



## CCD 2024 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. Three Issues the Task Force Worked on in 2024

a. **Protecting access to health care after the Public Health Emergency's Medicaid continuous eligibility requirement phases out.** Worked with LTSS TF in team to identify unwinding issues specific to unwinding. 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. Ongoing advocacy with the Education TF highlighting problems with access to services outside school when schools bill services to Medicaid

ii. Sign-on letters related to ESRD

c. Advanced the issue of [disability data collection](#) by **co-planning a September convening** of disability advocates with the Census Bureau and other administration representatives to kick off a longer stakeholder engagement process related to improving disability questions on federal surveys, including the American Community Survey

3. Three Issues the Task Force Anticipates Working on in 2025
  - a. **Protect Medicaid and other critical Federal health care programs** from structural legislative changes that undermine access to care for people with disabilities.
  - b. **Engage in administrative advocacy** to prevent the erosion of civil protections for people with disabilities and other protected classes related to health care
  - c. Continue to **address health equity concerns** for people with disabilities (including disability data collection, stratified quality measure reporting)
  - d. **Protect Medicare and access to benefits across the lifespan**
4. 2024 Task Force Co-Chairs  
Caroline Bergner (ASHA)  
David Machledt (NHeLP)  
Greg Robinson (ASAN)  
Michael Lewis (AAPD)
5. Task Force Meeting Day of the Month and Meeting Time (Eastern)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 10:30-12