



State of Wisconsin

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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Ensuring Equal Access to Health Care

GCPD Video Series Documents Barriers to Health Care for People with Disabilities

MADISON, WI – Access to quality, affordable health care is of critical importance to ensuring the health and well-being of every person. It is essential that every patient feels heard, supported, and respected when receiving care. But for individuals with disabilities, receiving essential health services can often come with challenges including both communication and physical access barriers.

The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) is dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of Wisconsin residents who have disabilities. As a committee of Governor-appointed volunteers with cross-disability council representation, GCPD serves to advise the Governor, state agencies, and the state legislature on issues of concern for people who have disabilities.

The GCPD #Access4All video project highlights testimonials from people with disabilities and their caregivers about the physical and communication barriers experienced in health care settings. It is critically important to listen and learn from the experiences and stories of individuals with disabilities; and to ensure patients with disabilities are afforded equal access to health care services through the provision of reasonable accommodations.

It is GCPD's hope that health care providers can use information in the recently created Emergency Preparedness Communications Folder, to remove physical and communication barriers when providing care to people with disabilities.

GCPD would like to thank all health care workers and providers for the work they have done and continue to do providing essential medical care for all Wisconsin residents and recognize the sacrifices they have made to serve the medical and whole health needs of all patients.

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The #Access4All video series and Emergency Preparedness Communications Folder are available on [GCPD's website](http://gcpd.gov). If your organization would like more information on the folder, disability etiquette, effective communications, or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please contact GCPD at 608-266-5364 or ashley.walker@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

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About the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

In 1948, a Governor's Committee was established with one goal: to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

The group's mission was broadened in 1976 to cover many aspects of disability in Wisconsin and became the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD).

Unlike other disability councils in state government, the focus of the Governor's Committee includes all disabilities and six of its members represent specific disability constituencies:

- Alcohol and other drug abuse,
- Blindness and visual impairment,
- Deaf and hard of hearing,
- Developmental disabilities,
- Mental health, and
- Physical disabilities.

The Governor's Committee is charged with the following duties:

- Advise the Governor and state agencies on problems faced by people with disabilities.
- Review legislation affecting people with disabilities.
- Promote effective operation of publicly-administered or supported programs serving people with disabilities.

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- Promote the collection, dissemination, and incorporation of adequate information about people with disabilities for purposes of public planning at all levels of government.
 - Promote public awareness of the needs and abilities of people with disabilities.
 - Encourage the effective involvement of people with disabilities in government.

To learn more about GCPD, visit [GCPD's website: gcpd.wisconsin.gov](https://gcpd.wisconsin.gov).