



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**CCD AD HOC CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE  
2007 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 and provided input into the NPRM on Part C IDEA Regulations. The Task Force also submitted separate comments on the NPRM.

**FY 08 Appropriations:** The FY08 omnibus appropriations bill level-funded most child and family services programs, and then applied an across-the-board cut of 1.747 percent, resulting in cuts below last year's spending. For example, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) programs are cut by a total of \$1.7 million, not counting funds earmarked for special projects or the new discretionary funds at \$10 million requested by the White House which the bill directs to go for support of "a range of home visitation programs...that have met high evidentiary standards." While most programs were either cut or level funded, a handful were singled out for increases. Among them, Head Start was increased by \$14 million, against the President's proposal to cut Head Start by \$100 million. Likewise, the Community Services block grant, which the President sought to eliminate, was given an increase of \$35 million. Others fared poorly. Funds for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program -- the largest federal funding source for child maltreatment prevention -- were cut by \$25.7 million. With the mandatory funds held at \$345 million, the cut to the PSSF discretionary funds left the FY08 total at \$408.3 million.

**S.2237, Crime Control and Prevention Act:** On October 25, Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) introduced legislation broadly addressing issues of crime. The measure has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Although the bill is not expected to move as a package, its various pieces could move separately. Included in S.2237 are provisions amending CAPTA to increase the authorization levels of the basic state grant program to \$200 million and the community-based prevention grants to \$200 million. It also authorizes \$545 million for parenting education and other strategies for supporting families. Other provisions under the title of "Preventing Violent Crime and Breaking the Cycle of Violence" are: increased funding authority, in addition to CAPTA, for 1) Head Start, 2) after-

school programs, 3) community incentive grants for delinquency prevention, and 4) grants to strengthen tribal juvenile justice. The bill amends the Strengthening Abuse and Neglect Courts Act to “serve children who are significantly over-represented in foster care.” It authorizes new legislation called the Safe Babies Act to fund court teams to “promote the well-being of maltreated infants and toddlers and their families.” Another section of the bill would authorize grants to support “multidisciplinary training curricula at accredited schools of law and undergraduate institutions in order to provide a broad and comprehensive foundation for improved intervention and representation of abused and neglected children.”

**Head Start:** On December 12, President Bush signed the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007. The law authorizes increased spending for the program, starting at \$7.35 billion for FY08. In addition, the bill includes new provisions proposed by the National Child Abuse Coalition addressing:

- greater attention to serving children who have been maltreated or are at-risk of abuse or neglect,
- greater attention to the training needs of parents (especially in Early Head Start),
- improved coordination with existing home-based and community-based services, and
- improved collaboration with the state agency responsible for child welfare services and child protective services.

**Education Begins At Home Act (S.667/ H.R. 2343):** The Task Force monitored the Education Begins At Home Act (EBAH) sponsored by Senators Kit Bond (R-MO) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Todd Russell Platts (R-PA) The legislation builds on existing models of quality early childhood home visitation programs and is intended to help states build systems of early childhood home visitation to ensure that families are receiving the most appropriate services to meet their needs.

**CAPTA reauthorization:** the Task Force participated in National Child Abuse Coalition discussion regarding the upcoming reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act.

#### **Future Activities:**

The Task Force will begin preparing for the reauthorization of CAPTA to be taken up by the House and Senate next year. In addition, the Task Force will continue to monitor other maltreatment legislative proposals that impact children with disabilities.

#### **Co-Chairs in 2007:**

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