



Commemorating 40 Years
Of Disability Advocacy
1973-2013

October 8, 2013

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

Dear Dr. Cassel:

CCD is a coalition of national disability organizations working together to advocate for policies that ensure the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. The CCD Health Task Force focuses on promoting health policy that ensures that all Americans, including individuals with disabilities and chronic health conditions, have access to high quality, comprehensive, affordable health care that meets their individual needs and enables them to be healthy, functional, live as independently as possible, and participate in the community.

The CCD Health 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 work groups, committee and task forces, including the Measure Applications Partnership, of the NQF. CCD believes that individuals with appropriate disability related expertise should share a commitment to consumer engagement, self-determination, integration and inclusion. Individuals with these types of experiences can be found in disability- related federal government offices, academia, and disability organizations.

Depending on the work group involved, relevant professional experiences may include:

- Track record of scientific and/or professional accomplishment associated with disability
- Familiarity with the organization and financing of health care and disability services and supports systems
- 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 home and community-based services, within the context of the Olmstead Supreme Court ruling

- Familiarity, and preferably experience, working in public policy analysis and impact
- A cross-disability experience (working with different types of disabilities)

For the NQF's new AHRQ funded population health framework committee, CCD recommends including an expert familiar with barriers to achieving positive health outcomes, including disparities and social factors associated with health. CCD recommends that NQF consider, for this new role, the CDC's Chief Disability and Health Officer which is currently held by Dr. Vince Campbell, Associate Director for Disability Inclusion and Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD). Congress created this CDC position to be a voice for people with disabilities in critical public health discussions.

CCD also commends NQF for appointing the current member of the NQF Workgroup on Persons Dually Eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, Dr. Clarke Ross, to the new MAP Task Force on Population Health. Dr. Ross has raised disability awareness and provided critical input to the work of NQF and we appreciate the opportunity for him to continue to do so.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests. If you have further questions please contact Peter Thomas, CCD Task Force on Health co-chair, 202-872-6746, or peter.thomas@ppsv.com.

Sincerely,

The CCD Health Task Force Co-chairs

Mary Andrus, Easter Seals

Lisa Ekman, Health and Disability Advocates

Theresa Morgan, American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Peter Thomas, Brain Injury Association of America

Julie Ward, The Arc

c.c Helen Burstin, M.D., NQF Senior Vice President for Performance Measurement
Tom Valuck, M.D., NQF Senior Vice President for Strategic Partnerships
Danitza Valdivia for the populationhealth@qualityforum.org nominations