

Life in a Wheelchair: What Healthcare Providers Should Know: A Personal, Practical and Professional Perspective

WAKE AHEC
PART OF NC AHEC

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Friday, January 16, 2026

Registration: 8:20am

Program: 8:30am – 11:15am

Event #75822so

Program Description: This educational activity deepens healthcare providers' understanding of the disability perspective and equips them to better prepare clients for life in a wheelchair. Offering a first-hand view of the lived experience, the program addresses navigating home and community environments, environmental modifications, healthcare discrimination, practical wheelchair strategies, social stigma, and family dynamics. It also explores often overlooked topics such as dating and even the best cup holders for wheelchairs. Providers will leave with practical insights they can immediately apply to empower clients to live more fully and independently.

Location: Live Webinar.

Target Audience

Occupational Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants and other interested healthcare professionals

Objectives

At the conclusion of this educational activity, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of practical solutions to help clients in wheelchairs better navigate the world (including escalators, planes, renting a car, pushing a shopping cart, and other less-known scenarios).
2. Identify home modifications that will allow clients who use wheelchairs to be more independent in the home.
3. State takeaways for healthcare providers to know about living with a disability.

Speaker

Kathryn Sorensen, OTD, OTR/L, ADAC

Associate Professor

Academic Fieldwork Coordinator

Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

UNC Chapel Hill

Credit

Occupational Therapist/Assistant: As of July 1, 2018, the NCBOT no longer accepts applications for pre-approval of CCAs. OT practitioners need to make sure they are completing activities that comply with Section .0800 of the NCBOT Rules. 2.5 CCAs. Please select contact hours for your certificate.

Wake AHEC CEU: Wake AHEC will provide 0.3 CEU to participants upon completion of this activity.

A participant must attend 100% of the program to receive credit. Partial credit will not be awarded.

Wake AHEC will provide up to 2.5 Contact Hours to participants.

Agenda

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| 8:20am | Zoom Check In |
| 8:30 | Welcome and Program Overview |
| 8:50 | Introductions and Background |
| 9:20 | How to Prepare Clients for Living in a Wheelchair |
| 10:05 | Break |
| 10:15 | What Healthcare Providers Should Know |
| 11:15am | Adjourn |

Registration Fee - \$30.

- Fee will include online handouts, evaluation and certificate of completion.
- Visit www.wakeahec.org for our ADA Statement, and call 919-350-8547 for Inclement Weather updates.
- Attendance at this activity grants permission for Wake AHEC to use any photographs, audio, video, or other images from this activity for promotional or educational purposes. Please notify an AHEC staff member if you have concerns.

Cancellations and Refunds

No refunds. Substitutes are encouraged.

Questions? Contact Sharri Oxendine at soxendine@wakeahec.org or 919-350-0461.

To register and for more information go to

