



CCD 2023 Task Force Annual Report

1. Brief Task Force Description or Mission Statement
 - a. 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. Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2023
 - a. **Protecting access to health care after the Public Health Emergency's Medicaid continuous eligibility requirement phases out.**
 - i. Worked with LTSS TF in team to identify problems with the renewal process. This included letter to CMS on disability-related eligibility issues.
 - b. **Administrative advocacy to protect and advance access to health care services for people with disabilities in key federal health programs.** Major comments and advocacy efforts include:
 - i. Proposed regulations to [improve prior authorization](#) processes
 - ii. Proposed regulations to improve [Medicaid HCBS access and quality](#)
 - iii. Proposed regulations to improve [access in Medicaid managed care](#)
 - iv. Proposed regulations on [mental health parity](#)
 - v. Proposed regulations [highlighting problems with access to services outside school](#) when schools bill services to Medicaid
 - vi. New NCD on power wheelchairs after years of advocacy and letters of support

- vii. Change in dental coding meant to improve access to ambulatory dental surgery procedures.
 - viii. Proposed [changes to the disability questions](#) on the American Community Survey that could affect policy and access to resources
 - c. **Work to raise the profile of health equity concerns for people with disabilities.**
 - i. Contributed to CCD [comments on Section 504](#) regulations that establish anti-discrimination protections for people with disabilities.
 - ii. Advocated for better reporting of disability data and quality measures by race/ethnicity to identify disparities.
 - iii. Contributed to CCD statement on access to health care for transgender individuals.
3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2024 (listing options below just to facilitate discussion)
- a. Ongoing work to **address health equity concerns** for people with disabilities, including improving accountability systems with effective data collection and reporting, effective use of advisory committees and other forms of qualitative feedback, and ongoing efforts to address health care discrimination across marginalized groups, including race/ethnicity, disability, and sexual orientation/gender identity.
 - b. Focus on simplifying **Medicaid and Medicare eligibility and enrollment systems** for people with disabilities of all ages to enhance participation and improve care continuity.
 - c. **Improving benefits across the lifespan** – We anticipate more opportunities to work on dental and vision access in Medicare and Medicaid, enrollment in low-income federal supports, and expanding a National Coverage Determination for power wheelchairs. We will also seek opportunities to improve access to benefits for newly disabled individuals, such as the millions still suffering from the effects of long COVID
4. 2023 Task Force Co-Chairs
 Caroline Bergner (ASHA)
 David Machledt (NHcLP)
 Greg Robinson (ASAN)
 Michael Lewis (AAPD) (joined Nov. 2023)
 Peter Thomas (PPSV) (stepped down mid-year)
5. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (Eastern)
 3rd Friday, 10:30-12