



Office of Administration
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY
301 West High Street, Room 840 * Post Office Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Eric R. Greitens
Governor
Yvonne Wright
Chair
Amy Bledsoe
Executive Director

Governor's Council on Disability Healthcare Position Paper

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) recognizes all individuals with disabilities should have access to adequate and affordable healthcare. GCD further recognizes poverty levels should not exclude anyone from adequate and affordable healthcare. GCD also recognizes individuals with disabilities should have access to necessary consumer directed home and community based services to allow individuals to live as independently in their homes and communities as possible. In accordance with GCD statutes and bylaws, and consistent with our strategic plan, the Council encourages system changes and public policies which eliminate barriers for individuals with disabilities, as well as expanding opportunities for independence. GCD also encourages acts within the legislative budget process to support and honor the commitment to adequate and affordable healthcare for all Missouri citizens.

- **VALUE STATEMENT**

- GCD supports policies which enable all Missouri citizens to participate in the health care system, which will make health care more efficient and affordable for everyone.
- Health coverage should move forward to a modern and sustainable system.

- **POLICY STATEMENT**

- Quality, affordable, accessible health care, including the right to home and community-based care, shall meet the needs and choices of all individuals, especially those with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

- **BELIEFS**

- Evaluation measures and rewards of health care should be aligned with health care outcomes.
- Quality, affordable, accessible health care is an essential ingredient for participating fully in all aspects of life.
- An effective health care system meets the needs of individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions.
- A quality health care system focuses on overall wellness and includes a comprehensive array of services that addresses prevention, health, mental health, dental, vision, hearing, nutrition, rehabilitation, and other specialty needs, delivered through a primary care medical home model.

- **CONDITIONS**

- Many Missourians, including people with disabilities, are uninsured or underinsured.
- As a result, many are forced to use emergency room services as their primary health care resource. This is at a higher cost and is an unsustainable practice.

*Keeping the Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Affiliated with the Office of Disability Employment Policy*

- Individuals with disabilities often find it difficult or impossible to access health care services and facilities which match their specific needs or are denied services to maintain their health status.
 - Individuals with disabilities often face discriminatory practices due to denial for coverage of pre-existing conditions, the use of confusing and complicated automated communication technologies, the complexity of the application for eligibility, denial for ongoing and specialized services, as well as a complicated billing and explanation of benefits system.
 - Many health care providers lack knowledge and expertise regarding the health care needs and effective communication for individuals with disabilities, which often results in health care which is less efficient and effective.
 - Individuals with disabilities often have multiple providers and experience a lack of communication and coordination by providers which may jeopardize the delivery of quality care.
- **POSITION**
 - GCD supports legislation, policy, and practices which:
 - Provide accessible, affordable health care for all delivered in home and community based settings.
 - Ensure providers are trained to recognize the unique needs of individuals with disabilities and to refer to specialty providers as needed.
 - Promote the health and wellness of all individuals, including those with disabilities.
 - Encourage consumer choice in health care.
 - Implement full mental health parity.
 - Ensure access and affordability of prescription medications (including brand name medications when medically necessary), durable medical equipment and devices, and other technologies, including repair and replacement.
 - Encourage early intervention and education for individuals to make healthy choices.
 - Eliminate waiting lists and ensure delivery of home and community-based care.
 - Promote creative methods to maximize the use of available federal, state, and local resources to meet the health and long term health needs of individuals with disabilities in their homes and communities.
 - Support research which improves the quality of life for all individuals including those with disabilities.

Published: November 2017