

AGING WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ABOUT THE AGING AND DD COALITION Greater Atlanta

The Aging and Developmental Disabilities Coalition was formed in 1999 in response to the growing needs of persons with developmental disabilities who are aging, and their parents and/or caregivers who are aging. The goal of this partnership is to build *communities for all* that include choice and decision making, access to supports and information, appropriate health services, meaningful relationships, and opportunities to age in place.

Mission:
To enable all to age in place with quality of life by collaborating to provide information, education, and opportunities.

Cross-Network Collaboration

The Coalition is a collaborative group of **representatives from both aging and developmental disability networks** including state entities, service providers, advocates, and family members who are committed to engaging in a constant and meaningful dialogue. Members work to identify strategies that will help create a seamless system that provides appropriate services and support throughout all stages of life. This Coalition maintains a deliberate balance of leadership from both networks to create collaborative relationships that were previously non-existent in the community.

Coalition Goals

Partners in this Coalition work toward their common goals which are to:

- Expand information and assistance to consumers, families, policymakers and professionals in order to increase the support services opening their doors and including people who are aging with Developmental Disabilities.
- Expand marketing and public relations efforts with media and professional publications to increase general awareness of the issues surrounding aging and developmental disabilities.
- Conduct ongoing education and outreach in order to draw providers, specialists, and interested representatives into the aging and developmental disability community.
- Penetrate health care training systems that create future professionals in the health care industry on issues related to treating people who are aging with developmental disabilities.
- Continue to expand the Coalition membership statewide to include appropriate aging providers and disability agency representatives.

Key Accomplishments

There has been much progress to date with shared resources. The Coalition has served as a forum for communication, and has increased awareness of issues across both networks. Coalition members have partnered on a number of specific projects that include the development of a shared resource database that include both aging and DD services. The Coalition played a vital role in the pilot of the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) in the Greater Atlanta region. The Coalition's advocacy efforts were recognized by the 2004 Georgia General Assembly and the creation of a Senate study committee to focus on the issues related to aging and DD.

