



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Developmental Disabilities, Autism, & Family Support Task Force Annual Report for 2015

2015 ACTIVITIES

The Task Force was active and met monthly, with a few exceptions. This year was spent working on reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) and its improved eligibility for the National Family Caregiver Support Program; seeking future planning services to be provided by Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs); Recruiting members for the Assisting Caregivers Today (ACT) Congressional Caucus; and supporting the Healthy Families Act that requires certain employers to provide paid sick leave. The Task Force sent letters to the Hill in support of the OAA reauthorization and to the Department of Labor in appreciation of revised guidance on siblings' eligibility for leave under FMLA and signed on to letters in support of increased funding for family support programs and comments regarding voluntary guidelines for the adult protective services system.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- The Task Force will work on implementation of the Autism CARES Act, including the HHS report on transition services due in September, 2016.
- The Task Force will continue to advocate for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, the Lifespan Respite Care Act, and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and enactment of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act and the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act.
- The Task Force will pursue opportunities to develop the capacity of ADRCs to provide future planning services.
- The Task Force will continue to weigh in on draft legislation to reduce the risks and harms of wandering by children with autism spectrum disorders.

CO-CHAIRS IN 2015:

Annie Acosta - The Arc

Sam Crane - Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)

Esme Grant - American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

Jill Kagan - National Respite Coalition

Cindy Smith - National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

Stuart Spielman - Autism Speaks