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Folder Title:
Disability Task Force

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	26	7	2	3

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

LoLo –

This is at 10:30 tomorrow AM – Thurs. I told them to come to your office. Pls explain this to her before they if you need me to –

Tracey

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Jo Jo —
This is the
Disability policy
review SSD. We
need to talk
about it.
Tracy

DRAFT ONLY -- NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION

"We must not rest until America has a national disability policy based on three simple creeds: inclusion, not exclusion; independence, not dependence; and empowerment, not paternalism." Bill Clinton, 1992

Today, more than at any other time in our Nation's history, increasing numbers of Americans with disabilities are realizing their birthright: Leading lives that are central to the vibrancy of their families, communities and country. Families, young people, and adults with disabilities have consistently rejected society's low estimation of their worth -- a far greater barrier than any common limitation of body or mind. Along with Congress, the White House, State Houses, and the judiciary, they have worked to achieve the same rights and equal opportunities available to all Americans. These individuals, their families, and allies from across our political spectrum have redefined both what it means to have a disability in America and be a full, first class United States citizen as well.

To reflect the rich heterogeneity and diversity of the 49 million Americans with disabilities, the guiding principles in designing our public policy affecting Americans with disabilities must necessarily be broad and universal. Such principles can both refine our ideals and test future specific policy proposals against those ideals and the real-world constraints we face. This draft is intended to begin a national conversation to achieve consensus on how oft-stated goals of inclusion, empowerment, and independence will be realized.

Americans with disabilities and their families are focusing on the same crucial life goals which have become synonymous with the responsibilities and the very meaning of good citizenship:

- Getting a good education;
- Gaining a decent job for a decent living and pursuing a career;
- Finding ways to contribute to our family, community and nation: and,
- Raising our children to the best of abilities and drawing upon the needed support of our family, friends and community to do so.

Individuals with disabilities and their families are thus shaping a better life and future both for themselves and for our country as a whole. Theirs is an American success story in progress. It is one which all Americans can identify with, aspire to and work together to help realize more fully.

Due in large part to their efforts, passage of key legislation, beginning at the State level in the early 1970's, and later at

the federal level, in the areas of educational access, barrier free design and employment opportunities, opened doors which had been slammed shut for decades:

- In 1975, an estimated two million children with disabilities received a totally inadequate education or were barred from attending the public schools, altogether. Today, 5 million students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education, many alongside their nondisabled classmates.

- In 1967, around 200,000 Americans with developmental disabilities lived in large state institutions under some of the most degrading and deplorable conditions ever known in our nation. Today, over 375,000 of these individuals and others like them are supported in family or community settings. Approximately 75,000 residents, however, still live in State institutions.

- Throughout the 60's, 70's and even the 80's, it was common for people with disabilities to be routinely denied access to their community's schools, swimming pools, banks restaurants and even to the voting booth. Today, these acts are now not only illegal but unconscionable in the hearts and minds of Americans of every race, region and political persuasion.

Laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 and the Technology-Related Assistance Act have challenged age-old myths and stereotypes, creating hope and opportunity in the everyday lives of Americans with disabilities and many others throughout our country.

A strong legislative foundation exists to strengthen the abilities of people with disabilities to exercise their rights and responsibilities as citizens to:

- live as independently as possible;
- enjoy self-determination;
- make choices;
- pursue meaningful careers; and,
- participate fully in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of society.

Building upon this foundation will not be easy, however. Despite progress in assuring equal opportunities and promoting independence for Americans with disabilities, significant gaps and contradictions exist in a wide array of federal policies and programs that affect the daily lives of these citizens.

In its historic report, **Towards Independence**, the National Council on Disability underscored a disturbing truth:

> With surprising consistency, the branches of American Government, disabled individuals and their families ... have

agreed that the overall goal of the nation in regard to persons with disabilities is to insure the rights of such individuals to equality of opportunity and to independence.

Confusion and inconsistency have resulted, not from lack of consensus about the goal, but from the historical and continuing failure to structure and administer some Federal laws and programs in such a way as to reflect and further the national goal.... Federal programs and laws that should serve as paths toward this goal have often deviated or even retreated from it.

One of the most critical challenges we face, therefore, as a Nation and a people is to steer a clearer, steadier course towards independence and inclusion. This means that the Executive and the Congress must work together with the States, people with disabilities, their families and allies, and the American public as well to:

- strengthen and learn from public policies and programs which provide people with disabilities and their families access to supports and reasonable accommodations which increase their capabilities to live lives of their own choosing and direction; and,

- redirect laws and programs which infringe upon the rights and abilities of such citizens to lead full and productive lives.

Americans with disabilities and their families are no longer looking to their Federal, State or local government to simply take care of them as government has tried to do and fallen far short of doing in the past. Instead, these citizens expect something far more profound of government at all levels: They expect their government to care deeply about their individual hopes and aspirations; their fears and worst nightmares; and, to support their efforts to be independent to the greatest extent possible.

This approach will require a fundamental break with many paternalistic and destructive policies, programs and practices of the past and present. The Executive and Congress should work hand in hand with Americans with disabilities and their families to review and overhaul Federal laws and programs that affect their lives. This effort should be guided by the following fundamental principles and truths, regarding the needs, rights and abilities of Americans with disabilities:

- Historically, people with disabilities have been subjected to pernicious and pervasive discrimination and prejudice in every aspect of their lives.

- Continuing unfair and unnecessary discrimination and prejudice denies people with disabilities the opportunity to compete on an equal basis and costs the United States

billions of dollars in unnecessary expenses resulting in dependance and nonproductivity.

- The Nation's proper goals regarding individuals with disabilities are to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for such individuals.

- Strong, effective and fair enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act Amendments, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act can help to eradicate discrimination against Americans with disabilities and strengthen our Nation's communities and economy.

- For some individuals with disabilities, lifelong access to needed supports, like personal assistance and assistive technology, is critical. In fact, for millions of Americans with disabilities, it is the only thing that can begin to tear down the walls of myths, prejudices and stereotypes, which would otherwise inhibit or prevent them from leading full and productive lives.

- All children, regardless of the level of their disabilities, belong with and do best with families. There is a clear national interest in supporting the efforts of families with children with disabilities to raise their sons and daughters at home and to include them in every facet of family and community life.

- Young infants and toddlers with disabilities have a right to receive early intervention and childhood development services along with their nondisabled playmates.

- All children with disabilities have the right to receive and benefit from a free and appropriate public education in an integrated, well-supported classroom suited to their needs.

- Inclusive education works best for children with and without disabilities when all students and their teachers receive the support they need to learn from each other and excel both at school and in life.

- The role of public education is the same for students with and without disabilities alike: to challenge them to do their best, to develop to their fullest potential, and to assume their rightful roles and responsibilities as productive and contributing members of their families, communities and Nation.

- Given the unnecessarily high rates of unemployment and under-employment of working-age Americans with disabilities, effective school-to-work strategies must be developed to offer young people with disabilities the opportunities, skills and support they need to gain work experience, a

positive work history, increased self-confidence and success.

- Welfare Reform, the School-to-Work initiative and AmeriCorp National Service efforts create crucial opportunities to assist young Americans, with and without disabilities, to gain first-time job, internship and volunteer community service experiences, together.

- It should pay for Americans with disabilities to seek out and gain meaningful employment in our economy. Accordingly, Social Security and Federal tax policies should create real incentives rather than disincentives for working-age individuals with disabilities to work and to pursue careers.

- The fear of losing Federal health benefits, and access to such vital supports as personal assistance, is often cited by disabled Americans as a major reason why they either have never worked or do not want to "risk" returning to work. It is imperative that such massive disincentives to employment be eliminated from Federal law, policies and programs.

- If given the chance and the needed support, many more working-age Americans with disabilities can make work pay off in their lives. However, substantial numbers of these individuals will require on-going income support as well as access to community-based supports, personal assistance and assistive technology services.

- Welfare Reform presents critical opportunities for the Federal government and the States to develop effective strategies for addressing the links between race, minority status, disability, and pervasive poverty in our country.

- States are developing community services that are cost effective and responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and families. Often, however, these States must seek waivers from current Federal Medicaid rules to do what is right. Such underlying policies and practices should be examined and remedied.

- States need flexibility to work with people with disabilities and their families to fashion responsive solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation.

(f:\...cbw\npr.sh) (end)

NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY REVIEW

WORKGROUP ON EMPLOYMENT OF WORKING-AGE ADULTS

CHARTER

The workgroup's purpose must be consistent with the charter and guiding principles of the National Disability Policy Review.

Specifically, the workgroup will:

- **Review and analyze the current employment status of adults with disabilities;**
- **Review and analyze current Federal policy and programs with employment-related responsibilities;**
- **Review the concordance of disability employment policy with overall Federal employment policy;**
- **Make recommendations for improving and enhancing the Federal approach toward creating opportunity for employment of people with disabilities. These recommendations should address:**
  - *** Work disincentives;**
  - *** Income support policy;**
  - *** Consistency of overall approach;**
  - *** Pre-employment and employment programs;**
  - *** Enforcement of anti-discrimination laws;**
  - *** Education and re-employment programs.**

NATIONAL DISABILITY POLICY REVIEW

Work Group on Employment of Working-Age Adults

Workplan

First meeting 12/19/94

First report to full Team 12/21/94

Revision of the Principles due 01/06/95

- Gather input from other members
- Refine, rewrite

Individual agency inputs due 01/06/95

- Data and discussion of current status
- Description of ongoing initiatives
- Options for incremental improvement
- Legislative and other strategies

Second meeting 01/11/95

Third meeting 01/25/95

Fourth meeting 02/08/95

To be continued....

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Date: 12/21/94

To: Tracey Thornton
fax 66204

From: Holly Gwin
202-456-2735, FAX 202-456-6049

Subject: National Bioethics Advisory Commission

Pages: Cover + 6

Comments: **Kathy Hudson and I would like to meet with you tomorrow morning at 10:00. Your office or mine? (I'm in OEOB 428.5) We think we'll need to make contact with: Hatfield, Kennedy, Kassebaum, Glenn, Domenici, Markey, and Condit. We need your advice on approach, etc.**

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

December 21 1994

MEMORANDUM TO DISTRIBUTION

From: ANGELA PHILLIPS DIAZ
NSTC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Subject: Review of revised charter for the National Biocthics Advisory Commission
Ref: December 29, 1994 10:30 am OEOB Room 472

OSTP, in consultation with members of the NSTC, developed a proposal to create a standing body of experts to consider bioethical issues arising from research on human biology and behavior, and the applications of such research. A draft charter for the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) was published on August 12 in the Federal Register; 78 letters, providing comments and/or nominations for NBAC, were received.

A sampling of the major comments are referenced below:

- the scope of NBAC's deliberations should be more clearly defined with respect to health care issues such as access, quality, and financing of health care;
- the scope of NBAC's deliberations should be more clearly defined with respect to issues in clinical ethics, such as assisted suicide, futile care, and end of life issues;
- NBAC should have greater independence from NSTC;
- the staffing and funding levels proposed may not be adequate;
- the relationship between NBAC and other entities should be clarified.

In addition, we received many specific suggestions about specific types of expertise that should be represented on the panel and many suggested topics for NBAC deliberation.

In response to public comment, several changes have been made in the charter. A revised draft is attached for your review.

We will be meeting December 29, at 10:30 am in Room 472 of the Old Executive Office Building to discuss the revised charter and the next steps in establishing NBAC. The charter will be transmitted to NSTC principals for review prior to transmission of the final proposal to the President (who has recently indicated his intention to move forward with NBAC). Therefore, please initiate the necessary steps within your agency/department to inform the appropriate parties of the process we are following and be prepared to represent your agency/department's views on additional revisions to the proposed charter.

Please contact Holly Gwin, (202) 456-2735, if you have questions prior to the meeting. Please call Laurel Kayse at (202) 456-6100 by December 28th to confirm your attendance.

Attachment

Distribution
Tara O'Toole, DOE
Martha Krebs, DOE
Dan Drell, DOE
Harry Holloway, NASA
Patrick Glynn, DOJ
D.A. Henderson, HHS
Kathy Hudson, HHS
Gary Ellis, HHS
Ruth Kirschstein, NIH
Francis Collins, NIH
Jerry Mande, FDA
Susan Mather, VA
David Law, VA
Gordon Soper, DOD
Mary Clutter, NSF

DRAFT

NATIONAL BIOETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION REVISED CHARTER

Purpose

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission will provide advice and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council, other appropriate entities and the public, on bioethical issues from research on human biology and behavior, and the applications of that research.

Authority

42 U.S.C. 6617(a)(2). This Commission is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation of advisory committees, and implementing regulations (41 C.F.R. § 101-6.10).

Functions

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the National Science and Technology Council and other appropriate entities, and also make their advice and recommendations available to the public. The Commission's purview includes the appropriateness of departmental, agency, or other governmental programs, policies, assignments, missions, guidelines, and regulations as they relate to bioethical issues arising from research on human biology and behavior, and applications of that research. The Commission shall identify broad, overarching principles to govern the ethical conduct of research, citing individual projects only as illustrations for such principles. The Commission shall not be responsible for the review and approval of individual projects.

As a first priority, the Commission will direct its attention to consideration of:

A. Issues in the management and use of genetic information; and

B. Protection of the rights and welfare of research subjects.

In receiving and responding to requests for advice and recommendations from the National Science and Technology Council, the Commission shall consider four criteria in establishing priority for its activities:

A. The public health or public policy urgency of the bioethical issue.
B. The relation of the bioethical issue to the goals for Federal investment in science and technology.
C. The absence of another body able to fruitfully deliberate on the bioethical issue.
D. The extent of interest in the issue across the government. (The Commission ordinarily will not deliberate on a bioethical issue of interest to just one department or agency.)

The Commission also shall have the authority to identify bioethical issues, on its own behalf, for deliberation. The Commission will accept suggestions of issues for consideration from Federal agencies, Congress and the public. The Commission's decision to deliberate on a specific topic shall be made in consultation with the National Science and Technology Council. In all such instances, the four stated criteria for establishing priority shall pertain.

Structure

The National Bioethics Advisory Commission shall consist of not more than 15 members including the Chairperson. Appointments shall be made by the President, who shall select from knowledgeable non-Government experts and community representatives with special qualifications and competence to deal effectively with bioethical issues of concern to the participating departments and agencies. At least one member shall be selected from each of the following categories of primary expertise: (i) bioethics [redacted]/theology; (ii) social/behavioral science; (iii) law; (iv) medicine/allied health professions; and (v) biological research. At least three members shall be selected from the general public, bringing to the Commission expertise other than that listed. The membership shall be approximately evenly balanced between scientists and non-scientists. [redacted] geographic distribution and to ethnic and gender representation.

Members shall be appointed for overlapping four-year terms. Initially, members will be appointed for two-, three- or four-year terms. Terms of more than two years are contingent upon renewal of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission by appropriate action prior to its termination. The Chairperson shall be appointed by the President. The term of office for the Chairperson shall be two years, renewable by appropriate action of the President.

If a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the President shall make an appointment to fulfill the term. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed shall serve for the remainder of such term. Members may serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors have taken office.

The Commission may conduct inquiries, hold hearings and establish subcommittees, as necessary.

The Commission is authorized to conduct analyses and develop reports or other materials. In order to augment the expertise present on the Commission, the Commission is also authorized to contract for the services of non-governmental consultants who may conduct analyses, prepare reports and background papers or prepare other materials for consideration by the Commission, as appropriate.

In order to avoid duplication of effort, the Commission may, in lieu of, or as part of any of its authorized activities, incorporate the results of the deliberations of another entity as long as the Commission sets forth its reasons for doing so.

The Assistant to the President for Science and Technology shall be notified upon establishment of each subcommittee, and shall be provided information on the name, membership (including chair), function, estimated duration of the subcommittee, and estimated frequency of meetings.

Management and support services shall be provided by the Office for Protection from Research Risks, Department of Health and Human Services. Additional resources including, but not limited to personnel, office support and printing will be provided by other NSTC member agencies.

Meetings

Meetings of the Commission shall be held up to 10 times a year at the call of the Chairperson ~~with the advance approval of a Federal Government official who shall also approve the agenda~~. Meetings of the subcommittee(s) shall be convened as necessary. A Federal Government official shall be present at all meetings.

Meetings shall be open to the public except as determined otherwise by the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. Advance notice of all meetings shall be given to the public.

Meetings shall be conducted, and records of proceedings kept, as required by applicable laws and Federal regulations.

Compensation

Members may be compensated at a rate not to exceed the maximum pay authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, plus per diem and travel expenses as in accordance with standard government travel regulations.

Annual Cost Estimate

The estimated annual cost for operating the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, including compensation and travel expenses for members and contracting and publication services costs, but excluding that for staff support, is $1,500,000. The estimated annual person years of staff support [redacted] is six, at an estimated annual cost of $500,000.

Reports

Reports by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission on specific issues shall be submitted to the National Science and Technology Council, the appropriate committees of Congress, and other appropriate entities. The Commission may specifically identify the Federal department, agency or other entity to which particular recommendations are directed and request a response from the Federal department, agency or other entity within 180 days of publication of such recommendation.

Executive summaries of each report of the Commission shall be promulgated in the Federal Register. Such summaries shall specifically list the department, agency, or other entity to which any recommendations are directed and the date by which such responses are expected.

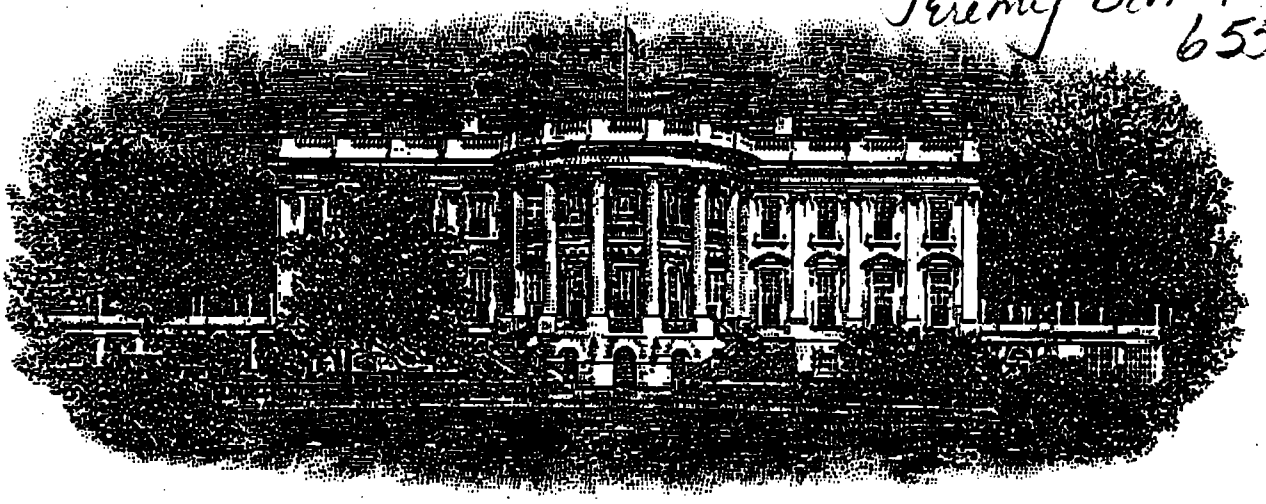
An annual report shall be submitted to the National Science and Technology Council and the appropriate committees of Congress. It shall contain, at a minimum, (i) the Commission's function; (ii) a list of members and their business addresses; (iii) the dates and places of meetings; (iv) a summary of the Commission's activities during the year; (v) a summary of the Commission's recommendations made during the year; and (vi) a summary of responses made by departments, agencies, or other entities to the Commission's recommendations during the year.

Termination Date

Unless renewed by appropriate action prior to its expiration, this National Bioethics Advisory Commission will terminate two years from the date this charter is approved.

Jr -
Meeting
Oct 11 2pm
Jeremy Ben-Ami
6558+

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20500



FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 9/28 TIME: _____

TO: TRACEY THORNTON

PHONE: ~~6-2604~~ FAX #: 6-2604

FROM: JEREMY BENAMI

PHONE: (202) 456-_____ PAGES AFTER COVER: 6

COMMENTS: We have the go-ahead to proceed with this effort from Rubin + Rasco. Will be trying to set a meeting with you for next week. Attached is still draft. Please share with Lorraine if you don't mind. Thanks.

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL RASCO AND ALICE RIVLIN

FROM Lisa Fairhall and Richard Green
Jeremy Ben-Ami and Stan Herr

SUBJECT Draft Proposal for DPC/OMB Disability Task Force

Background

You have agreed to establish a joint DPC/OMB task force to examine issues surrounding Federal and national responsibilities for providing assistance to and protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Below, we propose: a task force agenda, task force and support team composition, a time frame for task force activities, and some first organizational steps. The questions we have proposed to form the agenda for this Task Force are provisional; our initial conversations with key individuals will seek to validate their inclusion in the agenda, to determine what other issues must be addressed, and to set priorities for the Task Force.

I. PROPOSED TASK FORCE AGENDA

The Task Force should be guided by the President's credo of supporting public and private initiatives to enhance the independence and productivity of persons with disabilities. The Task Force should answer, to the extent possible, the following questions, in order to articulate and refine the Administration's overall disability policy:

National Disability Policy:

- Can we articulate a national disability policy to animate or guide Federal law and regulations?

- What is the Federal role in a national disability policy? What is the rationale for each specific Federal responsibility (e.g., constitutional right, insurance, indemnity, need)? Do the scope and nature of the responsibilities differ based on age (children vs. adults) or severity of disability?

- What are the policies and realities in other countries (e.g., Sweden, Canada, Germany) that may offer insight and direction to our policies and programs?

Federal Disability Programs:

-- How are we meeting current responsibilities? What is the current array of programs? What services/benefits are they providing? What values do they promote? How delivered? To whom? What are the gaps and overlaps? How are the Federal programs/services integrated with State and local government programs? Are there exemplary State and local government programs? How can good practices be disseminated/encouraged?

-- What do we know about the effect of each program and policy on recipients? What data are we currently collecting in each area? What do we need to answer the impact questions better?

Identifying and Implementing Change:

-- What changes are needed to program purposes and program structure to better meet current Federal responsibilities? Are we currently identifying and reaching those individuals in need of services? Are we providing the most effective array of services and benefits for the costs incurred by each level of government, the individual, and the private sector?

-- For those responsibilities identified but not addressed, what should be done, and by whom?

-- Should we revise statutes and regulations to align definitions of disability across programs? What specific impact would such revisions have on eligibility and services? How can we make sense of eligibility criteria for various programs, to minimize overlap and duplication of services and benefits, and ease administration and assessment of program performance and move each program's focus towards participant outcomes (e.g., enhanced independence, community integration, self-sufficiency, greater productivity)?

-- Should we develop a legislative strategy to integrate cash benefit programs with service programs to promote beneficiary independence and self sufficiency and reduce the need for benefits? To what extent can we test new approaches through pilot or demonstration programs before moving to national implementation?

Federal Government as a Model:

-- How well does the Federal Government serve as a model, in both employment policies and practices, and customer service? How can this be improved for the benefit of job applicants, employees, customers, and members of the general public with disabilities?

Program/Issue Areas:

Program areas to be reviewed would include (but need not be limited to):

- services to infants and toddlers
- education programs
- cash benefit programs (insurance, income assistance, and retirement)
- medical and other health programs
- social services and family supports
- school-to-work transitional services
- rehabilitation services and training
- employment services
- transportation services
- housing
- advocacy services, information and referral
- personal assistance
- civil rights enforcement
- services for older persons
- technology-related assistance
- prevention programs

The work product should take the form of a report outlining the Task Force's answers to these questions, and recommendations for further action, including actions the Administration can take through changes to regulation or funding priorities, grants and contracts, administration of the Federal Government's own internal activities (e.g., employment and customer service practices), or legislative proposals.

II. TASK FORCE COMPOSITION

We recommend the following structure for the task force:

-- The Task Force would be jointly directed by the White House and OMB, but would rely heavily on agency participation.

-- The Task Force would be headed by the two of you, as "co-chairs."

-- Each of the key agencies with an interest in disability issues (which would include at least ED, HHS, SSA, DoD, VA, OPM, DOL, HUD, and the Treasury) would be invited to participate at the policy level through designees of the agency heads, presumably Assistant Secretaries responsible for key program and policy areas. Where appropriate, more than one Assistant Secretary could be designated for an agency.

We recommend the following structure for the support team:

-- Designate "co-team leaders" from OPD/DPC and OMB staff -- these are the people who would be responsible for making the task force happen. The Co-team leaders would be responsible for organizing Task Force meetings and for directing the work of the support team.

-- Designate as additional support team members OPD/DPC and OMB staff who are currently involved in the disability area. For OMB, PADs would designate the examiners responsible for accounts funding key disability programs to be members of the support team. The Administrator of OIRA should also designate one or more staff to join the team.

-- The agencies would be asked to designate staff to participate as members of the support team. We would expect each policy official to designate two or three people from their areas to be members of the team.

-- Even though this could result in a fairly large number of staff, we envision the support team dividing into small subgroups, each tasked with researching specific areas along the lines of the proposed agenda.

We recommend that the Task Force utilize the following for advice:

-- Draw on the expertise of the three Presidential advisory councils -- the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the National Council on Disability, and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation -- in the design of the agenda and how it will be carried out. These councils could also provide the forum (formally or informally) to tap disability community sentiments.

-- Invite the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission to participate as appropriate.

-- Individuals with disabilities, members of their families, and their advocates should be consulted regularly (formally and informally).

III. TIME FRAME FOR ACTION

We recommend that the Task Force be constituted, the support team named, and the agenda (see above) agreed on by the end of October. The Task Force could be initiated at a meeting of the DPC, co-chaired by the two of you, with other appropriate department or agency heads invited. We recommend that the timeframe for this Review be lengthy enough to ensure a comprehensive and thoughtful deliberative process, and to analyze and synthesize the findings of the Task Force and support group and develop recommendations. The specific dates for interim and final reports should be determined by the Task Force. The Task Force itself would meet at least once every three months.

III. NEXT STEPS

This National Disability Policy Review is a significant undertaking, of tremendous importance to the disability community, and no doubt will be subject to a great deal of comment and scrutiny both in and out of the Administration. To get the review off on the right foot, we propose devoting time in September and early October to laying the groundwork internally and externally through a series of meetings outlined below, before the Task Force Team begins its work. This outreach and initial leg-work will improve our design and create good will by informing and involving people on the front end and ensuring avenues for communication and input throughout the process. We will take care to make very clear that the suggestions received from this outreach process will be considered in the development of the agenda, but that we do not expect every recommendation to be included.

Pending your review and approval, we would propose the following steps and schedule:

Mid-late September: We (working as a kind of DPC/OMB staff "advance team") would hold preliminary meetings with administration officials at key agencies to explore the idea of a Review, brainstorm about its structure, work plan, and agenda. With help from Mike Lux in the Office of Public Liaison and from the Office of Legislative Affairs, we would identify and meet with key advocates and Hill staff to give them advance notice and discuss avenues for their input and consultation throughout the Review.

We would also meet with the three existing Federal advisory groups whose mandate is to provide advice to the President in this area: the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the National Council on Disability, and the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

We believe it is vital to the success of the Review to ensure that there is strong ongoing communication concerning the Review with members of Congress and their staff, advocates, and persons with disabilities. The three national commissions mentioned provide a logical starting point for such communication. Based on meetings with those commissions and their staffs, the Task Force will include in its October recommendations a plan for outreach and communication regarding the Review.

Early October: The two of you present the idea for a National Disability Policy Review to a special meeting of the Domestic Policy Council, also attended by other appropriate department and agency heads (e.g., Treasury, Defense), perhaps prefaced by an abridged presentation of material and questions from the OMB Disability Review prepared this summer. You ask Secretaries to designate members of the Task Force at the Assistant or Deputy Assistant Secretary level, as well as staff level support team who will be able to devote some time to this effort. The Task Force will also be charged with providing periodic updates and interim reports to both the DPC and OMB.

Late October: Convene the first meeting of the Task Force, chaired by the two of you, where you provide the charge to the group, and present it with a proposed agenda and workplan, built on the groundwork laid at the individual agency meetings in September. You

will ask the members to react to the proposed work plan and agenda by the middle of the month.

Early November: Convene the staff level support team, to discuss and synthesize Task Force members' comments on the proposed agenda and work plan, and to prepare for Task Force meeting in late October.

At this point, the two of you may wish to review the proposed agenda, and adjust the list of issues presented so as not to risk committing the Review to more than you think it can achieve. This would help to keep expectations of what the Review will accomplish within manageable bounds.

Late November: The Task Force meets to discuss and finalize agenda, workplan, and staff structure of the Review.