Developmental Disabilities, Autism, & Family Support Task Force
Annual Report for 2013

2013 ACTIVITIES

- Conducted Hill visits and wrote letters in support of coverage of behavioral health
treatment, including applied behavioral analysis (ABA), for dependents with
developmental disabilities by TRICARE, the military’s health program.
- Advocated for expansion of the National Family Caregiver Support Program to
include parents of adult children with disabilities in the reauthorization of the Older
Americans Act.
- Coordinated with other task forces in support of the Achieving a Better Life
Experience (ABLE) Act.
- Began educating Members of Congress about the positive gains from the Combating
Autism Act and the need to reauthorize the law in 2014.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Reauthorization of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011
- Reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of
2000.
- Reauthorization of the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006
- Inclusion of behavioral health treatment provision in 2015 National Defense
Authorization Act
- Enactment of the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act which expands the
categories of family members eligible for leave to care for a relative with a serious
health condition.
- Secure continued authorization for the Family to Family (F2F) Health Information
Centers program.
- Ensure the collection of information from states on the number of children eligible for
referral and referred to agencies providing early intervention services under IDEA
Part C as required by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) of
2010.
- Ensure that families of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities are
involved in the planning and implementation of Title II of CAPTA, the Community
Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Program, and to ensure that respite is treated
as a core service under local program requirements.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2013:
Kim Musheno
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Cindy Smith
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)

Jill Kagan
National Respite Coalition (NRC)

Annie Acosta
The Arc

Stuart Spielman
Autism Speaks