

[www.disabilitypolicyseminar.org](http://www.disabilitypolicyseminar.org)



## 2012 Disability Policy Seminar

April 23-25  
Washington, D.C.

# Trainee Orientation

March 2012

Kim Musheno

Director of Legislative Affairs





# How to Ask a Question

- Type it in the ‘chat’ or ‘question’ box on your Webinar console
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Please note- we might not get to all of your questions



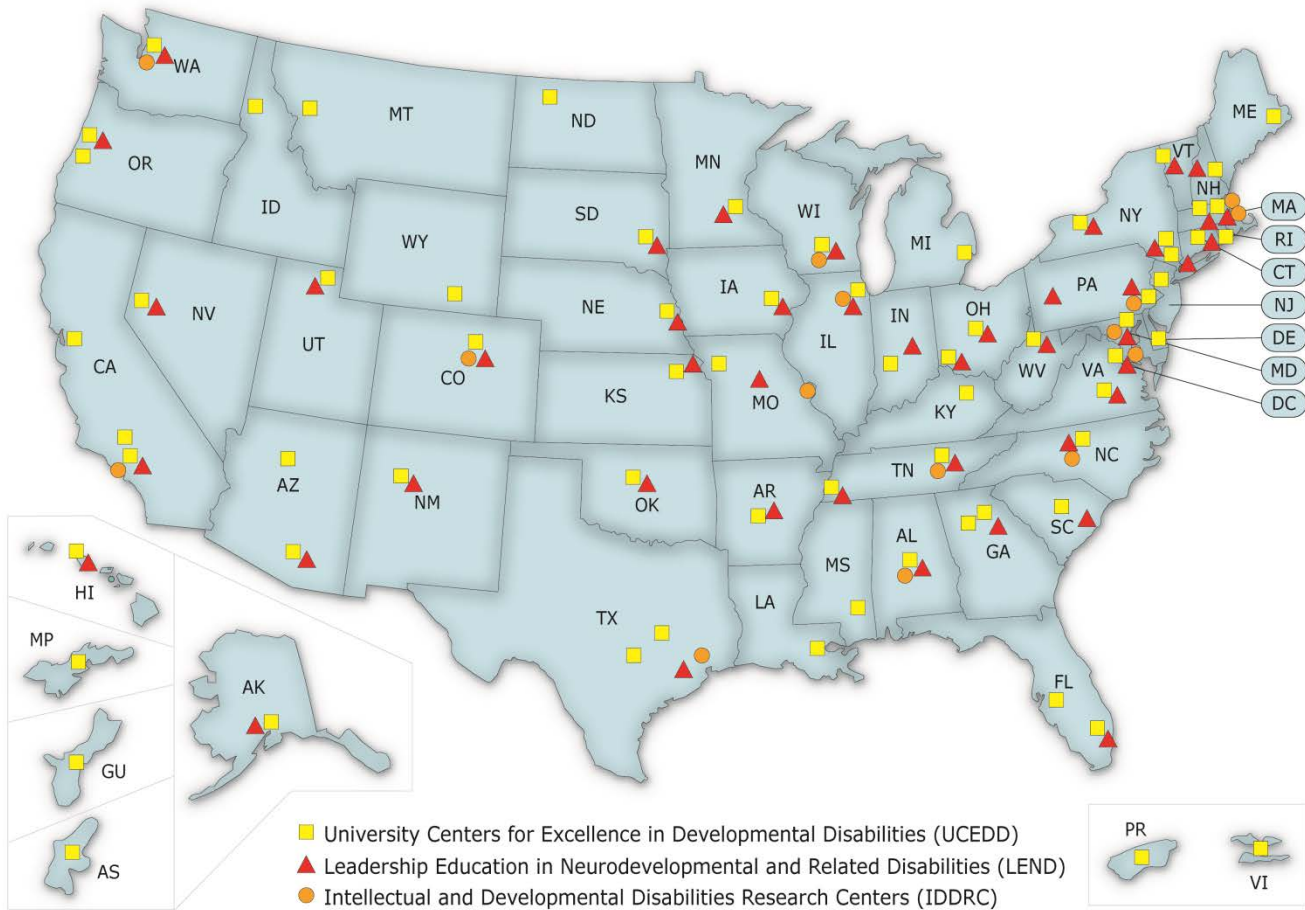
Speaker:



**Kim Musheno**  
**Director of Legislative Affairs**  
**AUCD**



# About AUCD



## Members

■ 67 UCEDD

■ 43 LEND

■ 15 IDDRC



# Legislative Affairs

- Legislative Goals developed with input from Committee, Board, and members
- Governed by Legislative Affairs Committee and Board
- Joint legislative goals with The Arc, UCP, AAIDD, NACDD and ANCOR
- Work with national coalitions
- Staff of two plus Policy Fellow



# Key Wins in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Affordable Care Act
  - Community First Choice Act
  - CLASS Act
  - Money Follows
- ARRA (Stimulus)
- FMAP increase
- Rosa's Law
- CAPTA
- 21st Century Communications Act
- President signed UN Convention
- TRAIN Act passed House
- Restraints bill passed House
- Increases to AUCD network programs in FY 2010



# Political Context for this year

- Election Year politics
- Focus on debt and deficit
- Highly partisan
  - House has slim Republican majority: 242 to 193
  - Senate has slim Democratic majority: 53 to 47
- Many new Members
- Ideological divide
- Difficult to pass anything





# Pledge to America

- Smaller, more accountable government
- Lower taxes
- Repeal and Replace Government takeover of “job-killing health care”
- Fiscal responsibility – attacks on entitlement programs
- Protecting life, American values, and the Constitution
- Providing for a robust national defense







# Key Disability Issues 112<sup>th</sup> Congress

- **Protect funding for disability programs**
- Health Care Reform protection & implementation
- Protect Medicaid and Social Security
- Developmental Disabilities Act and Family Support
- ESEA reauthorization
- Restraint & Seclusion
- Workforce Investment Act/employment



# Taking Action



# What is advocacy?

- Influencing public policy
- Seeking adequate funding
- Making sure laws are implemented
- Making sure laws are enforced
- Making sure laws are interpreted correctly





# How to advocate

Need to understand:

- Legislative process
  - How are policies made?
  - Timeline for decisions
- Who the key policymakers are
- Political Climate
- Current and Key Issues



# What can you do?

- Write letters
- Make phone calls
- Make personal visits
- Write letters to the editor
- Participate in local politics
- Organize a candidates forum
- Come to the Disability Policy Seminar



# Help us educate Congress!



- AUCD, UCP, The Arc, AAIDD, NACDD, SABE
- Employment, health, funding, education
- [disabilitypolicyseminar.org](http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org)



# What to expect

- 600 participants from The Arc, UCP, AAIDD, AUCD, and SABE
- About 200 other trainees like you
- Plenary panels on Medicaid and other entitlement programs, education & employment, and shaping our messages
- Workshops on health care, federal funding, asset development and best practices in voter registration



# What to expect - Highlights

- Sunday AUCD trainee session and reception – 4-7 p.m.
- Tuesday reception on Capitol Hill – 5:30-7:30pm
- Assistant Attorney General Tom Perez
- Sen. Tom Harkin, Chair of HELP Committee and L-HHS-ED Appropriations Subcommittee
- Ellen Nissenbaum, CBPP
- ADD Commissioner Sharon Lewis
- Henry Claypool, Office on Disability
- National Council on Disability





# Planning your Hill visits

- Make appointments with delegation for Wednesday
- Look at Committee assignments to determine priorities
- Senate HELP, Finance, Budget and Appropriations
- House Education & Workforce, Energy & Commerce, Ways and Means, Budget, Appropriations
- May coordinate with others in your state



# Hill Visits – All day April 25th



Wisconsin and Ohio trainees on Hill visits 2007



## Tips for meeting with staff or Member of Congress

- Plan ahead – who will say what? Tie personal story with policy objective
- Be on time, polite, respectful, honest
- Use Talking points; leave Fact Sheets
- Take a camera
- Don't be offended if meeting with staffer
- Follow up with thank you letter and additional info, if needed



# Resources

- AUCD: <http://www.aucd.org>
  - Public policy
  - Legislative News *In Brief*
  - Action Center:  
<http://www.aucd.org/template/capwiz.cfm>
  - Delegation: AUCD's Legislative Affairs Info. Center:  
<http://capwiz.com/aucd/dbq/officials/>
- Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD):  
<http://www.c-c-d.org>
- Policy Seminar home page for program, fact sheets, state list: [disabilitypolicyseminar.org](http://disabilitypolicyseminar.org)





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