead Committee was created and why it needs to continue.

We want to acknowledge the constructive and creative work of the Olmstead Planning Committee, the proposed Olmstead Plan, and the state Olmstead Coordinator. We hope your administration will also acknowledge this work by approving the Olmstead Plan that has been transmitted to your office, and by maintaining the committee and the leadership to oversee and guide its implementation. We offer you our support and advocacy to ensure its success. We look forward to continuing this collaborative effort under your leadership and the leadership provided by Mr. Janes.

Sincerely,

**Dave Blanchard**

Executive Director  
AADD, All About Developmental  
Disabilities  
1440 Dutch Valley Place, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30324  
404-881-9777x215  
[dave@AADD.ORG](mailto:dave@AADD.ORG)

**Torin Togut**

President  
The Arc of Georgia  
100 Edgewood Ave. Suite 1675  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Bernard Baker**

President  
Atlanta ADAPT  
755 Commerce Drive, Suite 105  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-431-3670

**Craig L. Young**

Executive Director  
**J. D. Frazier, M.S., Chairman**  
Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund  
Commission  
2 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 26-426  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-656-5960  
[clyoung@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:clyoung@dhr.state.ga.us)

**Daniel Crimmins, Ph.D.**

Director  
Center for Leadership in Disability  
College of Health and Human  
Sciences  
Georgia State University  
P.O. Box 3995  
Atlanta, GA 30302-3995  
404-413-1286  
[dcrimmins@gsu.edu](mailto:dcrimmins@gsu.edu)

**Pierluigi Mancini, Ph.D.**

Executive Director  
CETPA, Inc.  
6020 Dawson Blvd, Suite I  
Norcross, GA 30093  
(770) 662-0249  
[pmancini@cetpa.org](mailto:pmancini@cetpa.org)

**Donna Baxley**

Executive Director  
disABILITY Link NW  
410 Tribune St.  
Rome, GA 30161  
706-314-0008  
[dbaxley@disabilitylink.org](mailto:dbaxley@disabilitylink.org)

**Judy Gill**

President  
GACCP, Georgia Association of  
Community Care Providers  
P.O. Box 3364  
Gainesville, GA 30503  
678-943-2617  
[Caringtogether@bellsouth.net](mailto:Caringtogether@bellsouth.net)

**Ruby Moore**

Executive Director  
Georgia Advocacy Office  
150 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Suite 430  
Decatur, GA 40030  
404-885-1234  
[RMoore@thegao.org](mailto:RMoore@thegao.org)

**Eric Jacobson**

Executive Director  
Georgia Council on Developmental  
Disabilities  
2 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 26-246  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3142  
(404) 657-2120  
[eejacobson@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:eejacobson@dhr.state.ga.us)

**Neil Kaltenecker**

Executive Director  
Georgia Council on Substance Abuse  
100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 1685  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-523-3440  
[neil@gasubstanceabuse.org](mailto:neil@gasubstanceabuse.org)

**Sherry Jenkins Tucker**

Executive Director  
Georgia Mental Health Consumer  
Network  
246 Sycamore Street, Suite 260  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-687-9847  
[sjtucker@gmhcn.org](mailto:sjtucker@gmhcn.org)

**Sue Smith**

Executive Director  
Georgia Parent Support Network,  
Inc.  
1381 Metropolitan Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30310  
404-758-4500  
[sue.smith@gpsn.org](mailto:sue.smith@gpsn.org)

**Zolinda Stoneman, Ph.D.**

Director & University Professor  
Institute on Human Development &  
Disability/UCEDD  
850 College Station Rd.  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30607  
706-542-4827  
[zo@ihdd.uga.edu](mailto:zo@ihdd.uga.edu)

**Ellyn Jeager**

Director, Public Policy & Advocacy  
Mental Health America of Georgia  
100 Edgewood Avenue, Suite 502  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
678-904-1965  
[ellyn@mhageorgia.org](mailto:ellyn@mhageorgia.org)

**C. Talley Wells**

Director  
Mental Health and Disability Rights  
Project  
Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Inc.  
246 Sycamore Street  
Decatur, GA 30030  
404-377-0701  
[ctwells@atlantalegalaid.org](mailto:ctwells@atlantalegalaid.org)

**Eric Spencer**

Executive Director  
NAMI Georgia  
770-234-0855  
[espencer@nami.org](mailto:espencer@nami.org)

**Marion Jackson**

President  
People First of Georgia  
755 Commerce Drive  
Suite 105  
Decatur, GA 30030

**Mark Johnson**

Director of Advocacy  
Shepherd Center  
2020 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30309-1465  
770-410-0781  
[Mark\\_Johnson@shepherd.org](mailto:Mark_Johnson@shepherd.org)

**Lana Copeland Hardy**

President  
SPADD  
Service Providers Association for  
Developmental Disabilities  
PO Box 3364  
Gainesville, GA 30503  
678-943-2617  
[lane@aadd.org](mailto:lane@aadd.org)

**Shelly Simmons**

Board Chair  
Statewide Independent Living  
Council of Georgia, Inc.  
755 Commerce Drive, Suite 415  
Decatur, GA 30030  
770-270-6860

cc: Frank Shelp, Commissioner Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and  
Developmental Disabilities  
David Cook, Commissioner Georgia Department of Community Health  
Clyde Reese, Commissioner Georgia Department of Human Services  
Michael Beatty, Commissioner Georgia Department of Community Affairs