



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

P.O. Box 7222, Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Media advisory: Thursday April 20th, 10 AM, Virtual Press Conference

Contact: Beth Swedeen, beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov; (608)-220-2924
Patti Becker, beckerp@clanet.org; (608) 240-8503
Kristin M. Kerschensteiner, kitk@drwi.org; (608) 267-0214

Critical crossroad for community care: Direct care worker shortage creates dire consequences for Wisconsin residents, workforce, and economy.

What: Wisconsin families, older adults and people with disabilities don't have the supports they need to live in Wisconsin communities. If you need caregiving help, there is no one to hire and no place to go. A critical caregiving workforce is missing. The toll on people with disabilities, older adults, families and local businesses is relentless.

- Learn the latest data on Wisconsin's care workforce shortage.
- Hear from people with disabilities and older adults who can't find care.
- Hear from families who are forced to leave their jobs to avoid their family member being moved to a hospital or different community.
- Hear from providers who can't find workers and what it means for the future of their business and people forced to wait for help or who are turned away.
- Hear from advocates on what Wisconsin should do to stabilize and increase a quality care workforce.

"The legislature has the power to take action and make long overdue investments in the communities they call home." said Patti Becker, Survival Coalition Co-Chair. Wisconsin's long term care system does not include the funds needed to attract and maintain a sustainable direct care workforce. Without these investments, people with disabilities of all ages will continue to be at risk, be forced to live in hospitals or nursing homes, family caregivers will continue to leave other employment to provide unpaid care, community based care businesses and other small local business will continue to close."

Survival Coalition is conducting a statewide survey of people with disabilities, older adults, family members, and care workers with results anticipated after April 26th. Survival Coalition will be organizing a separate press event to brief the media on survey results. Preliminary responses confirm the dramatic impact the missing workforce is having on individuals and larger economy.

When: Thursday April 20th at 10 AM @ <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82520905086>

Who:

- **Stacy Ellingen** (Oshkosh, WI, person with a disability)
- **Chelsea Crosby** (River Falls, WI, family caregiver)
- **Julie Strenn** (Pittsville, WI, disability service provider)
- **Cody Kubowski** (Stevens Point, person with a disability)
- **Karen Foxgrover** (Madison, WI, older adult with a disability)