

A Time To Share.....

Disability? Community?

Where do you fit in?



DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

Tupelo	Lee County Library	June 16	5:00PM - 7:30PM
Corinth	MSU Extension Svc.	June 17	1:00PM - 3:30PM
Oxford	Lafayette Public Library	June 24	10:30AM - 1:00PM
Southaven	M.R. Davis Public Library	June 24	5:30PM - 8:00PM
Southaven	M.R. Davis Public Library	June 25	10:30AM - 1:00PM
Grenada	MSU Extension Office	July 21	2:00PM - 4:30PM
Clarksdale	Carnegie Public Library	July 22	1:00PM - 3:30PM
Greenville	Greenville Higher Ed Center	July 30	1:00PM - 4:00PM
Greenwood	Chamber of Commerce	July 31	1:00PM - 4:00PM
Starkville	Emmerson Family Center	August 5	1:00pm - 4:00pm

2009 Statewide Summer Listening Tour **We want to know what we can do for you!!**

No charge. Refreshments served. Transportation assistance provided with two days notice prior to event. Sign Language Interpreters on hand! Call 1-800-772-4057 for more information. www.mspas.com



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Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

You may have heard about some of the exciting and inspiring changes going on at Mississippi Protection and Advocacy System, Inc (MPAS), and we want to take this opportunity to share some of the details with you! Since 1986 you have known this agency as Mississippi Protection and Advocacy System and you might have been under the impression that we primarily advocated for cases in the education system. However, this is only one aspect of what we can do. The agency is taking huge steps in becoming more recognizable, available, and active throughout the state. And one of the first things you may notice is a name and logo change. We are now Disability Rights Mississippi (DRMS).

Among other notable changes in the agency was the retirement of Rebecca Floyd after more than 25 years of serving as the Executive Director. Ms. Floyd led MPAS and was integral in its conception. She has been acclaimed throughout the years for her dedication and desire to bring about a more accessible world for individuals with disabilities.

The DRMS Board of Directors contracted with Ann Maclaine to serve as Interim Executive Director for six months while it searches for a permanent Director. Ms. Maclaine has served as the Director of Legal Services for Louisiana's protection and advocacy system for twenty years, and shares her time between Louisiana and Mississippi.

In Louisiana, Maclaine has overseen the legal work of the agency, and has been involved in major litigation, including class action suits to improve conditions in a crisis psychiatric facility and to insure accessibility of the public transportation system in New Orleans. She also was co-counsel in one of the first jury trials brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act, which resulted in a favorable verdict for a young deaf woman denied the opportunity to complete her preparation to become an elementary school teacher. Maclaine said "I am excited to have the opportunity to serve Mississippi as interim Executive Director of DRMS. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff to expand the vision and visibility of the agency throughout the state so that the rights of residents with disabilities are fully protected and advanced."

Other exciting news regarding DRMS is the summer listening tour we are conducting throughout the state called "A TIME TO SHARE". DRMS will participate in approximately 35 different events in different communities state-wide in an effort to provide as many opportunities as possible for individuals with disabilities to share their information, gain knowledge, and provide input to DRMS regarding their needs and what issues they believe DRMS should address. There will be opportunities in a variety of ways for DRMS to gather input, such as town-hall type meetings, presentations, booths at community events, and being available at summer camps. The kick off starts on June the 16th with the first event in Tupelo, MS at the Lee County Library at 5:00pm, with another event following the next day in Corinth, MS at 1:00pm at the MSU Extension Services Office. We will be providing transportation if given notice 2 days prior to the event and will have sign language interpreters on hand as well. There will be light refreshments served and some local VIP's will be acknowledged. DRMS staff are very enthusiastic about reaching out in these different settings and about hopefully seeing some new and inspiring faces!

For more details on the events and when they will be in a location convenient to you, check out their calendar of events section on the web-site at www.disabilityrightsms.com or call the office at **1-800-772-4057**. We only listed the north MS region events on this flyer, but we will be all over the state!! If you can't make it to one of these events or get by one of our booths but would still like to fill out a survey to have your voice heard, you can link up to the survey on the web-site as well, or call and ask to have one sent to you.

DRMS wants to hear from you, so take an opportunity to help shape a new direction for this important agency.

Help Us be the Best that we can be!

DON'T FORGET,, TAKE PART IN YOUR CIVIC LIFE! REGISTER TO VOTE!!