



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

**CCD AD HOC CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION TASK FORCE
2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

(January 2013)

In 2012, the Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention met once early in the year for organizational purposes and to provide updates on Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) implementation and pending Seclusion and Restraint legislation. After that, the Task force met on an ad hoc basis via email. CCD co-chairs worked as liaisons for CCD to the National Child Abuse Coalition. Co-chairs monitored and shared information on all legislative activity related to abuse and neglect providing input to legislative proposals that affect children with developmental and other disabilities. Co-chairs participated in National Child Abuse Coalition discussions regarding ongoing implementation of the (CAPTA). The Task Force also supported work by the Education Task Force to enact legislation to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint and seclusion in schools.

CAPTA is the only federal program that provides primary prevention activities. It was reauthorized in 2003 as the Keeping Children Safe Act of 2003 (PL 108-36). The amended law contains several improvements that help refer children who are maltreated for early intervention services, as well as additional Child Abuse Task Force recommendations that helped put more emphasis on primary prevention of abuse and neglect, i.e. *before* a child enters Child Protective Services. However, more improvements were needed to ensure that these children get the services they need to thrive.

In December 2010, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) was reauthorized again (PL 111-320). The law includes our Task Force recommendations for Title II, the Community –Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants to make respite a “core” prevention service and to strengthen language regarding the required involvement of parents of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities. In Title I, many of CCD’s recommendations to conduct research and collect data regarding the nexus between abuse and neglect and disabilities were included.

In March, the co-chairs met with Rosie Gomez, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, to discuss the pending draft of the FY 2012 Community-Based Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Program (CBCAP) Program Guidance. Co-chairs urged that the change in the 2010 CAPTA law that elevated respite as a core service in CBCAP and a focus on the special needs of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities be included in the program guidance. As a result, language was added to the 2012 program guidance describing respite as a core service in the program. Several members of the Task Force met with Ms. Gomez again in November 2012 to strengthen language on the importance of inclusion of families of children with disabilities and parents with disabilities in the upcoming 2013 CBCAP program guidance. Ms. Gomez agreed to include some additional resources.

The Task Force will continue to focus its activities in 2013 in working with the Administration to ensure that appropriate action is taken to fulfill Congressional intent regarding provisions recommended by the Task Force in the 2010 reauthorization, including obtaining data on the numbers of infants and toddlers who are identified as abused or neglected and are referred to IDEA Part C early intervention programs. In addition, the task force will continue its work to support increased appropriations for CAPTA and Part C of IDEA, as well as other federal programs that focus on child abuse and neglect prevention. The Task Force will continue to monitor other maltreatment legislative proposals that affect children and parents with disabilities.

Co-Chairs in 2012:

- **Ellen Jensby**, Association of University Centers on Disabilities
- **Jill Kagan**, National Respite Coalition

Ellen Jensby left AUCD in the fall and stepped down as co-chair. The Task Force welcomes individuals interested in serving as a co-chair.