



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES

2015 Annual Report  
Of the  
Employment and Training Task Force

Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) preoccupied much of the attention of the task force during 2015. Through a number of workgroups, the task force submitted comments on proposed regulations governing Title I workforce development programs, the Rehabilitation Act under Title IV, state plans, performance accountability and joint provisions affecting the Departments of Labor and Education. The task force also monitored the work of the Advisory Committee on Competitive Integrated Employment that was created by WIOA as well as efforts by state workforce agencies to prepare for WIOA implementation.

Throughout the year, the task force met with administration officials and heard presentations on a variety of issues including:

- A briefing by the DoL Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) on its work with the Employment and Training Administration, the Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative, pilot projects run by ODEPs various technical assistance centers and the progress of their Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Programs
- A briefing on Oregon litigation and settlement to reduce the numbers of people with ID/DD in sheltered workshops
- A meeting with DoL officials and representatives of the National Industry Liaison Group to discuss ways in which advocates can assist federal contractors with the implementation of Section 503 and VEVRAA rules
- A briefing by the Center for Legal and Social Policy on the SNAP Employment Training and Incentive Program
- A briefing by Neil Jacobsen with Abilicorp on his proposals to remove policy barriers to work for people with disabilities

The task force took part in a number of CCD cross-task force collaborations including:

- Efforts to develop a response to Sen. Grassley's Transition to Work and Independence Act
- Developing comments with the Rights Task Force on wellness regulations issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Working with the Social Security Task force on tax and work incentives to promote employment of beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and on comments to an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning vocational factors in the disability determination process

- Joining with the Veterans and Military Families Task Force in support of extension of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit

The task force also sent a letter to the Senate objecting to several harmful provisions in its 2016 Labor-HHS appropriations bill that would have undermined the work of ODEP and enforcement of Section 503 and VEVRAA and cut funding to workforce development programs.

In 2016, the task force will continue to monitor the implementation of WIOA, continue to work with federal partners on disability workforce development, hiring and recruitment programs and examine policies and proposals that seek to advance employment of people with disabilities.

Submitted by cochairs:

Kelly Buckland, National Council on Independent Living  
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