



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD AD HOC CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

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 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 developed its own recommendations for amendments to CAPTA. In addition, the Child Abuse Task Force provided recommendations that were included in the CCD recommendations to the Presidential Transition Team.

Congress plans to reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) in the 111th Congress. 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 is working with the National Child Abuse Coalition on recommendations 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 2008, basic state grants are funded at \$27 million, discretionary grants at \$33.7 million, and community-based grants at \$37 million. 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.

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.
- Increase funding for CAPTA programs to their authorization levels: \$100 million for Title I basic state grants and discretionary research and demonstrations; and \$66 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.

Co-Chairs in 2008:

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