

***REGISTRATION DEADLINE Wed., Jan.28***

***Capacity limited! Register now!***

*PRINT THIS FORM AND MAIL IT WITH YOUR CHECK*

**Cost: \$75; students \$15** (registration fee includes lunch and resource notebook). Scholarships available. Call for details – (800) 832-9060. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to **ACPP**. Be sure to enclose a separate registration form for each person attending.*

*Circle your workshop preferences so we can make room assignments. Circle one letter per session.*

Session 1 (9:30) A B C D E F G

Session 2 (10:45) H I J K L M

Session 3 (1:15) N O P Q R S T

\_\_\_\_\_ I need a vegetarian meal.

If you need disability-related accommodations, please e-mail [pres@alarise.org](mailto:pres@alarise.org) or call (800) 832-9060 by Jan. 16 to ensure availability.

*Mail this form with a check to “ACPP” for your registration fee before January 28 to:*

**ACPP**  
P. O. Box 1188  
Montgomery, AL 36101



P. O. Box 1188  
Montgomery, AL 36101

# Health Care Access Conference



***Tues., Feb. 10, 2009***

Birmingham-Southern College



[www.arisecitizens.org](http://www.arisecitizens.org)

***Knowledge, strategies & hope for a healthier Alabama*** ► A statewide

conference presented by Arise Citizens' Policy Project, Alabama Appleseed and the Birmingham-Southern chapter of Alabama Arise and made possible by a generous grant from the Public Welfare Foundation.

*The Alabama Dept. of Public Health, as authorized by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners, has approved this event for **5 continuing education contact hours** for social workers. The Alabama Board of Nursing recognizes contact hours approved by the ABSWE.*

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:15 Check-in – Norton Center; coffee, pastries

### 8:45 Welcome in the Great Hall

**9:00 Kickoff speaker** – *Claude Earl Fox, M.D., M.P.H., Executive Director, Florida Public Health Institute.* An advisor to the Obama administration and former Alabama State Health Officer reflects on the challenges ahead for health care reform in a poor state.

### 9:30 Workshop Session I

**A. The role of schools in children's health** – *Audrey Ellis, School Social Worker, Tuscaloosa; Sherry Marbury, Director of School Nursing, Ala. Dept. of Education; Lauren Veasey, Southern Education Foundation.* Student health is a key factor in school attendance and success. What are the best steps schools can take?

**B. Out of the shadows:** What the new Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Parity Law means for Alabama – *Andrew Sperling, National Alliance on Mental Illness.* How will the required expansion of mental health coverage affect consumers and providers?

**C. Publicly Funded Coverage 101** – *Cathy Caldwell, Director, Ala. Children's Health Insurance Program; Dr. Robert Moon, Medical Director, Ala. Medicaid; Robyn James, Director, Senior Medicare Patrol, Ala. Dept. of Senior Services.* Who's eligible for what? How do the programs fit together? Who pays? Understanding the current system is the starting place for reform.

**D. The economics of health care reform:** How can we afford to – or *not to* – fix our broken system? *David Gross, Manager of Health and Supportive Services, AARP; Jeff Love, Director of Research, AARP.* Two national experts compare the costs of biting the bullet vs. delaying the inevitable.

**E. Your three minutes:** Making the most of your doctor's appointment – *Frances Ford, Executive Director, Sowing Seeds of Hope, Perry County; Stephen W. Russell, M.D., UAB School of Medicine.* A patient advocate and a family doctor offer a practical (and humorous) look at communication challenges and solutions.

**F. Ignorance kills:** Alabama's HIV/AIDS statistics, trends and what we can do to reduce infection. *Randy Jones, Manager, HIV/AIDS Prevention Technical Assistance and Data Quality, Ala. Dept. of Public Health.* In the epidemic's third decade, Alabama is the new front line.

**G. Legislative Advocacy 101** – *Ron Gilbert and Pres Harris, Arise.* Alabama's lawmakers will play a key role in health care reform. How does the Legislature work, and at what points can we make a difference?

**10:30 Break**

### 10:45 Workshop Session II

**H. Get plugged in!** Using information technology to improve health care access and quality – *Cathy Caldwell, Director, Ala. Children's Health Insurance Program; Kim Davis-Allen, Ala. Medicaid; Kathy Johnson, Director, Ala. Broadband Initiative, Office of Gov. Bob Riley; Sharon Waltz, Synergy Medical Solutions.* Alabama is leading the way on electronic medical records and other innovations.

**I. Improving health care behaviors** – *Dr. Suzy Davies, Dept. of Health Behavior, UAB School of Public Health.* From smoking to diet to substance abuse, personal choices affect health – and health care costs. What shapes these choices, and what role should they play in reform?

**J. Ties that bind:** The role of faith communities in health care access – *Rev. Ronnie Williams, Congregations for Public Health, Birmingham.* A local partnership of churches, hospitals and health researchers is breaking new ground in public health outreach.

**K. Is there a doctor in the house?** Alabama's health care provider shortage – *Carolyn Bern, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health; Cal Dodson, M.D., Birmingham; Lacy Gibson, Alabama Hospital Association.* Our medical workforce is shrinking as demand rises. How should Alabama respond?

**L. Money Follows the Person:** Expanding home- and community-based long-term care can improve lives and save Medicaid millions of dollars – *James Tucker, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program.* How can Alabama break its bias toward institutionalized care?

**M. Tax reform 101** – *Kimble Forrister and Chris Sanders, Arise.* Any hope of budget adequacy for health care will depend on modernizing our tax system.

### 11:45 Lunch in Great Hall Room A

**12:15 Lunch panel: Prospects for federal health care reform** – *Judy Solomon, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Sara Rosenbaum, George Washington University; Susan Sherry, Community Catalyst, Boston.*

**1:00 Break**

### 1:15 Workshop Session III

**N. Alabama's infant mortality challenge** – *Janice Smiley, Director, State Perinatal Program, Ala. Dept. of Public Health.* What's causing the disturbing rise in infant deaths and what can we do about it?

**O. Mental illness and physical health** – *Richard E. Powers, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology and Pathology, UAB School of Medicine.* Causes and possible solutions for the shortened life expectancy of persons with serious mental illness: Developing a plan for Alabama.

**P. Listen and be heard** – *Pres Harris, Arise.* Listening sessions like this around the state are helping Arise identify barriers to health care access and changes that could make a real difference. Come join the conversation!

**Q. How can more adults get health coverage?** *Ann Huckstep, Senior Health Care Attorney, Adams Reese, Birmingham; Andy Lemons, Health Care Attorney, Baker Donelson, Birmingham; Nichelle Williams, Alabama Appleseed; John Pickens, Executive Director, Alabama Appleseed.* What are the best public, private, employer-based and other options for covering Alabama's 600,000 uninsured adults?

**R. Safe passage:** Transitioning children with special needs to adult health care systems – *Nancy Anderson, Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program; Susan Colburn, Co-Director, Family Voices of Alabama; Cyndi Cortes, Children's Health System.* How can Alabama ensure a seamless continuity of care?

**S. Reaching Alabama's immigrants:** Innovative community programs offer new models of health care delivery for the growing Hispanic population – *Isabel Scarinci, UAB School of Medicine; Edwina Taylor, Cabala Valley Health Care.* In the absence of broader policy solutions, the patchwork approach is saving lives.

**T. Ready or not, here we come!** Preparing for the "senior boom" – *Robyn James, Director, State Health Insurance Assistance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol, and Julie Miller, Programs Division Chief, Ala. Dept. of Senior Services.* As Alabama's population ages, how will our health care system keep pace?

### 2:15 Closing plenary

**"Where do we go from here?"** *Dr. Sara Rosenbaum, Chair, Dept. of Health Policy, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.*

**3:00 Adjourn**