



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

CCD AD HOC DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES TASK FORCE 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The Task Force on Developmental Disabilities met on an ad hoc basis and worked primarily on appropriations efforts for programs benefiting people with developmental disabilities and also worked to oppose a bill to weaken the protection and advocacy systems' ability to protect people with disabilities in institutions.

The Task Force provided extensive comments in response to a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) published by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities on April 10, 2008, to implement the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000. The Task Force comments pointed out several serious flaws in the proposed rule. During the comment period there were instances when the electronic system was not available and individuals were having difficulties using the system; therefore, ADD reopened the public comment period an additional three months (through September 29) to ensure that everyone received the opportunity to provide comments. Final regulations have not yet been published.

The Task Force continued to oppose a bill H.R. 3995, sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), that would have amended the Developmental Disabilities Act and put limits on all the actions of the P&A network. A revised bill still applies specifically to the P&A network (though the targets are identified as "no entity that receives funds from the Federal government may use such funds to file a class action lawsuit against an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded..."). The Task Force wrote letters and met with Rep. Frank as well as informed the grassroots to prevent additional support for the legislation.

The Task Force began preparing for the reauthorization of the Developmental Disabilities Act which is expected to be considered by Congress in the upcoming session of the 111th Congress. The Task Force developed a fact sheet about the DD Act programs and met with staff of the Bipartisan Disability Caucus co-chairs to plan for a congressional briefing in 2009.

The Task Force provided the following recommendations to the Presidential Transition Team and 111th Congress:

- Work toward timely reauthorization of the DD Act;
- Provide increased funding to allow the DD Network to meet the emerging and changing needs of people with disabilities; and

- Reaffirm the commitment to support people with disabilities in the community.

The Task Force plans to develop principles and recommendations for the reauthorization of the DD Act and will begin meeting with key committee staff early in the 1st Session of the 111th Congress.

Co-Chairs in 2008:

- **Kim Musheno**, Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- **Karen Flippo**, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
- **Curt Decker**, National Disability Rights Network