

SURVIVAL COALITION OF WISCONSIN DISABILITY ORGANIZATIONS

Vision Statement

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations will promote conditions in which all people with disabilities in Wisconsin:

- will receive the supports they need,
- can choose to live their lives as they wish, and
- will have the opportunity to be full participants in community life.

Principles of the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

1. Survival Coalition will always work in partnership with people with disabilities and their families, and make intensive efforts to ensure that our priorities and actions derive from the stated wishes of people with disabilities and their families.

2. Survival Coalition will promote policies, programs, and practices that emphasize integrated, individualized, community-based supports.

3. Survival Coalition is a statewide cross-disability coalition. As such, Survival Coalition will continually try to find common ground among a broad array of disability organizations and coalitions on key issues facing people with disabilities of any age; and will build as broad a base of support as possible for those positions.

4. Survival Coalition will work in concert with local organizations, local coalitions, consumers, advocates, and families throughout the state.

5. Decision making will be done by consensus. If no clear consensus emerges, the Coalition will keep trying to achieve consensus. If it is impossible to achieve consensus, then individual organizations and coalitions can take their own positions and there will be no formal Survival Coalition position on that issue. On major decisions (e.g., taking positions on key budgetary/legislative issues), an effort will be made to involve as many members as possible in the decision.

6. In its organizational structure, the Survival Coalition will try to strike a balance between a) maintaining sufficient flexibility that the coalition can operate quickly and allow for the spontaneous creativity of individual members to take autonomous action, and b) having enough structure to be able to plan, coordinate, and implement complex collective actions when necessary.

7. To be a Survival Coalition member, an organization or coalition must subscribe to and act in a manner consistent with the Survival Coalition Vision Statement, Role and Purpose.

Role & Purpose

The Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations will be a catalyst and leader in influencing the political process to bring about resource allocation, laws, and policies which will advance our Vision. This includes educating and mobilizing the general public, media and political leaders through strong cross-disability coalitions and a variety of other strategies.

Scope of Activity

In pursuit of the above Vision, the Survival Coalition will take action primarily to influence the following arenas:

- State budget
- State legislation
- State policy
- State agency practices

As a secondary focus, the Survival Coalition will also in some instances get involved in an issue at the level of:

- Federal legislation, budget or policy
- Local policy or budget

Current Survival Coalition issues and workgroups

The following list includes the name and leader(s) for each Survival issue workgroup.

Adults with Disabilities Waiting for Human and Long Term Support Services

Jim Hoegemeier, ARC-Wisconsin, arcjim@itis.com

Gerry Born, ARC-Wisconsin, bornger@itis.com

Direct Service Workforce Crisis

Chris Sarbacker, CAPOW, csarbacker@advemp.org

Children and Families (all disability groups)

Liz Hecht, Family Voices, hecht@waisman.wisc.edu

Special Education

Jeff Spitzer-Resnick, Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, spitznick@w-c-a.org

Jan Serak, Facets, jserak@execpc.com

Mental Health

Shel Gross, Mental Health Association- Milwaukee, shelgross@tds.net

Membership

Any local, regional or state organization or coalition that indicates its support for, and acts in a manner consistent with the above Vision Statement, Role and Purpose will be welcomed as a member organization of the Survival Coalition.

Interested individuals are invited to participate in any Survival Coalition meetings and activities, and to make donations in support of these activities. However, the Survival Coalition does not have “individual members” as such, so individuals will not be included in the formal listing of Survival Coalition member organizations and coalitions.

Suggested Donations

We believe it is important that as part of its support, each member organization or coalition make some level of financial contribution to the Survival Coalition. This applies to state organizations, local/regional organizations, and state or local coalitions. At present, the guidelines for these donations are as follows:

- Organizations/coalitions with an annual budget of \$5,000 or less - Whatever amount you can afford
- Organizations/coalitions with an annual budget between \$5,000-\$300,000 - Minimum of \$50/year
- Organizations/coalitions with an annual budget over \$300,000 - Minimum of \$100/year

We encourage organizations with the financial capacity to do so to make larger donations than the above suggested minimums. If the suggested levels present a hardship to any organization, you are welcome to write a letter to the Survival Coalition Co-Chairs requesting a waiver of part or all of the suggested amount.

Financial donations will be used primarily for activities to educate and inform people, for media activity, for local and state-level rallies and other events, and to develop materials which communicate Survival Coalition positions.

Member organizations and coalitions are also encouraged to make in-kind donations in support of Survival Coalition activities, e.g.:

- staff time
- printing and postage costs
- preparing mailings
- hosting local/regional meetings
- hosting conference calls
- hosting Candidate Forums
- organizing a meeting of constituents with their legislator
- helping to organize local cross-disability coalitions

What Member Organizations and Coalitions can expect to receive from the Survival Coalition

- Timely e-mail communications regarding new developments in the political and policy area that affect people with disabilities and their families.
- Copies of all Survival Coalition positions.
- An opportunity of have input on all important positions taken by the Survival Coalition.
- Inclusion in the public list of Survival Coalition member organizations and coalitions.
- Invitation and inclusion in all local/regional meetings convened by the Survival Coalition.
- The “strength in numbers” and coordinated action benefits of being part of the strongest and most visible cross-disability coalition in Wisconsin.

What the Survival Coalition expects from its member organizations and Coalitions

- Participate as much as you can (in Madison meetings, local/regional meetings, on Survival Coalition Work Groups, and/or in conference calls).
- Respond to Survival Coalition mailings and e-mails soliciting your input on issues.
- Pass onto your organization’s/coalition’s members and other interested people the materials Survival Coalition produces to educate and inform people.
- Initiate and coordinate political action to help the Survival Coalition achieve its Vision.

Contacts

If you would like to join the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, or you have questions about the Survival Coalition, please contact one of the current Co-Chairs:

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