



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

2019 Annual Report of the Long Term Services and Supports Task Force

The LTSS Task Force began 2019 by creating a large and overarching wish list of legislative priorities related to LTSS. The co-chairs have used this list in our advocacy with Congress all year. A top priority for the Task Force has been reauthorization of the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program. Although we have been advocating for a multi-year extension since MFP expired in December 2017, Congress has repeatedly passed short-term extensions, with the most recent extension through late May 2020. A bipartisan drug pricing bill introduced by Senate Finance Committee co-chairs Senators Grassley and Wyden in mid-December included permanent funding of MFP, and that will be the focus of our MFP advocacy in 2020.

Another priority of the Task Force has been ensuring that LTSS was included in all of the universal healthcare bills that were introduced this year. Using Principles developed by the LTSS Task Force, some of the co-chairs worked closely with offices drafting these bills, resulting in the inclusion of LTSS (and specifically mandatory Home and Community Based Services) in each of the universal healthcare bills introduced this year.

The co-chairs, with input from the full Task Force, also worked closely with the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) and drafting offices to ensure that the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights took into account issues that impact people with disabilities and the workforce providing disability services. One key result was the inclusion of additional Medicaid funding in the bill, to ensure that the costs of worker protections are not funded by service dollars. We co-hosted a briefing with NDWA on the Workforce Crisis in Direct Care, and we also co-hosted a briefing on community living around the anniversary of the *Olmstead* decision.

In 2020, the LTSS Task Force will work on making the permanent reauthorization of Money Follows the Person a reality. We also will prioritize work on the HCBS Infrastructure Improvement Act – a bill to provide increased funding for states’ HCBS systems in key areas such as employment, integrated housing, transportation, and workforce – once it is introduced. We will continue to work on legislative priorities on our wish list, including a bill to allow the continuation of HCBS during short-term hospital stays and bigger picture bills to increase access to community-based LTSS.

Meeting date and time: Second Thursday of the month from 12:30-2 pm.

Co-chairs: Alison Barkoff, Center for Public Representation
Julia Bascom, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Dan Berland, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)
Nicole Jorwic, The Arc of the United States
Sarah Meek, American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)