



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

2011 Technology and Telecommunication Ad hoc Task Force Report

This Ad hoc task force did very little this year, not because there wouldn't have been things to do, but from a misunderstanding of leadership. I was out sick at last year's annual CCD membership meeting, and honestly didn't know I was a co-chair of this task force until I got notices late in the year about some task forces that had not been attending the monthly co-chairs meetings.

Once I found this out, I felt I needed to learn a little more about the formation of the task force, the issues that we were supposed to cover, and what people wanted to do for the future. To that end, I had conversations with the co-chairs listed on the CCD website and organized a phone call on December 28th to discuss the future of the task force.

From that phone call, it was decided that we do need this to be a full task force, we do need to hold monthly conversations, and we need to reconnect with other task forces so technology and telecommunications issues are properly considered by other CCD task forces. I have also put out a call for additional co-chairs, and as of now we have 3 possibilities, with maybe another one or two coming in the future.

We have already set our first meeting, January 27, 2012, and we have already discussed informally the need to make sure our task force is included when other task forces consider issues of technology or telecommunication. For example, the transportation task force just submitted comments concerning air carrier's websites and kiosks, and while we found out about their comments late we were able to provide some feedback to make those comments stronger. Ultimately, we would like to have that be the first step in preparing comments, not at the end, and we will be working to make sure we are known to the other task forces. Finally, we will also be discussing Administration officials and Hill staff we want to meet with in order to raise the visibility of this task force.

I feel like we have created a group of people interested and focused on this topic and that going into the future we will be able to take positive actions and reinvigorate the task force. So, while there is very little actions to report from 2011, I suspect that the 2012 report will be much longer.