TECHNOLOGY AND DISABILITY POLICY HIGHLIGHTS 12.3

March 2012

Overview

This month, U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey (D-MA), introduced new legislation, **The Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act of 2012 [H.R. 4087]**, regarding making information on drug labels accessible to people who are blind or have low vision. The legislation called for a working group to develop best practices, such as the use of Braille or "talking bottles" to ensure the accessibility of prescription drug labels.

In the regulatory arena, FEMA requested comments on four new working drafts of the National Planning Frameworks. The drafts, which included the Prevention, Mitigation, Response and Recovery Frameworks, outline the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and further highlight how preparedness efforts should be coordinated across stakeholders. The FCC issued a Small Entity Compliance Guide "intended to help small entities comply with new rules adopted" in the **Accessibility Act Report and Order (R&O) and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) implementing provisions of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 [WT Docket No. 96-198; CG Docket No. 10-213; CG Docket No. 10-145]**. In addition, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the FCC announced that commercial mobile service providers have until May 15, 2012 to begin notifying new customers and existing subscribers if they have elected not to transmit CMAS messages, either in whole or in part. The FCC also issued an **Order In the Matter of Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals [CG Docket No. 10-210]** which changed the reimbursement schedules for entities participating in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) from the current six months to either one, three, or six month schedules. The Office of Public Engagement has asked for stakeholders to submit comments on a strategic plan for implementation and management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which establishes standards for various accessibility aspects of Information and Communication Technology. Specifically, the Office of Public Engagement is asking stakeholders to comment on specific components of the strategic plan including "improving the management of Section 508, and increasing transparency, accountability and compliance." Lastly, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, hosted a workshop for industry leaders "to develop the ways the industry and states can meet their challenge to move all K-12 schools to interactive digital textbooks in the next five years." The workshop discussed various aspects of implementing digital textbooks including state policies, implementation policies for K-12 schools, and the development of market ready digital textbooks.

Click the headings below to link directly to a particular section.

Legislative Activities

New Legislation for Prescription Drug Labeling

02.28.12 – U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey (D-MA) introduced new legislation, **The Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act of 2012 [H.R. 4087]**, regarding making information on drug labels accessible to people who are blind or have low vision. According to Representative Markey, "No one should have to sacrifice their independence or safety to take their medication. The Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act helps turn pharmacies into partners for empowering all Americans to take full control of their health. It is another important step to ensure that individuals who are blind can fully participate in the 21st century society." The Act calls for a working group to develop best practices for pharmacies to ensure the accessibility of prescriptions. Considerations for best practices included the use of Braille, auditory aids such as "talking bottles" or radio frequency identification (RIFD) tags, large font, and high contrast printing. The Act also called for the working group to evaluate the "technical, financial, manpower, or other factors" that may impact the ability for small pharmacies to implement the best practices. [Source: U.S. Congressman Ed Markey]

Additional Information:

H.R 4087 the Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act of 2012
[http://markey.house.gov/sites/markey.house.gov/files/documents/Rx%20Labeling%20for%20the%20Blind%20bill%20text.pdf]

Regulatory Activities

FEMA Requests Comments on Revised National Planning Frameworks

03.02.12 – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released and is requesting input on four new working drafts of the National Planning Frameworks. The National Planning Frameworks were created as per Presidential Policy Directive 8, which asks "federal agencies to work with the whole community, including all levels of government, individuals and communities, businesses, nonprofit and faith-based organizations, to work together to improve national preparedness." The drafts released include the Prevention, Mitigation, Response and Recovery Frameworks. Each Framework outlines the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders and further highlights how preparedness efforts should be coordinated across stakeholders. In addition, the Frameworks include

objectives, called "core capabilities," and recommendations essential for preparedness. The core capabilities included in all Frameworks are: planning, public information and warning, and operational coordination. Communication recommendations include developing accessible message content for public information and warnings, ensuring that all communications are accessible, consistent and culturally and linguistically appropriate for all stakeholders, and ensuring that warnings are disseminated via appropriate means, including the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System and social media. According to FEMA, the current focus is "on revising the National Response Framework and developing the Prevention, Protection and Mitigation Frameworks. As each of these products are made final, federal interagency operational plans will be developed to provide guidance across the federal government to successfully implement the Frameworks." Comments on all Frameworks are due on April 2, 2012 and can be submitted to mailto:PPD8-Engagement@fema.dhs.gov. [Source: FEMA]

Additional Information:
FEMA: National Preparedness Frameworks
[http://www.fema.gov/prepared/ppd8.shtm]

Small Entity Compliance Guide for Accessible Advanced Communications Services
03.15.12 – In compliance with Section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Act of 1996, the FCC has issued a Small Entity Compliance Guide "intended to help small entities comply with new rules adopted" in the **Accessibility Act Report and Order (R&O) and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) implementing provisions of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 [WT Docket No. 96-198; CG Docket No. 10-213; CG Docket No. 10-145]**. The guide establishes how small entities are affected by the **R&O and FNPRM** especially in terms of exemptions. Currently, the FCC has temporarily exempted small entities from "the obligations of the CVAA" stating, "The temporary exemption enables the Commission to provide relief to those entities that may possibly lack legal, financial, or technical capability to comply with the Act and the Commission's rules until the Commission further develops the record to determine whether small entities should be subject to a permanent exemption and the criteria for such an exemption." Qualifying small entities are specifically exempt from "the obligation to conduct an achievability analysis, to ensure accessibility, to keep records, and to file the required annual certification." The FCC is currently seeking comment on whether the exemptions for small entities should be made permanent. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:
Small Entity Compliance Guide
[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0315/DA-12-418A1.pdf]

Wireless Emergency Alerts: Providers Must Notify Customers of their CMAS Availability

03.16.12 – The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the FCC announced that commercial mobile service (CMS) providers that have "elected not to transmit Commercial Mobile Alert System (CMAS) alerts, in whole or in part throughout their service areas" have until May 15, 2012 to begin notifying new customers and existing subscribers. The CMAS service is a voluntary program which allows CMS providers to transmit text-based emergency messages such as Presidential alerts, weather warnings and Amber Alerts to subscribers. According to FEMA, the CMAS system became operational on February 22, 2012. The rules require CMS providers that have chosen not to transmit CMAS alerts, in whole or in part, to notify existing subscribers through "an announcement amending the existing subscriber's service agreement" or via mailed notifications. New subscribers must be notified of CMAS availability at the point of sale. Customers who wish to receive CMAS alerts have the right to terminate their contracts without penalty if their provider has opted out of CMAS. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

FCC Notification Timeline

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=313053]

Strategic Plan for Section 508

03.19.12 – The Office of Public Engagement has asked for stakeholders to submit comments on a strategic plan for implementation and management of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 508 establishes standards in relation to various accessibility aspects of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) including functional performance, technical requirements, hardware and audio output functionality, real time simultaneous conversation via audio, text, and video, and product support and services. The Office of Public Engagement cited President Obama as the motive behind the strategic plan initiative stating, "His Administration has focused on enhancing our commitment to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, so that Americans outside the government can access information about their government and those working inside the government can be productive employees." Specifically, the Office of Public Engagement is asking stakeholders to comment on specific components of the strategic plan including "improving the management of Section 508, and increasing transparency, accountability and compliance." Stakeholders are asked to submit and vote on comments at http://section508.ideascale.com/a/panel.do. [Source: The White House]

Additional Information:

White House Press Release

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/03/19/implementing-section-508-improving-access-government-information-and-data-persons-di]

FCC Makes Changes to National Deaf-Blind Distribution Program

03.20.12 – The FCC issued an **Order In the Matter of Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, Section 105, Relay Services for Deaf-Blind Individuals [CG Docket No. 10-210]** regarding the reimbursement schedules for entities participating in the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP). Under the original **Order** adopted on April 4, 2011, the FCC established a two-year NDBEDP Pilot Program utilizing up to $10 million from the Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) Fund for the distribution of equipment aiding in access to telecommunications services, internet, and advanced communications services for low-income deaf-blind individuals. The program allowed for qualifying government and nonprofit entities to seek reimbursement every six months from the TRS Fund for distributed equipment. After receiving comment from qualifying entities stating that reimbursement at six month intervals was too infrequent and would "severely and profoundly limit their ability to serve eligible low-income, deaf-blind individuals in a timely manner," the FCC issued the **Order** allowing for more frequent reimbursement schedules of either every month or every three months. The new reimbursement schedules will last for the remainder of the two-year NDBEDP Pilot Program. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

Order [CG Docket No. 10-210]

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=313113]

Consumer Advisory Committee Submits EAS Recommendations

03.22.12 – The FCC's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) submitted recommendations regarding the first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) conducted on November 9, 2011. In their recommendations, the CAC stated that the FCC and FEMA should assess the effectiveness of their outreach efforts especially for people with sensory disabilities. In addition, the CAC recommended that the FCC and FEMA assess the accessibility of the alert content during the National EAS Test to help ensure the accessibility of future EAS tests for people with sensory disabilities. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

CAC Recommendations

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=313166]

FCC and Department of Education Host Digital Textbook Workshop

03.29.12 –FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, hosted a workshop "to develop the ways the industry and states can meet their challenge to move all K-12 schools to interactive digital textbooks in the next five years." The workshop brought together industry leaders from education technology who helped develop many actions toward the implementation of digital textbooks, including steps to "establish model policies for states that allow for deployment of

digital textbooks," the development of a blueprint by the Leading Education by Advancing Digital (LEAD) Commission for "K-12 schools to make the transition to interactive digital textbooks in five years," and steps to challenge developers to create market ready digital textbook products. In his speech at the workshop, Genachowski highlighted that although the workshop was able to discuss many important factors of digital textbooks including the "affordability, content, interoperability, connectivity, technology and state policies," some facets of digital textbooks were not able to be discussed, such as "accessibility for students with disabilities." [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:
Digital Textbook Workshop
[http://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-chairman-and-ed-sec-discuss-digital-textbooks-edtech-leaders]
Remarks by Chairman Genachowski
[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=313314]

FCC Issues New Rules for Closed Captioning
03.30.2012 – In January, the FCC issued a **Report and Order (R&O) In the Matter of Closed Captioning of Internet Protocol (IP)-Delivered Video Programming: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010 [MLB Docket No. 11-154]** to implement rules governing closed captioning for previously televised video programming delivered using internet protocol (IP). On March 30, the rules were published by the Federal Registrar. Thus all rules, except for those which require approval by the Office of Management and Budget, will become effective on April 30, 2012. The **R&O** outlined requirements for owners, providers, and distributors of IP delivered video programming as well as manufacturers of devices used to display such content. The **R&O** specifies that not only must owners of video content provide caption files to distributors and providers, but that such captions must maintain at least the same quality of television captions even after distribution. When the **R&O** was released, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski noted its importance stating, "When videos are captioned, deaf and hard of hearing students can learn alongside hearing students. Hearing students see how words are spelled and the visual text reinforces the message that they hear. All of this helps them learn how to read and write. Out in the community, the information flows much more freely and everyone benefits at home, at school, in the workplace and anywhere that people meet." [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:
FCC Public Notice
[http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db0330/DA-12-505A1.pdf]
Report and Order [MLB Docket No. 11-154]
[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=311981]

ODEP Releases Report for Accessible Technology in the Workplace

03.08.12 – The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) released a report entitled "Framework for Designing and Implementing Accessible Information and Communication Technology Strategic Plans." The report provides eight action steps "to help employers (including government contractors) design, purchase, lease, maintain and use ICT that is accessible to and usable by people with disabilities and others." The eight steps include understanding the needs of people with disabilities, understanding the Federal standards of accessibility, understanding how accessible technology can benefit the whole business, not just those with disabilities, and implementing a strategy to include formal policies concerning accessible ICT. The report also includes a benchmarking tool to aid businesses in self-assessing the accessibility of their ICT and to provide the basis for the creation of a strategic plan for incorporation of accessible ICT. Currently, the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is 13 percent compared to 8.6 percent of people without disabilities. ODEP's report "facilitates the identification of strategies and practices that employers may want to adopt to enhance employment opportunities for qualified individuals with disabilities through accessible ICT." [Source: Office of Disability Employment Policy]

Additional Information:

ODEP Report

[http://www.dol.gov/odep/pdf/20120224FDIA-ICT-StrategicPlans.pdf]

Broadband Adoption Rates Plateau

03.21.12 – "Broadband Adoption in 2012: Little Movement Since '09 and Stakeholders Can Do More to Spur Adoption," a report examining the rate of broadband adoption in the home was released by TechNet. The report highlights that home broadband adoption has plateaued since 2009, when 65% of Americans had broadband in their home. TechNet cites high cost and the economic recession as two causes of the plateau. In the report, TechNet also states that broadband adoption has not plateaued due to smartphone use. Instead, the report cites a Pew survey indicating that 83% of smartphone users have adopted broadband in their homes. TechNet also notes that while including smartphone-only users would increase current broadband adoption rates from 65% to 73%, smartphones provide limited broadband access at slower speeds suggesting that broadband access via a smartphone is not comparable to home access. The report also highlights the importance of broadband adoption to reduce the impacts of digital exclusion, such as a lack of job prospects, healthcare monitoring, and general convenience, and recommends the coordination and assessment of broadband adoption programs to determine the best practices of these programs, as well as effectiveness of the current broadband infrastructure. [Source: TechNet]

Additional Information:

Broadband Adoption in 2012

[http://www.technet.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/TechNet-NBP-Broadband-Report-3-20-2012-FINAL1.pdf]

Other Items of Interest

New Free Accessibility App from Code Factory

03.01.12 – The Code Factory announced that their Wireless Accessibility App, previously $99, is now free to Sprint, Virgin Mobile USA and Boost Mobile customers who have an Android 2.1+ smartphone. The app increases accessibility for blind and visually impaired customers with features such as touch navigation, easy to input text and voice synthesis. Essentially, the app acts as a "suite of 10 accessible applications," including phone, texting, mobile web, and GPS. Touch navigation works by users simply moving their "fingers around the screen and the voice synthesis will read the text located under the finger" utilizing the Nuance Vocalizer voice synthesis. In addition, the app features "speech recognition to write text quickly and easily." The app is currently available in both English and Spanish. [Source: Code Factory]

Additional Information:

OMVC Press Release

[http://www.cisionwire.com/omvc/r/first-public-demonstration-of-mobile-emergency-alert-system--harnesses-power-of-mobile-dtv-terrestri,c9205004]

New NIDRR Funding Opportunities

03.07.12 – The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology has announced an Electronic Health Records (EHR) Accessibility Module Challenge inviting developers to compete for a prize of $60,000. Participants are asked to "to create and test a module or application that makes it easy for disabled consumers to access and interact with the health data stored in their EHRs." Submissions must be fully compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0), Section 508 Standards, and standards contained in Section 255 of the Communications Act. Statistics indicate that people with disabilities are four times as likely to suffer from poor health when compared to people without disabilities. Therefore, according to the Office of the National Coordinator, access to accessible and usable Health Information Technology can "hold great promise in improving the health outcomes and coordination of care for people with disabilities. The disabled population cannot afford to miss out on the multitude of benefits that can be derived from having access to the health information stored in EHRs just because existing tools are not compliant with their needs." Submissions for the challenge are due on July 24, 2012 and the winners will be announced on August 13, 2012. [Source: Challenge.gov]

Additional Information:

Challenge.gov

[http://challenge.gov/ONC/300-ehr-accessibility-module-challenge]

White House Champions of Change Program Accepting Nominations

03.26.12 – The White House Champions of Change program has announced that they are accepting nominations specifically highlighting "individuals, schools or companies that are making a positive impact in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for people with disabilities in the areas of employment and education." Nominations will be considered by the Office of Public Engagement to be honored at their weekly "Winning the Future" event, where White House Policy Officers participate to discuss best practices in the topic area. Examples of work for potential White House Champions of Change include "advancing educational opportunities for people with disabilities in STEM, promoting STEM opportunities for people with disabilities, and inventing STEM products for people with disabilities. Submissions are due by April 7, 2012 and can be submitted at the following website: white-house-champions-change-science-technology-engineering-and-math-stem-people-disabilitie. [Source: The White House]

Additional Information:

White House Champions of Change

[white-house-champions-change-science-technology-engineering-and-math-stem-people-disabilitie]

Wireless RERC Updates

Wireless RERC Testifies Before U.S. Access Board

03.01.12 – Helena Mitchell presented the testimony of the Wireless RERC regarding the U.S. Access Board's **Second Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (2nd ANPRM) [Docket No. 2011-07 or RIN No. 3014-AA37]** at the 27th Annual CSUN Conference. The **ANPRM** asked for comments addressing information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility standards issued under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and additional guidelines issued under Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The proposed guidelines and requirements include various accessibility aspects of ICT including functional performance, technical requirements, hardware and audio output functionality, real time simultaneous conversation via audio, text, and video, and product support and services. The Wireless RERC testimony presented a number of recommendations including that the Access Board explicitly include the World Wide Web Consortium's Mobile Web Best Practices guide as a resource for making mobile content accessible; that the guidelines include speech input as a user control for ICT; and that in addition to Braille instructions, voice recognition be included to initiate speech mode for ICT. The Wireless RERC also recommended that ICT should not be subject to "equivalent facilitation," but instead the guidelines should ensure that people with disabilities are included in research and development of ICT to ensure accessibility and universal

design is built into the device, suggesting that this inclusion would alleviate the need for retrofitting and aftermarket add-ons to achieve accessibility. [Source: U.S. Access Board, Wireless RERC]

Additional Information:

Wireless RERC Testimony

U.S. Access Board Press Release

[http://www.access-board.gov/news/ict-draft-rule.htm]

2nd Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making

[http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/refresh/draft-rule.htm]

Industrial Design Student Projects to Address Universal Design in the Wireless World

03.19.12 – Jim Mueller kicked off the 2012 "Getting Wireless: Exploring Universal Design in Wireless Technologies" student design project with a presentation on universal design to 40 second-year industrial design students at Virginia Tech. From March 19 - April 6, student teams at Virginia Tech will develop solutions for the wireless customer personas created based on data collected through the Wireless RERC's Survey of User Needs (SUN). On March 26, Jim presented the project to 24 third-year industrial design students at Georgia Tech. Students' solutions at both schools will include 3D models of wireless handsets and storyboards for applications to enhance the use and usability of these devices.

View the Universal Design Presentation here:

Universal Design Presentation

Wireless RERC Comments on Test of National EAS System

03.22.12 – The Wireless RERC filed ex parte comments with the FCC regarding the national test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) conducted on November 9, 2011. The comments were submitted in the form of the Wireless RERC's **Report on the National EAS Test On-line Survey and Focus Group Findings.** From November 2, 2011 through November 18, 2011, the Wireless RERC conducted two surveys, one prior to the November 9th national EAS test and the other following the test. Four hundred and three (403) people responded to the pre and post-EAS test surveys. The surveys evaluated responses from people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have low vision in order to understand the effectiveness of EAS for people with sensory disabilities. In addition, on November 9th during the actual tests, 22 people with sensory disabilities participated in focus groups held at Public Broadcasting Atlanta (PBA). The ex parte comments reported the data, analyses and findings from the surveys and focus groups. The nationwide test of EAS revealed technical, policy and practice related challenges. The focus groups and surveys showed a number of access barriers including inconsistent use of audio, a lack of a visual alert mechanism and text crawl that was difficult to read due to size and speed. Respondents and participants with hearing loss found that the national EAS test message was not fully accessible, reporting problems with the attention signal and audio quality.

Regarding policy and practice, the voluntary nature of the system resulted in the inconsistent implementation of the rules and regulations regarding state and local participation in EAS. Some recommendations for improving the accessibility of EAS delivered over television and radio include: (1) Always provide audio and visual formats of alert content for all types of alerts (weather, Amber, presidential, free text). (2) Standardize the appearance of EAS messages. (3) Incorporate pre-recorded or rapidly assembled ASL video translation of message content. And (4) include a visual alert mechanism such as a screen flash.
[Source: WirelessRERC]

Additional Information:
Wireless RERC Ex Parte Comments
[http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=7021902859]

Upcoming Events
Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference
The 2012 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held from April 9 – 11 at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center in Tacoma, Washington. The conference will discuss "cutting-edge information on subjects such as business continuity planning, school safety, public heath preparedness, homeland security, and public information."

Additional Information:
Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference
[https://www.cm.wsu.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=25597&]

International CTIA Wireless Conference
CTIA, The Wireless Association will host its annual conference from May 8 – 10, 2012 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference annually hosts over 40,000 attendees, 1,000 exhibitors and many prominent speakers.

Additional Information:
2012 International CTIA Wireless
[http://www.ctiawireless.com/]

FCC to Host Digital Showcase
The FCC will be celebrating National Library Week by partnering with the FCC Technology Experience Center to host a digital showcase celebration on April 11, 2012. The showcase will be honoring those libraries which have established "24/7 cyberspace branch libraries." In addition, the FCC Technology Experience Center will offer "library-specific experiences for accessing content, using devices, and

reviewing application solutions." Manufacturers or vendors interested in participating in this event are asked to contact Lisa Leyser, the FCC Library Director at mailto:lisa.leyser@fcc.gov or at 202.418.0450 by April 2, 2012.

Additional Information:
FCC Digital Showcase
[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/index.do?document=312742]

CATEA Open House
The Center for Assistive Technology and Environmental access will be hosting an open house in partnership with the Aware Home Research Initiative, Happy Healthy Home Class, and the Wireless RERC. The open house will take place on April 17, 2012 at three locations on the Georgia Tech campus: the Aware Home, the CATEA building and the Institute for Paper Science and Technology. The event will showcase "interdisciplinary and collaborative research on design and technology to promote health, active lifestyles, and societal participation of people with all ages and abilities."

Additional Information:
CATEA Open House
[http://www.healatgt.org/]

The Disability Seminar
The Arc, the "largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families," will be hosting The Disability Policy Seminar in Washington, DC from April 23-25, 2012. The Seminar will discuss policies surrounding intellectual and developmental disabilities and offers participants "the opportunity to come together, become educated on the issues, and take the initiative to speak with your elected officials about what is important to you."

Additional Information:
The Disability Seminar
[http://www.thearc.org/page.aspx?pid=2173]

The End of the Phone System Workshop
The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania will be hosting an Experts' Workshop entitled "The End of the Phone System" from May 16 – 18, 2012 held at the Wharton School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The event will focus on presentations that address the potential obsolescence of the legacy phone system due to the technological migration to wireless and Internet protocol communications.

Additional Information:

The End of the Phone System

[http://www.cci.utk.edu/conference/end-phone-system]

NENA Conference

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) will be hosting their annual conference at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California from June 9 – 14, 2012. The conference will discuss many public safety topics, including Next Generation 9-1-1, social networking and emergency response, and accessibility within public safety. The conference will also include an exhibit hall with over 120 "providers of emergency communications products and services."

Additional Information:

NENA2012

[http://www.nena.org/?page=NENA2012]

The Wireless Innovation Forum Conference

The Wireless Innovation Forum will be hosting a conference on Communications Technologies and Software Defined Radio (SDR-WInnComm) in Washington, DC from January 8-13, 2013. The conference will discuss "advancement of reconfigurable radio technologies from research through deployment." The Wireless Innovation Forum is currently accepting abstracts relating to research and development of SDR-WInComm, covering topics such as "next generation radio technologies, advanced wireless networks and infrastructure, software communications architecture, and standards for reconfigurable radio and supporting components." Abstracts are due April 30, 2012 and can be submitted to the following website: [https://www.edas.info/newPaper.php?c=1215943-1634].

Additional Information:

The Wireless Innovation Forum Conference

[http://conference.wirelessinnovation.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=102427&orgId=s1]

The Wireless Innovation Forum Conference: Abstract Submission

[http://conference.wirelessinnovation.org/mc/page/RandD_Call_For_Submissions]