National Health Care Reform: What the Disability Community Needs from the Current Effort to Advance our Employment Agenda

A Public Policy Forum
May 22, 2009
10 am to 12 pm

Cornell University Government Affairs Office
Hall of States, Room 333
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

This project is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. Grant Number: H133B040013

www.EmploymentPolicyRRTC.org
Program Topic

This forum looks at the needs of the disability community through a timely discussion of the health care reform effort. The panel will give an update on where things stand, what is at stake for the disability community, and where there are opportunities to make policy changes in the coming months that will advance the ability of people with disabilities to participate fully in the labor market.

Funding Agency

This Center is funded to Cornell University by the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (Grant No. H133B040013). The content presented does not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government (Edgar, 75.620 (b)), nor is it endorsed by Cornell University or the American Association of People with Disabilities.

Speakers

The panel is led by Peter Thomas, a co-chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Health Care Task Force and long-time leading health policy advocate in the disability community, and Day al-Mohammed, a co-chair of the CCD Rights Task Force and active blogger on disability and health policy issues.

Our two reactors from the disability community are Ari Ne'eman, President and Founder of the Autistic Self-Advocacy Network and Barbara Kornblau, who has been spearheading health reform activities for the Special Olympics and is active in a number of disability and civil rights coalitions working on the issue.

For more information contact:

Erika L. Eckstrom, Administrative Support
Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute
201 Dolgen Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3901

Tel: (607) 254-8311
Email: ee224@cornell.edu
Recent Publications


Agenda

National Health Care Reform: What the Disability Community Needs from the Current Effort to Advance Our Employment Agenda

Friday, May 22, 2009 - 10:00am-12:00pm
Cornell University, Government Affairs Office
Hall of States, Room 333
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Welcome & Introduction

Andrew J. Imparato, American Association of People with Disabilities
Susanne M. Bruyère, Cornell University, Employment and Disability Institute

Panel

Peter W. Thomas, Principal, Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, P.C.
Day al Mohamed, Sr. Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer, American Psychological Association
Ari Ne’eman, Founding President, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Barbara Kornblau, Special Olympics
**Peter Thomas**, a principal at Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville, has a federal law and legislative practice in the areas of health care, rehabilitation, disability, and employment. He currently focuses his practice on health care reform, rehabilitation research appropriations, and Medicare coverage and reimbursement policy, specializing in assistive technology such as artificial limbs and orthopedic braces.

Mr. Thomas served as Chair of the Subcommittee on Consumer Rights, Protections, and Responsibilities of the President’s Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, where he was responsible for shepherding the Patients Bill of Rights through the Commission for presentation to President Clinton. He also served on the Advisory Boards of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) as well as the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at NIH. He currently serves as co-chair of the Health Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a Washington-based working coalition of 120 national disability-related organizations and has personal experience with disability.

**Day Al-Mohamed** currently serves as a Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer with the American Psychological Association (APA). She manages APA’s legislative and regulatory activities related to public interest policy issues in the arenas of Disability and Ethnic Minorities. This involves influencing policy-making activity on Capitol Hill and regulatory activities in the federal agencies; developing and implementing strategies for enhancing the utilization of psychological research to advance public interest issues. She is a member of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Board of Directors and serves as a co-chair on the CCD Civil Rights Task Force. She is an active member of several other Task Forces including Emergency Preparedness, Education and Health.

In her previous position, she served as Director for the American Council of the Blind’s Department of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs providing expertise and information in the form of technical assistance and support to both consumers and various advisory committees and governing bodies on legislative and regulatory issues relating to such varied subjects as: the Telecommunications Act, Voting System Guidelines, Broadband Technical Specifications, Pedestrian Rights of Way, Social Security Privatization concerns and Emergency Preparedness.


Before her legislative work here in Washington DC, Ms. Al-Mohamed's career has included work in advocacy and legislative initiatives on behalf of many disenfranchised groups. She has worked on the planning committee for the Civil Rights Group of the Cambio de Colores conference; the largest conference that directly addresses the various issues faced by Latino immigrants to the Midwest. Prior to that, she was a representative of the ISC-ICC to the Preparatory Commission of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the United Nations, reporting on the activities of the Victim's Trust Fund Working Group which addressed the needs of victims of genocide on a global scale.

Ari Ne’eman is the Founding President of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, a non-profit organization of adults and youth on the autism spectrum. He is currently studying Political Science at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County as a Sondheim Scholar of Public Affairs.

Ari is an Asperger’s autistic and has been active in the autistic culture, neurodiversity and disability rights movements. He first became involved in self-advocacy as a high school student, arguing for his own inclusion and access to high level academic coursework. He later became involved in disability and education policy advocacy.

He recently served as the Patricia Morrissey Disability Policy Fellow at the Institute for Educational Leadership. Ari is on the board of TASH and the Autism National Committee and is currently the Vice Chair of the New Jersey Adults with Autism Task Force. Ari served as the Policy Workgroup Leader for the Youth Advisory Council to the National Council on Disability, the Public Policy Chair for the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education and a member of the Steering Committee of the New Jersey Olmstead Implementation and Planning Advisory Council advising the NJ Department of Human Services on de-institutionalizing adults with developmental disabilities in the wake of the landmark Olmstead v. L.C. Supreme Court case.

Amongst other things, his advocacy work has included coordinating the campaign to stop the NYU Child Study Center’s Ransom Notes ad campaign, achieving representation for autistic self-advocates in numerous state policymaking bodies and arranging for the inclusion of Augmentative and Assistive Communication (AAC) technology in the insurance mandate component of the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act. In his capacity as...
President of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, he organizes social/support networks for youth and adults on the autism spectrum, promotes self-advocate involvement in the policymaking process and regularly presents and advises on issues relating to the autism spectrum, disability policy, special education and the neurodiversity movement.

Barbara L. Kornblau, JD, OTR/L, FAOTA, DAAPM, ABDA, CDMS, CCM, is a Professor of Public Health and Occupational Therapy and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Nova Southeastern University, and a Past President of the American Occupational Therapy Association.

As the recipient of the prestigious Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship (2006-2007), she worked for Senators Harkin and Rockefeller on health and disability issue. She provides consultation in health and disability policy to Special Olympics. Her law practice focuses on health and disability law. She has lectured nationally and internationally about health policy, ethical and legal issues in healthcare, pain management, work rehabilitation, autism spectrum disorders, case management, and interventions to promote participation and quality of life.

She has published over 150 publications, including books, book chapters, peer-reviewed papers, and other publications in occupational therapy, law, health and disability policy, work rehabilitation, pain management, and case management, and is co-editor of the book Work: Principles and practices.

She is the parent of 6 adult children with disabilities.


