



**IRENE COLLINS TO SERVE ON THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED SERVICES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 25, 2011**

**CONTACT: LINDSEY COPELAND
202.898.2578**

Washington, DC -- NASUAD applauds the appointment of Irene Collins, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), to the National Advisory Committee (NAC) for the National Resource Center for Participant-Directed Services (NRCPDS). With a mission to infuse participant-directed options in all home and community based services, the NRCPDS provides national leadership, technical assistance, training, education, and research that improves the lives of people of all ages with disabilities. The NAC is intended to provide appropriate guidance to the Center's strategic direction, and it represents a diverse range of expertise that is beneficial to the NRCPDS.

Throughout her career at the local, state, and national levels, Commissioner Collins has cultivated not only a subject matter expertise and complementary skill set in the field of aging, but has also obtained a unique perspective on several of the corollary programs and initiatives that are integral to serving older adults and individuals with disabilities. Praising the addition of Commissioner Collins to the NAC, Martha Roherty, Executive Director of NASAUD, stated, "Commissioner Collins brings a wealth of personal and professional experience to the National Advisory Committee; her visionary leadership and dedication to improving the lives of our most vulnerable citizens will benefit the Center, and the individuals they serve."

Currently, Commissioner Collins serves on Alabama Governor Robert Bentley's cabinet as Commissioner of ADSS, a position she previously held for eight years under Governor Bob Riley. In this capacity, she oversees the agency's coordination of state and federal programs that serve older adults, and, increasingly, individuals with disabilities regardless of age; family caregivers; residents of long-term care facilities; and individuals receiving assistance under the state's Medicaid Elderly and Disabled Waiver. Prior to joining ADSS, Mrs. Collins spent six years as the Executive Director of the Jefferson County Council on Aging, where she led the agency's efforts to enhance the quality of life for older adults through a community based system of long-term services and supports.

In addition to her professional accomplishments within the state of Alabama, as the most recent President of NASUAD and a member of several nationally-based professional organizations, Commissioner Collins plays an integral role both within the aging network and disability community on the national scale. Her experience and dedication qualify her to excel in her new position as a member of the NAC, where she will provide the NRCPDS with greater prominence as well as with guidance on the Center's future endeavors.

The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. The Association's principal mission is to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering home and community based services and supports for people who are older or have a disability, and their caregivers. www.nasuad.org