



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD AD HOC CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE  
2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**(January 2010)**

The Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention met on an ad hoc basis. CCD co-chairs worked as liaisons for CCD to the National Child Abuse Coalition. Co-chairs monitored and shared information on all legislative activity related to abuse and neglect providing input to legislative proposals that affect children with developmental and other disabilities. Co-chairs signed onto coalition letters supporting increased appropriations for Part C of IDEA, participated in National Child Abuse Coalition discussions regarding the upcoming reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and continued advocating for own recommendations for amendments to CAPTA. All of our recommendations were incorporated into the Senate discussion draft of the bill.

CAPTA authorization expired at the end of FY 2008 and Congress plans to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, only one hearing was held this year by the House Committee on Education and Labor Subcommittee on Healthy Families. No other Congressional action has taken place in this Congress and no bill has been formally introduced.

CAPTA is the only federal program that provides primary prevention activities. It was reauthorized in 2003 as the Keeping Children Safe Act of 2003 (PL 108-36). The amended law contains several improvements that help refer children who are maltreated for early intervention services. However, more improvements are needed to ensure that these children get the services they need to thrive. The Child Abuse Task Force's recommendations have been endorsed by the National Child Abuse Coalition that would put more emphasis on primary prevention of abuse and neglect, i.e. *before* a child enters Child Protective Services.

In addition, Federal funding to help states and communities protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect has been woefully inadequate. Current appropriations for child abuse and neglect are only at half the authorized amounts. In fiscal 2009, basic state grants were funded at \$27 million, discretionary grants at \$42 million (included \$13 million for home visiting programs), and community-based prevention grants at \$41.7 million. For FY 2010, in the final omnibus appropriations bill signed by the President on Dec. 16, discretionary grants lost the \$13 million for home visiting programs, while basic state grants and community-based prevention grants were level funded. These levels of

funding demonstrate a complete disregard for prevention, when compared to billions of dollars spent on foster care and institutionalization at the far end of the child welfare services continuum.

At the start of the year, the CCD Child Abuse Task Force provided the following recommendations to the new Congress and Administration:

- Support the National Child Abuse Coalition's proposal for the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, including increased authorization levels for each section of the Act.
- Increase funding for CAPTA programs to their authorization levels: \$100 million for Title I basic state grants and discretionary research and demonstrations; and \$80 million for the Title II Community Based Family Resource and Support Program
- Significantly increase appropriations for Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) so that more eligible children can be served under the program.

In addition to participating in the reauthorization of CAPTA, the Task Force will continue to monitor other maltreatment legislative proposals that impact children with disabilities, including HR 4247, to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools, introduced by Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Rep. George Miller. The Senate companion, S. 2860, was introduced by Senator Dodd.

**Co-Chairs in 2009:**

- **Kim Musheno**, Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- **Jill Kagan**, National Respite Coalition