

Arc/CAPOW/RFW/RSA/WRA/ WLTCWA Aging and Disability Policy Forum

Wisconsin has embarked on a transformation of its long term care system. The state is gradually replacing the county-based administration of the Community Integration and Community Options Programs (CIP and COP) with a new structure that is run by regional managed care organizations (Family Care), with options to self-direct either within managed care or with the assistance of the self-directed supports waiver (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct – IRIS).

The creation of an entitlement to long term care in the state is both an innovative and ambitious undertaking, which has been challenged by the difficulties created by the economic recession. RFW and WRA are sponsoring an aging and disability policy forum to open the 2010 Rehabilitation and Transition Conference on March 24, 2010. The Forum will address a number of questions to begin to work towards a solution-based approach to long-term care reform efforts, including:

- “How can Family Care succeed, given the challenges the program currently faces?”
- “How do we assure that people needing long-term care in Wisconsin are able to receive individualized services through a managed care delivery system?”
- “What options do consumers have under the Self-Directed Supports alternatives within Family Care or IRIS? Do these options provide enough support to go along with the freedom, flexibility and creativity they offer to providers and those they serve?”

With bi-partisan calls for an audit of the program to provide information for the legislature’s next biennial budget session, the RFW/WRA Conference Committee has invited gubernatorial candidates, elected representatives, advocates, and government officials to address how to positively impact the future of the program, during the opening session of the conference.

Invited:

- **Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett**, *Democratic Candidate for Governor*
- **Former U. S. Representative Mark Neumann**, *Republican Candidate for Governor*
- **Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker**, *Republican Candidate for Governor*

Accepted:

- **Jared Christiansen**, *Democratic Candidate for Governor*
- **Mark Todd**, *Republican Candidate for Governor*
- **Rep. Peggy Krusick**, *Democratic Chair of the Assembly’s Aging and Long Term Care Committee*
- **Rep. Kitty Rhoades**, *Republican Member of the Assembly’s Aging and Long Term Care Committee*
- **Lynn Breedlove**, *Executive Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin*
- **Susan Crowley**, *Administrator, DHS Division of Long Term Care*
- **Dennis Harkins**, *Self-Directed Supports Consultant, Former DHFS Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Director*
- **Shelley Hansen-Blake**, *President, CAPOW Board of Directors*

The Aging and Disability Policy Forum is being co-sponsored by the Arc-Wisconsin Disability Association, the Community Alliance of Providers of Wisconsin, Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, the Residential Services Association, Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association, and the Wisconsin Long Term Care Workforce Alliance. The Policy Forum will begin at 10 AM on March 24 and will conclude at noon with a keynote speech by Dennis Harkins titled, “Why Family Care and IRIS Must Succeed.”

For more information, visit our website: MEMBERS.RFW.ORG

