



WHAT IS UP AT WisPACT?

THANKS TO CARIE ABARCA, SARA BUSCHER AND TERRY PENNISTON

By Jack Longert

WisPACT faced a challenging period in the past few months. Carie Abarca and Terry Penniston staffed the office on their own with direction from Sara Buscher. At virtually no cost to the agency, Sara took on many of the duties needed to keep the organization going until Jack Longert arrived. Sara has been the “rock” of WisPACT since its founding and it is no exaggeration that the agency would not exist without her. We all owe her, Carie and Terry a debt of gratitude for their ongoing work.



Right to Left: Terry Penniston, Sara Buscher, Jack Longert and Carie Abarca

Carie and Terry remain on staff and will work with you to help make your trust work for you. Sara is returning to her position on the WisPACT Board and also working on various projects to have the trusts work better. Please thank them if you have a chance.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / PRESIDENT

Hello, I am Jack Longert, new Executive Director of WisPACT. I started at WisPACT the day after Memorial Day and am very excited about my job. I am enjoying talking and meeting with you as things come up, but for those who have not met me, I would like to talk a little bit about myself.

I am an attorney, and have been licensed since 1978. I started my lawyer career as the first staff attorney of a Legal Aid office helping low income clients without charge in Fargo, North Dakota. After 3 years, I moved to Milwaukee and passed the Wisconsin Bar Examination in 1981. I then worked for 5 years at the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee helping low income and disabled clients with a number of different legal problems. I then decided that teaching would be fun, so I joined a program that worked with law students at the University of Wisconsin to become better practicing lawyers. After that, I returned to working at no charge for low income and disabled clients at Legal Action of Wisconsin and Legal Services of Northeastern Wisconsin. With these assignments, I have handled cases in every part of the state.

In 2002, I decided to take a break from active lawyering, but still wished to help others. I was hired as the manager of two facilities in Madison helping homeless people, and learned a lot about people having great difficulties and strengths in their lives. From here, I decided to apply this knowledge in a new and different way as the Director of WisPACT. I hope that my career journey will help you in your life journey, and again look forward to talking to each of you.

WE ARE MOVING SEPTEMBER 1ST!!

We are moving our offices to better facilitate WisPACT’s incredible growth over the past 2 years.

**OUR NEW ADDRESS:
802 WEST BROADWAY, SUITE 214
MADISON, WI 53713
Toll-Free: 800-236-4940 Option 3
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TURN OVER TO CONTINUE





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Website: www.wispact.org

BENEFIT/SERVICES INFORMATION

The following are benefits and services you may be eligible for depending on your income, age, family situation, etc. This is meant only as a general guide as to benefits and services available. Depending on the county where you live, there may be more benefits and services available to you.

- **Medicaid** – Provides medical coverage for individuals with low incomes and little or no assets.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** – Pays benefits to people with disabilities whose income and resources are below set limits.
- **SSDI** – Pays benefits to people disabilities that have worked and paid Social Security taxes on their earnings, and to certain dependents of a worker who has retired, become disabled, or died.
- **Medicare** – A national health insurance program for all Social Security recipients (including SSDI) who are either over age 65 or permanently disabled.
- **Medicare Part D** – A prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries.
- **Public Housing and Section 8 Housing** – Assistance with housing, rent costs.
- **FoodShare Wisconsin** – A program designed to ensure that all individuals in Wisconsin have access to the food they need.
- **Energy Assistance** – Assistance for energy, electricity and heating costs.
- **Lifeline** – Reduces monthly charges for eligible telephone subscribers. For details and to find out if you qualify, contact your telephone company.
- **Link-Up** – A waiver of basic charges associated with telephone installation and service start-up for eligible households. For details and to find out if you qualify, contact your telephone company.
- **Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program (TEPP)** – provides vouchers to individuals with disabilities so they may purchase adaptive equipment they need to use telephone services in their home. For details or to apply for the TEPP voucher, call (608) 231-3305 or TTY: (608) 267-1479 / (800) 251-8345.

For most of these benefits, it's best to call or go to your county human services/economic support agency. There you can find out what programs you're eligible for and apply for them.

If you have internet access, you can find out which programs you're eligible for by going to <http://access.wisconsin.gov> and answering questions about your family, money and bills. You can then apply for the benefits you're eligible for online.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call Terry Penniston at 608-255-2577.

REQUEST FOR DISTRIBUTION FORMS

Please use the enclosed form from this point on, any old form received **WILL NOT** be accepted as of September 1, 2007.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Carie Abarca at 608-268-6006 ext. 5