



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

December 16, 2014

Christine K. Cassel, M.D.
President and CEO
National Quality Forum

Dear Dr. Cassel:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is a coalition of more than 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Task Force focuses on promoting LTSS policy that enables all Americans, including individuals with disabilities, have access to high quality, self-directed, affordable LTSS that meets their individual needs and empowers them to be functional, live as independently as possible, and participate in the community.

The CCD LTSS Task Force is writing to urge the National Quality Forum (NQF) to include people with disabilities and people with appropriate disability-related expertise on the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Committee. CCD believes that individuals with appropriate disability-related expertise should share a commitment to consumer engagement, self-determination, integration, and inclusion. We recommend that Committee members represent the following constituencies: people with disabilities, family members, providers of HCBS, and researchers. Other relevant experiences that NQF should consider include:

- Expertise in one or more of the pertinent disability-related issue areas –
 - Civil rights;
 - Direct care workforce;
 - Employment;
 - Family caregiving;
 - Housing;
 - Person-centeredness;
 - Racial, ethnic, and/or cultural competency; and/or
 - Self-determination;
- Track record of scientific and/or professional accomplishment associated with disability;
- Familiarity with performance and quality measurement, both in the general and disability populations;
- Direct experience working with persons with disabilities and their families;

- Familiarity, and preferably experience, working with the organization and financing of HCBS, within the context of the *Olmstead* Supreme Court ruling;
- Familiarity with, and preferably experience, working in public policy analysis and impact; and/or
- A cross-disability experience (working with different types of disabilities).

The CCD LTSS Task Force has thoroughly vetted the following individuals and because they possess the skills, experience, and characteristics listed earlier in this letter, we endorse the following individuals for inclusion on the HCBS Quality Committee:

- Jennifer Becher – Vice President of Organizational Development and Executive Director of the Bethesda Institute at Bethesda Lutheran Communities (Wisconsin)
- Joe Caldwell, PhD – Director of Long-Term Services and Supports at the National Council on Aging (Washington, DC)
- Eric Carlson, JD – Directing Attorney at the National Senior Citizens Law Center (Washington, DC)
- Parthenia Dinora, PhD – Director of Research, Evaluation & Program Development of the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University and mother of person with a developmental disability (Virginia)
- Peggy Ezell – Vice President of Quality Management at Mosaic (Nebraska)
- Celia M. Feinstein – Co-Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities at Temple University (Pennsylvania)
- Ann Hardiman – Executive Director of the New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (New York)
- Amy Hewitt, PhD – Director of the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota (Minnesota)
- Amie Lulinski, PhD – Director of Rights Policy at The Arc (Washington, DC)
- Diane McComb, MEd – Liaison with State Associations at American Network of Community Options & Resources and Aging & Disability Lead at the Delmarva Foundation (Maryland)
- Gerry Morrissey – Chief Quality Officer at the MENTOR Network (Massachusetts)
- Ari Ne’eman – President and Co-Founder of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network (Washington, DC)
- Mike Oxford – Executive Director of the Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (Kansas)
- Lisa Peters-Beumer, MPH – Vice President of Adult and Senior Services at Easter Seals (Washington, DC)
- Raymond Ratke – Chief Operating Officer of Lutheran Family Services of Virginia (Virginia)
- Clarke Ross – Public Policy Director for the American Association on Health & Disability and father of an adult child with developmental disabilities (Washington, DC)
- Deborah M. Spitalnik, PhD – Professor of Pediatrics and Executive Director of The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities at Rutgers University’s Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine (New Jersey)

CCD commends NQF for establishing the HCBS Quality Committee and for their inclusions of disability-specific representatives on the Workgroup on Persons Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and the MAP Task Force on Population Health. We appreciate your consideration of our requests and candidate endorsements. If you have further questions please contact Sarah Meek, CCC LTSS Task Force co-chair, at (202) 499-5831 or smeek@lutheranservices.org.

Sincerely,

The CCD LTSS Task Force Co-chairs

Dan Berland, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities
Services (NASDDDS)

Sarah Meek, Lutheran Services in America Disability Network (LSA-DN)

Rachel Patterson, Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)

Laura Weidner, National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS)