



CCD 2022 Health Task Force Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement

The CCD Health Task Force works to ensure access to high quality, accessible, affordable health care for people with disabilities and complex conditions of all ages that meets their individual needs and enables them to be healthy, live as independently as possible, and participate in the community. We work to promote access to comprehensive coverage and eliminate discrimination, disparities and inequities for people with disabilities within and across health care payers, providers, and systems. We recognize that racist and ableist structures, policies and practices have caused and continue to cause disproportionately worse outcomes for Black, Indigenous and other people of color with disabilities. And just as race and disability discrimination intersect, social determinants of health and compounding inequities related to age, size, national origin, immigration status, language, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation, can further reduce access to care and community for people with disabilities. Our advocacy prioritizes recognizing such inequities and championing policies that will reduce and eventually eliminate them.

2. Top 3 Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2022

- **Worked to promote health equity and anti-racism in health care delivery.** Much of this work centered on administrative advocacy, including comments on improving demographic data collection and reporting quality measures by key demographic categories like race, ethnicity, and disability; contributions to CCD comments on the § 1557 ACA anti-discrimination provision; comments on Medicaid enrollment and Marketplace proposed rules and the Medicaid access to care RFI.
- **Improving access to benefits in Medicare.** Through legislative and administrative advocacy to increase access to key services like accessories to power wheelchairs, kidney dialysis, and important oral health services, and Part D prescription drugs as well as reducing the barrier to care that prior authorization often represents in Medicare.

- **Improving diversity and broadening participation within the TF.** Our anti-racism working group helped develop community agreements for our meetings and facilitated the updating of our TF mission statement to clarify our commitment to foregrounding equity in our processes and in our advocacy.

3. Top Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2023

- **Protecting access to health care after the Public Health Emergency's Medicaid continuous eligibility requirement phases out.** This threatens access to health care for millions of Medicaid beneficiaries, including people with disabilities who may lose coverage as redeterminations begin again in March 2023 due to bureaucratic failures.
- **Administrative advocacy to protect and advance access to health care services for people with disabilities in key federal health programs.** We expect important proposed rules on issues related to behavioral health, care coordination, integration, and care transitions that often lead to barriers to accessing care.
- **Work to raise the profile of health equity concerns for people with disabilities.** This includes:
 - Continued work with various administration officials and quality experts to advocate for improved health data collection and reporting, including quality reporting stratified by disability and other key demographic characteristics to identify, track, and ultimately reduce health inequities.
 - Coordination with other task forces on important civil rights administrative advocacy, such as potential § 504 regulations.
 - Continued work to identify and reduce health disparities for people with disabilities and people who face compound intersectional disparities in accessing needed care.

4. Task Force Meeting Day and Meeting Time (eastern)

Third Friday, 10:30 AM

5. 2022 Co-Chairs

Caroline Bergner, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

David Machledt, National Health Law Program

Greg Robinson, Autistic Self Advocacy Network (Joined July 2022)

Cinnamon St. John, Center for Medicare Advocacy (stepped down June 2022)

Peter Thomas, Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville PC (stepped down Dec. 2022)