

Mission	The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities.		
Goals	Employment Find employment in integrated jobs in the community.	Advocacy Create effective advocates and leaders who will work to bring about systems change on issues.	Self Determination Actively engage in planning services and supports to live and participate in integrated community activities.
Impacts	<p>Trained 484 people on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).</p> <p>Partnerships in Employment (PIE) grant resulted in 89% of pilot youth with the most significant disabilities participating in at least one paid, community based job while they were in high school.</p> <p>Developed more than 30 local grassroots Employment First Partners to expand integrated employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Built a statewide network of Family Advocates to more actively engage in all aspects of the PROMISE program.</p> <p>Conducted 94 Take Your Legislator to Work visits and recruited 68 individuals with disabilities who had not previously participated in the campaign.</p>	<p>Trained more than 300 advocacy leaders statewide with Partners in Policymaking</p> <p>Provided leadership training to more than 500 youth in Youth Leadership Forum</p> <p>SPARKS Grants allow local groups to use innovative methods to spark a change that will improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in their community.</p> <p>Total of 6,892 individuals and organizations that are receiving information.</p> <p>More people connecting to the board's Facebook page with 3,739 likes.</p> <p>Connected with more than 2,000 people through various outreach events.</p>	<p>Worked with Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) to connect people to supported decision-making resources.</p> <p>Engaged four Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP's) that provide mainly segregated services, to participate in a Board technical assistance grant designed to help CRP's transition from segregated to integrated employment and community day services.</p> <p>Mind & Memory Matters project: Inform more than 1,500 individuals, families, caregivers, and professionals about the prevalence of Alzheimer's/dementia in the Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities community.</p>

Selected Stories: The Board's Impact on the People of Wisconsin



People of Oshkosh, WI – Starting from a small SPARKS grant from the Board, People First Oshkosh and others collaborated with the city to build an inclusive park. The group's mission has extended beyond fundraising for the park in an attempt to explain the importance of fostering an inclusive environment throughout the community, not just in parks. City departments, local businesses and community organizations have embraced the group's effort. Now Oshkosh has committed to using Universal Design in all their parks as they make upgrades/improvements.

Gwen, Milwaukee, WI - Gwen is a graduate of the Board's Partners in Policymaking program. She says, "The Partners in Policymaking program has definitely strengthened my role as an advocate for individuals with disabilities. I have acquired many skills and obtained so much knowledge through my participation in the program, which allows me the opportunity to navigate through many decision making processes with confidence and pride."



Dustin, Marshfield, WI – With the Board's Building Full Lives effort, Dustin is able to explore a career, volunteer and learn independent living skills. The Opportunity Development Center introduced Dustin to the Community Connect service. He agreed to join the group twice a week; one afternoon in a "Sampler" group to get more connected to the community and one afternoon in the Career Exploration and then Volunteering group. Since Dustin achieved his integrated employment goals, and is phasing out facility based pre-vocational services.

People of South Central Wisconsin – A small Board grant helped fund a business development event to provide access to information and resources for individuals who face barriers to traditional employment seeking to establish small businesses or micro-enterprises with an emphasis in the arts. The program provides opportunities for artists and business owners to compete with their non-disabled peers in local and regional markets while fully participating in the mainstream art and business communities.





Ashley of Rhinelander, WI visited State Senator Roger Roth's office to speak to Dan Dubnicka (pictured) about the Health Care Assistant credential course she's taking at Nicolet Area Technical College as part of the Board's Take Your Legislator to Work campaign. She told him about how the course and her internship-turned-paid job in the Dean's office has given her confidence. She feels like the sky's the limit for her future and she encourages others with disabilities to have high expectations and dream big. Ashley is a member of the 2016-17 Partners in Policymaking class.

Delores is a family member from Milwaukee and active in her community around issues of long-term care, self-determination, and voting. Delores is a member of the Board. Delores is a 2015 graduate of the Partners in Policymaking course. Delores said, "My goal in joining the Board is to help families gain independence and make them aware of all the opportunities and services that are available to them." Delores also serves as a one of the Board's cultural connector for her community.



Damarious, Milwaukee, WI - In coordination with a Board Building Full Lives pilot project, Damarious joined a "Community Connect" group that offers him an alternative to the "wrap around" services he might need for the hours he isn't working. He works 4-5 hours per day 2-3 days per week, and joins the Community Connect group on Tuesdays and Thursdays when his work schedule permits.

Medford Area Senior High School Students with and without disabilities participated in an "Amazing Race to Employment." Twenty-three students visited a total of 126 businesses. At each business, they introduced themselves to the manager or owner, asked targeted questions about the business, and provided the business with a brochure about Medford High School's youth employment program. Medford High School is in its second year of being a Board Employment First partner.

