



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

Employment and Training Task Force 2010 Annual Report

Acceding to the more urgent demands of health care reform implementation, the Employment and Training Task Force reluctantly bade farewell to Co-chair Julie Ward, who moved to the Health Task Force to take on some of the herculean tasks associated with regulating the Affordable Care Act. Her skills and insight are greatly missed by this task force and we wish her and all of our CCD colleagues on the Health and Long Term Services and Supports Task Forces the very best of success in wrestling with the ACA.

Meanwhile, another year has passed without any action on reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act and Rehabilitation Act. Nevertheless, the Employment and Training Task Force engaged in several discussions with Hill staff and administration officials concerning WIA/Rehab renewal and completed its work on WIA principles for transition of youth with disabilities and legislative recommendations for changes to the Act.

The task force also met with administration representatives concerning the 2011 budget for the Departments of Labor and Education and with Ways and Means staff to press for renewal of Title II Social Security demonstration authority and for extension of the Protection and Advocacy program for beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) and the Work Incentives Planning Assistance (WIPA) program. H.R. 6200, the "WIPA and PABSS Extension Act of 2010," reauthorizes these programs through FY 2011 and was signed into law on October 13, 2010.

The task force received briefings from Social Security Administration representatives on the 4 state Benefit Offset demonstration and status of the Ticket to Work program and participated in meetings with SSA regarding its new proposal for Title II work incentives simplification. The cochairs also took part in a meeting with the Government Accountability Office on employment network participation under Ticket to Work. In addition, the task force offered comments on an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by SSA regarding Ticket to Work program payments to state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

In July, the task force invited Deputy Commissioner of OPM, Christine Griffin, to discuss improvements planned in federal Schedule A hiring authority and held a second briefing on Schedule A with the Veterans Task Force and members of the military and veterans service organization community.

In September, the task force convened a briefing for CCD with officials from the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) on Section 503 obligations of federal contractors. This meeting was used as background for comments on the ANPRM issued by OFCCP on July 23rd seeking

improvements in the 503 regulations. The Employment Task Force worked with the Rights Task Force on developing several sets of comments for use by CCD members to respond to the ANPRM.

Also in September, members of the task force took part in an employment summit convened by Senator Tom Harkin to develop consensus ideas around employment of people with disabilities for the 112th Congress.

During the year, several members of the task force participated in the Justice for All Action Network (JFAAN) employment team which developed a set of non-legislative recommendations for increasing employment of people with disabilities that were presented in November to Obama disability policy advisor Kareem Dale. Many of the JFAAN recommendations were based on proposals developed by this task force in preparation for the incoming administration.

In 2011, the task force will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. and plans to pursue meetings with the new Education and Labor staff, new disability policy advisor for Senator Harkin and with the new staffer for disability policy for Senator Enzi whenever the successor to Aaron Bishop is announced. The task force expects to continue conversations with administration officials in the Department of Labor, Office of Personnel Management and Rehabilitative Services Administration concerning their ongoing commitments to employment of people with disabilities. Administration officials have indicated that the notice of proposed rulemaking for the 503 regulations is likely to be published early in 2011 so the task force anticipates developing comments for that NPRM.

Cochairs

Cheryl Bates-Harris, NDRN
Susan Goodman, Down Syndrome Congress
Charlie Harles, INABIR
Susan Prokop, PVA
Paul Siefert, CSAVR