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## **State of Wisconsin**

Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Monday, January 24, 2022**

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### **Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities Elects New Executive Officers**

**Madison, WI** - The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) is pleased to announce it has elected a Margaret Kristan as Chair and Rhonda Staats as Vice Chair at the December 2021 meeting.

Margaret Kristan has devoted her career to programs and services intended to improve access to and quality of healthcare services for Wisconsin citizens. She worked for more than 20 years in the Department of Health Services, providing leadership to Medicaid programs, the former State High Risk Health Insurance Program and for the State's Family Care and Family Care Partnership Programs that serve adults with disabilities. She currently serves as Vice President of Long Term Care and Community Including for iCare, providing leadership for its Family Care Partnership Program.

Margaret has served on the GCPD since 2019, having served as the Vice Chair for the past two years. "I'm humbled to serve as the Chair of the GCPD and look forward to continuing to work with Committee members to bring awareness and advise the Governor on issues facing people with disabilities."

Rhonda Staats has been active in disability-related advocacy for over 50 years. She currently serves as the Statutory Council on Blindness representative on GCPD and was previously a GCPD at-large Executive Committee member. She is also an active board member with the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired and has been serving since March 1999. Rhonda retired in 2016, but spent her career as a teacher. Her immediate past position was Department Chair for the Healthcare Management program at Globe University/La Crosse. "I am pleased to serve as Vice Chair for the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities."



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Please join GCPD in congratulating Margaret and Rhonda as they take on their new leadership roles to lead GCPD in advocating for equal opportunities and full inclusion of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

GCPD also extends its gratitude to the immediate past Chair, David Morstad for his leadership and the many accomplishments GCPD was able to achieve during his tenure.

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### **About the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities**

The Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) was established per Wisconsin Statute 14.019, and pursuant to Executive Orders No. 37 (12/2/1983), No. 241 (1/20/1995), No. 150 (1/26/2015), and No. 6 (1/28/2019). GCPD is dedicated to enhancing the health and general well-being of people of all ages with disabilities in Wisconsin. GCPD is unique as it is the only Governor appointed committee charged to be inclusive of the needs of all people and all disabilities. The GCPD shall consult with and advise our Governor and state agencies on legislation, programs, policies, and issues affecting people with disabilities in all aspects of our society.

GCPD shall encourage local, state, and federal agencies to: improve educational and employment opportunities; increase access to appropriate healthcare, transportation, and housing; and eliminate any and all barriers that preclude equal opportunity and full inclusion. In order to promote a more open dialogue between Wisconsin citizens and their government, the GCPD shall provide an opportunity at each meeting for the public to comment on issues affecting people with disabilities.

To learn more, please visit [GCPD's website](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd/index.htm) (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/gcpd/index.htm>).