



CONTESTANT PLATFORM STATEMENT Monica KamalRossa/Wisconsin

“Rolling with Dignity”

“Rolling with Dignity” is taking each barrier preventing us from achieving a desired goal and evaluating how to tackle the obstacle to take the necessary steps to achieve the goal. We can obtain a higher quality of life by reaching beyond the obstacles and hurdles set by insurance companies, the government, health professionals, retail stores, car dealerships, our family, friends, acquaintances and even ourselves.

Barrier Examples

- Cap limits or defined limited benefits outlined in insurance policies, by Medicare, or by VA benefits (i.e. limited number of catheters, wheelchairs only after a certain period, no benefits for shower chairs or standing wheelchairs, limited suppliers, prohibitive out of pocket expense, ...)
- Many health professionals deal with SCI and probably other disability rehabilitation programs with a kind of fixed formula. They may not include a tilt table, standing/glider, and other equipment/ exercises need for the entire body. They look at only what a patient needs to do to be functional in a wheelchair and not what they need to be able to recuperate totally.
- Retail stores have many barriers from parking to trying out the product before buying it. They may have limited to no van accessible parking or may have the isles of the store blocked with merchandise. It is too difficult to get in and once in you can't get around in a wheelchair.
- Buying an accessible vehicle has many barriers. The dealership expects to sell the vehicle without the driver ever trying it out. When asked, it is stated that insurance is too expensive to allow a person to test drive with hand controls or it is too expensive to have an accessible van on the lot, or something that is a “justified reason” for this obstacle.
- Socially, we may not be included in an activity because it may be too hard to get into a home or event as accessibility inside the facility may be impossible to difficult. For example, all are invited boating, camping, biking, or for a picnic but the person in the wheelchair or person's family is left out.
- It takes time to adjust to debilitating changes like a traumatic spinal cord injury. Being successful in dressing, getting around, and dealing with activities of daily living can be a long arduous process. We may feel we have enough to deal with and so we don't go beyond our daily activities even though we have goals such as to continue to work, further our education, or to try out that accessible sports equipment or class.



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I have had experience overcoming each of the above listed barrier examples. As "Rolling with Dignity" means achieving goals and a greater quality of life by overcoming defined barriers, I will promote gathering and sharing information and legislative and social changes to help others. I enjoy researching, finding answers, and proposing ideas to demonstrate options to individuals, companies and organizations to break down the barrier and achieve success. As Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin, I will work to encourage achieving a heightened dignity and quality of life for persons with disabilities.