



# Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



## 2017 - 2018 Annual Report





August 29, 2018

The Honorable Scott Walker  
Governor, State of Wisconsin  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

Please find attached the 2017-2018 annual report from the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). The report details our Board's mission, membership, goals, accomplishments, and budget.

Our federal charge in the Developmental Disabilities Act is identifying the most pressing needs of people with developmental disabilities and developing innovative and cost-effective ways to meet these needs in a manner that upholds human and civil value. Councils (Boards) must include, at minimum, 60% people with developmental disabilities and their family members.

The BPDD State Plan, informed by statewide input from the disability community, focuses primarily on two areas: Full Participation in the Community & Advocacy Efforts. During 2017-2018, we have made significant progress in all of our goal areas.

A few highlights include:

- **Employment**– Wisconsin's **Employment First Law** prioritizes community employment for people with disabilities and aims to increase the number of people in community integrated jobs who are paid wages comparable to people without disabilities. The **Partners in Business Disability Employment Law** charges BPDD to provide direct support and technical assistance to businesses interested in hiring people with disabilities.
- **Supported Decision-Making**–Wisconsin's new **Supported Decision-Making (SDM) law** helps eligible people with disabilities and older adults retain their independence and ability to make choices about their lives while also empowering them to ask a Supporter to help them gather information, compare options, and communicate their decisions to others.

Over the past biennium, BPDD has also made diversity a priority. As a Governor-appointed Board, BPDD is committed to apply cultural competence in all that we do. The Board strives to increase the number of people in Wisconsin with I/DD to become more independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life.

If you have questions or comments regarding this report or about BPDD, please contact Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, BPDD (contact information listed on Staff page). Additional information, including our five-year plan for 2017-2021, is located on our website, [www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Malin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pam Malin, Board Chair  
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

# Current Board Members



**PAM MALIN**  
**Chair**  
*Service Provider*  
 DePere



**Kevin Coughlin**  
*Dept. of Health Services*  
 Madison



**David Pinno**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 New London



**Elsa Diaz-Bautista**  
**Vice Chair**  
*Parent*  
 Whitefish Bay



**Meredith Dressel**  
*Dept. of Workforce Development*  
 Madison



**Amy Polsin**  
*Parent*  
 Lowell



**Wendy Ackley**  
*Parent*  
 Hartland



**Rita Fuller**  
*Dept. of Public Instruction*  
 Madison



**Delores Sallis**  
*Parent*  
 Milwaukee



**Barbara Beckert**  
*Disability Rights WI*  
 Milwaukee



**Mike Hineberg**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Madison



**Leila Solati**  
*Public Provider*  
 Whitefish Bay



**Liz Hecht**  
*Waisman Center*  
 Madison



**Robert Kuhr**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Menasha



**Lynn Stansberry-Brusnahan**  
*Parent*  
 Shorewood



**Aliza Claire-Bible**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Madison



**Ramsey Lee**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Hudson



**Carole Stuebe**  
*Service Provider*  
 Port Washington



**Gail Bovy**  
*Parent*  
 Middleton



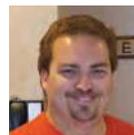
**Nathaniel Lentz**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Reedsburg



**Patrick Young**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Germantown



**Kedibonye Carpenter**  
*Parent*  
 La Crosse



**Greg Meyer**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Monico



**Lynn Carus**  
*Self-Advocate*  
 Milwaukee



**Camille Nicklaus**  
*Parent*  
 Rothschild

# About the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

BPDD is Wisconsin's state developmental disabilities council, authorized under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). Every state and territory have a state Developmental Disabilities Council.

## Federal law outlines a unique role for state Councils that includes:



Serving as an independent advisor to the Governor and legislature on public policy issues that impact people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD)



Charging councils 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 I/DD.



Engaging with people with disabilities and their allies to understand pressing needs and identify emerging issues impacting the state's I/DD community.



Funding innovative and pilot projects—based on data driven strategic planning—that test best practices and inform state and federal policies and practices leading to greater independence and self-sufficiency for people with I/DD



Encouraging citizen engagement and participation so that the voices of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are part of policy decisions.

The Governor appoints BPDD's board members. 60% of BPDD's board are people with I/DD and family members from across the state. BPDD's work is driven by a five-year state plan, which is created based on statewide input from the disability community. 70% of BPDD's federal funding is spent on local projects in accordance with needs identified in the state plan.

## BPDD's Unique Role



The role of state councils is to seek continuous improvement across all systems—**education, transportation, health care, employment**, etc.—that touch the lives of people with disabilities. Our work requires us to have a long-term vision of public policy that not only sees current systems as they are, but how these systems could be made better for current and future generations of people with disabilities.

BPDD has relationships with people with disabilities and their families across the state. We routinely host community conversations, outreach to diverse communities, fund local initiatives, and provide information and training to empower citizens to be more engaged on issues affecting people with I/DD.

BPDD is an independent state agency and is available as a resource to Wisconsin's executive, legislative, and judicial branches on disability and disability policy issues. BPDD is also connected and can draw upon a national network of disability experts and data sets to understand how federal actions may impact Wisconsin, and other states' approaches to disability issues.

## BPDD's federal charge to improve the lives of people with I/DD cont.

BPDD is Wisconsin's state developmental disabilities council, authorized under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). Every state and territory have a state Developmental Disabilities Council.

### Federal law outlines a unique role for state Councils that includes:

In keeping with other federal laws and policy—including the Americans with Disabilities Act—our charge is to work towards people with disabilities having the same rights and responsibilities as people without disabilities.

BPDD's federal charge includes 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. What do these terms mean?



**Self-determination** means freedom for people with I/DD to: explore their interests; develop skills; have new experiences—including making and learning from mistakes; make decisions about their lives; have relationships; and choose support staff and others they want to support them.



**Independence** means maximizing the control people with I/DD have over their lives, including: managing their money; living independently; choosing where to live and with whom; being able to get where they need to go on their schedule; and having a job in the community that matches their skills and interests.



**Productivity** means having full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work, and fully integrated with co-workers without disabilities.



**Integration and Inclusion** means having the same expectations and opportunities for people with disabilities as people without disabilities. People with disabilities need the same access to and preparation for education, community participation, and community employment as people without disabilities; outcomes and expectations for people with disabilities include independence, decision-making, living and social skills.

### What does BPDD do to advance advocacy, capacity building, and systems change?

The federal DD Act charges BPDD and other DD Councils with outreach, training, technical assistance, supporting and educating communities, interagency collaboration and coordination, barrier elimination, system design and redesign, coalition development and citizen participation, informing policymakers, and demonstration of new approaches to services and supports.

# Increasing Civic Engagement and Advocacy

The Board is sought out by state agency and state policymakers for its I/DD perspective. We are frequently asked how public policies—budget decisions, legislation, administrative rules, and changes to or implementation of state agency programs—will affect people with I/DD and their families. We are also consulted for recommendations on ways to improve programs and public policy for people with I/DD and are a valued stakeholder in a wide variety of public policy arenas (health care, long term care, transportation, and education).

BPDD works in collaboration with Survival Coalition—a cross disability group of 30 organizations—and with the three DD Act partners—Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Waisman Center, and People First Wisconsin—on high priority public policy issues affecting people with I/DD and their families including expanding integrated employment, increasing transportation options and access, improving special education quality and general education access, and improving Medicaid and long term care quality and access.

BPDD collaborates as a joint partner in the Disability Vote Coalition, a non-partisan effort to increase voter turnout and participation in the electoral process by Wisconsin voters with disabilities.



“

**Learning about how policy is made and being brave enough to add my voice has been such an amazing growth experience for me.**

*- Partner in Policymaking Graduate*

”

## Empowering advocates with information:

- BPDD collaborates with Survival Coalition of Wisconsin during Disability Advocacy Day. This event connects more than 600 disability advocates from around the state with their legislators at the State Capitol. The annual event includes a briefing about current disability issues and meetings between disability advocates and their legislators.
- BPDD maintains an active legislative alerts email service which allows us to send about 200 alerts a year. BPDD maintains an overall list of more than 8,000 members. In 2017-2018 more than 1,300 subscribers were added to the list.
- 5 statewide partners were added to The Disability Vote Coalition, which meets monthly.
- Distributed approximately 48,000 postcards to promote disability voter registration and increase awareness of the August and November elections, in partnership with the Disability Vote Coalition.
- Promoted social media campaigns, public service announcements, press releases and email to spread awareness about Disability Voter Registration Week.
- BPDD helped facilitate setting up 145 legislative visits for self-advocates and family members through our Youth Leadership Forum, Partners in Policymaking and Disability Advocacy Day.

# Partners In Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking is a six-session advocacy program for people with I/DD and family members to become seasoned leaders across the state. Graduates work to improve policies and practices that lead to better lives for people with disabilities by improving the quality of supports, developing cost efficiencies, and learning how to use community supports to maximize independence. Partners in Policymaking is designed for adults with developmental disabilities and family members of children and youth with developmental disabilities ages birth to 21.



**The Most Important part of Partners was discovering that our legislators NEED us to educate them on disability related issues.**

*- Partners Graduate*



**99% of graduates said they would be more connected with their legislator.**

## Partners gets results:

- More than 200 Partner graduates are now a network of community leaders and decision-makers serving on policymaking committees, commissions, and boards at local, state and national levels.
- More than 99% of Partner graduates say they will be a stronger advocate and be more actively involved in issues that affect people with disabilities.
- 99% of graduates said they would be more connected with their legislator.
- When asked how they will use their new skills after Partners, graduates said:
  - "I learned that my child has a valuable place in the community. I had always known I needed to fight for him, but it didn't click that he is a natural part of the community and an asset."
  - "Because of partners I am applying for the Rooted in Rights Fellowship so that i can continue to learn and practice the craft of writing as it relates to disability rights and advocacy."
  - "I feel more connected with the disabled community and have so many new contacts. I have always wanted to advocate and now I have the tools, support and people to do so."

# SPARKS Grants

Small grants of \$3,000 or less to “SPARK” local communities into action have led to big changes at the local level. The purpose of SPARKS Grants is to organize local grassroots groups that identify and make changes in their communities that result in a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. Grassroots community organizing means local people working for positive community change with people with disabilities on issues that are important to them.



“  
**Knowing we were backed by the SPARKS Grant gave us confidence and energy to develop and provide the best training we could in this pilot year.**  
”  
*- SPARKS participant*

**4 SPARKS grants were awarded during 2017-2018.**

## Communities best know what they need:

- The **Tiny Voices** project empowers youth of all ages to find their own voices and speak on their own behalf as knowledgeable and confident advocates. The goal of the project is to make a huge impact in speaking to legislative representatives about important issues in the disability community.
- People with disabilities have been conditioned to accept being marginalized by labels, and isolated by the lack of inclusion. **The Adaptive Community Approach Program** will be educating the people who work for people with disabilities on People-First language, basic etiquette and steps for inclusion. It is hoped that people with disabilities will be treated with more respect, have greater opportunities, and feel more valued.
- **Our Community: Stories that Inform, Educate and Invite** will be creating videos to capture stories of individuals with disabilities and their families. Through interviewing a variety of individuals and their caregivers, who participate in a variety of supports and services, we have the ability to educate across disciplines.
- The **Union of Nigerians in the Madison Area (UNIMA)** will target communities, which have diverse identities, are under-served and lack awareness of public programs. Families will be introduced to valuable services that can help their loved ones with disabilities be more included in the community.

# Engaging Businesses to Hire People with Disabilities

Wisconsin Employment First promotes competitive integrated employment—jobs in typical business settings at minimum wage or higher—in the general workforce for people with disabilities. The initiative combines the work of grassroots groups with statewide policy and legislative efforts. The Employment First Partners project provides mini-grants of \$2,000 to local groups to create big changes in their communities. This year, the Employment First Conference focused on sharing lessons and brainstorming ideas about service transformation to support meaningful lives in the community.



“**Our daughter is a contributing member of our community and has the WI BPDD Board to thank for her continuing ability to advocate for herself.**”  
- Parent

**Through the Partners in Business Disability Employment law, BPDD provided mini-grants to employment service providers, school districts, and funders to implement the Partners with Business support model. This innovative approach provides direct support and technical assistance to businesses interested in hiring people with disabilities.**

## Grassroots efforts create opportunities:

- 13 statewide grassroots groups are currently working with local businesses to increase employment at competitive wages for people with the most significant disabilities.
- Nearly 300 professionals, self-advocates, and families attended the Wisconsin Employment First Conference on service transformation in May 2018.

## Legislation to Improve Employment Opportunities:

BPDD supported two bills and state budget provision that improve employment opportunities for people with I/DD.

- Wisconsin’s Employment First law prioritizes community employment for people with disabilities and aims to increase the number of people in community integrated jobs who are paid wages comparable to people without disabilities.
- The Partners in Business Disability Employment law charges BPDD to provide direct support and technical assistance to businesses interested in hiring people with disabilities.
- Wisconsin also passed reforms to the Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) program supported by BPDD and self-advocates.

# Diversity: Reaching Every Community

The Board is prioritizing expanding diversity into every part of our mission, values, and work. After collecting feedback and direction from a wide range of stakeholders, the Board has partnered with a broad range of individuals and groups. BPDD is increasing cultural competency with ongoing board member/staff training and professional development. BPDD has taken action to apply cultural competence in all our work (e.g., conferences, outreach, training and public policy/legislation.)



“ I believe this council is one of the **BEST** investments in Wisconsin to mobilize and empower individuals to get involved in making our communities a better place to live for people with disabilities and without. ”  
- Parent

**BPDD added a permanent diversity committee to the Board to assist in the implementation of the Diversity Action Plan.**

## Improving cultural competency:

- Engaged in community conversations with the black/African American and Latino communities in Milwaukee to get input on how the board can better connect to their communities.
- Engaged in conversations with Hmong communities and tribal communities to understand their experiences using disability services and to learn how the board can better connect to their communities.
- Connected and shared resources with Parent University, a group of black families, in Milwaukee, that work together to advocate for their children with disabilities.
- Partnered with Alianza in Milwaukee, which provides supports, services and resources (e.g., translation, interpretation, child care, transportation) to the Latino community.
- BPDD leads a Community of Practice, through a federal grant from the Georgetown Center for Cultural Competence, focused on improving cultural and linguistic competence in Wisconsin’s Long-Term Care System. Collaborating partners include the Department of Health Services, Disability Rights Wisconsin, and Waisman Center.

# Hiring People with Disabilities Makes Good Sense

The Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign connects people with disabilities working in community integrated jobs with their state legislators to visit workplaces and see first-hand the value people with disabilities bring to the workforce.

The campaign highlights how everyone wins when people with disabilities have Integrated Employment in their community at a competitive wage. This allows people to be more independent, pay taxes, contribute to the local economy, and be less likely to rely on publicly-funded programs and services.



**“ I was able to learn how having a job has helped a person with a disability increase their self-esteem, foster new relationships and have pride for money earned through employment.**

*- State Legislator ”*

**87% of customers say they would prefer to patronize businesses that employ people with disabilities.**

## Changing attitudes about hiring people with disabilities:

- BPDD’s Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign has served as model for similar programs in seven other state Developmental Disabilities Councils.
- Wisconsin Promise, a project of the Dept. of Workforce Development, has followed the model to implement their own Take Your Legislator to Work events.
- Governor Scott Walker participated in a Take Your Legislator to Work event with BPDD Board Member, David Pinno.

## As a result of participating in the program, legislators say:

- “Getting to learn about new, exciting opportunities for persons with Autism or other disabilities in the community.”
- "Once we start breaking down any kind of stigmas there might be, this is a group of individuals that have a lot of good talents that can be utilized in the workforce. Let's spread that message."

# Raising Awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia

Mind and Memory Matters is a three-year federal project focused on raising awareness and educating the public about the prevalence of dementia and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The Board is one of five organizations awarded the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative-Specialized Supportive Services grant from the Administration of Community Living given to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The Board's work supports individuals with both I/DD and dementia, family caregivers of individuals with I/DD and dementia, and professionals who support people with I/DD.



## Raising awareness about dementia among people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) by:

- Gathering expertise from diverse aging and disability groups to form an advisory board. Members of the board include staff from: Special Olympics Wisconsin, The Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute, The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc., The Waisman Center, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, and other professionals working in the field of aging and/or disabilities.
- Building a permanent network of expertise within state-wide Dementia Care Specialists and Dementia Care Leads through the coordination of expert trainings from the National Task Group on I/DD and dementia.
- Providing information and trainings on an early detection screening tool, developed by national experts, at more than 28 conferences and events throughout the state, including the Wisconsin Special Olympics games.



**Councils play a unique and vital role in our communities. They create and mobilize a volunteer workforce of people who simply want to make our communities better for everyone.**

*- Self-Advocate*



**Last year, Mind & Memory Matters reached more than 1,100 people, including individuals with I/DD, families, caregivers and professionals.**

# Public Policy



BPDD provided information and public testimony detailing how numerous state budget and legislative proposals may impact people with I/DD and their families. BPDD provided analysis and recommendations on the following legislative proposal topics: school safety, employment screening and drug testing for public housing residents, FoodShare Photo ID requirements, proposed asset restrictions for welfare and other public assistance programs, DOT human services rules, supported decision making, teacher access to student information, competitive integrated employment, tax credits for caregivers, and dental care access for people with I/DD.

BPDD provided information to Wisconsin's Congressional delegation on major issues affecting people with I/DD and their families in Wisconsin—including the caregiver crisis and need for employment choices. BPDD also provided feedback on topics—including changes to public benefit programs, federal education policy, and federal employment policy—and analysis of how proposed changes would impact people with I/DD in Wisconsin. BPDD also offered specific recommendations of Wisconsin approaches and innovations on guardianship, transportation, and Medicaid that can serve as models for national public policy.

## This year BPDD supported three pieces of innovative legislation:

- Wisconsin's new Supported Decision-Making (SDM) law helps eligible people with disabilities and older adults retain their independence and ability to make choices about their lives while also empowering them to ask a Supporter to help them gather information, compare options, and communicate their decisions to others.
- Wisconsin's Employment First law prioritizes community employment for people with disabilities and aims to increase the number of people in community integrated jobs who are paid wages comparable to people without disabilities.
- The Partners in Business Disability Employment law charges BPDD to provide direct support and technical assistance to businesses interested in hiring people with disabilities.

**Wisconsin also passed reforms to the Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan (MAPP) program supported by BPDD and self-advocates.**

## Public Policy cont.

### Specific policy changes BPDD worked to achieve included:

- Child Abuse reporting requirements, legislation enacted.
- Medicaid Assistance Purchase Plan waiver reform (included in state budget).
- Elimination of Children's Long Term Support waiting list (included in state budget).
- Increase in high cost special education categorical aide reimbursement rate (included in state budget).
- Increase in pay for performance awards to participating school districts where students with disabilities were working in competitive jobs or participating in post-secondary education one year after exiting school.
- Transition Readiness Grants to school districts wanting to improve transition outcomes for students with disabilities (enacted in state budget).
- Support in developing Employment First Principles disseminated by Department of Health Services identifying employment priorities for long-term care programs.
- Department of Health Services adopting pay-for-performance measurements in managed care contracts beginning in 2018.
- Dental Access (increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates for children and adults with emergencies) legislation enacted.
- FoodShare Employment Training Program legislation amended to include exemption for caregivers of disabled dependents.
- Teacher access to student information, bill tabled as recommended by BPDD.



# Increasing Advocacy and Leadership Skills

The Board supports the statewide self-advocacy organization, People First Wisconsin. Members of the organization work to increase advocacy and leadership skills for people with disabilities.



The Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities. Each summer, 25-30 students with disabilities participate.

“*“I learned your voices matter when talking to others in your community and school and I can get more kids to become leaders too.”*”

- Youth Leadership Forum Participant

**People First members work to improve access to the services and supports they need including: expanding transportation, increasing integrated employment, voting education, and self-directing their long-term care services**

## Expanding advocacy in all communities:

- People First supports 19 local People First Chapters around the state. People First members work on state and local issues to improve full participation in their communities and access to the services and supports they need including: expanding transportation, increasing integrated employment, voting education, and self-directing their long-term care services.
- People First Executive team presented at the National Self-Advocates Being Empowered (SABE) Conference, on supported Decision-making.
- People First members provided training to local chapters on voter education and leadership skills.
- People First works to ensure people with disabilities are represented on committees and Boards that oversee issues that are important to them.
- People First Executive Committee meets quarterly with the Governor’s office to discuss current policy issues.
- More than 150 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors with disabilities have participated in the Youth Leadership Forum to learn leadership skills, advocacy, and career training.

# Self-Determination Conference

The Board is dedicated to improving the independence, productivity, and integration of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The Self-Determination Conference helps to educate individuals with disabilities, their families and the people who support and provide services. The conference is an opportunity to gain skills, tools, and information that they can take back and implement for themselves; either in their own lives or in their professional role.



“***I love the education and energy that I get from this conference . It's such an amazing experience!***

***- Self Determination Conference participant***

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**98% of people attending stated that as a result of participating in the conference they had more tools and knowledge to help themselves or others to better connect with their community, make better choices and have the life they choose.**

## Improving independence, productivity, and integration:

- More than 950 people attended the tenth anniversary of the Self-Determination Conference. The focus was on improving physical and emotional health using self-determination. When asked what is the most important message from the conference, participants said:
  - “Personally I will take away a drive to teach my clients "Reality" based expectations and appropriate limits while having a voice. How to advocate for what they need.”
  - “That I have the power to stand up for myself when I feel like something isn't right or when someone tries to tell me how to live my life.”
  - "Taking care of myself is most important identifying my dreams and desires and continuing to push towards them."
- More than 560 individuals completed a supported decision-making survey, helping to guide BPDD's work in offering individuals, families, more decision-making tools and reduce unnecessary guardianship.

## Family-Led Network Grants

**Goal:** *People with disabilities and their families make choices about their lives and are actively engaged in planning their services and supports.*

Individuals with disabilities and their families must have adequate information, resources and supports to create opportunities for an inclusive and meaningful life in their communities. Many families are uncertain about what they were looking for other than they want the best possible life for their loved ones. When families support each other, they are empowered to think creatively to meet the needs of their individual with a disability.



**The Board supports families with children transitioning from high school or adult children with disabilities that are committed to work together to educate themselves on various aspects of adult life for their child. It's a way for families to work together to identify and meet their needs. The families decide the focus for the group, including learning more about: self-direction, circles of support, housing, integrated employment, transportation, etc. The focus can change as their needs change. Families meet monthly to learn about resources, provide support to each other, engage in Person Centered Planning, coordinate and or develop resources for themselves.**

### Changes in people's lives (2017 - 2018):

- There are currently 4 family groups supported through a technical assistance grant with LOV Dane: three family groups in Milwaukee and one in Mukwonago with over 20 families in total.
- Moving On workshops provided families in Mukwonago the opportunity to participate in developing Person-Centered Plans to support their loved ones to move out of the parent's home. As a result, two young women decided to become roommates, found an affordable apartment and have the tools needed to succeed in their own apartment.
- Over 200 families in Milwaukee have participated in future planning sessions, resource and training events to help navigate the school system and employment goal planning.

### Family-Led: Story

Kristine went off to college, but found herself back home after graduating, watching her independence slowly slip away while she struggled to find a job. Six months ago she joined a Family-Led group in Mukwonago, WI to do the Moving On workshop series. This kickstarted Kristine on the road to independence. Her mom Janet describes her as a whole new woman these days, really motivated to work on her independent living skills, applying for grad school at UWM and planning a move to Milwaukee.

# Supported Decision-Making

Supported Decision-Making is an alternative to guardianship through which people with disabilities get help from trusted family members, friends and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they can make their own decisions. Supported Decision-Making enables people with disabilities to ask for support where and when they need it.

Supported Decision-Making Agreements can be used for many kinds of decisions including medical, financial, housing and other life matters. Powers of attorney, representative payees and simple release of information forms can also help families provide the needed supports and safeguards without going to court and imposing guardianship restrictions.



## Supporting Individuals to Live Full lives Keeping Them in Charge:

- BPDD staff have worked with legislators to introduce a Supported Decision-Making Agreement bill into law.
- Materials on Supported Decision-Making and alternatives to guardianship are available on our website. <http://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/SupportedDecision-Making/>

## Policy Change:

- As of March 2018, Wisconsin state law formally recognizes Supported Decision-Making agreements as legal arrangements<sup>[1]</sup> that allow persons to retain their right to make their own decisions, while also choosing trusted people (called Supporters) to help them gather and understand information, compare options, and communicate their decisions to others. [1] Wis. Stats. Ch 52. (2017 Wisconsin Act 345)



**We wanted our son to have the chance to grow and learn to make decisions that affect his life. As his parents, we won't always be around to guide him, and we didn't want to restrict his life and future happiness. So, we chose not to pursue guardianship and instead to develop a circle of supporters to help him make those big decisions in life."– Parent**



# BUILDING FULL LIVES

## Creating BIG CHANGE for People with Disabilities

Building FULL Lives provides coaching and business planning expertise to providers working with hundreds of people around the state with the most significant disabilities and their families to more flexibly support people with disabilities in the community. Providers are learning to create individualized supports that lead to better employment, health, and other quality of life outcomes.



“

**Community CONNECT is a great way to get out and enjoy my free time. Gives me ideas of where to hang out with my friends.**

**-BFL Participant**

”

**Leads to increased independence and connections in the community, resulting in a decrease in the need for paid supports.**

### **Building FULL Lives increases choice, independence and community participation:**

- Twelve service provider organizations receive technical assistance to expand community-based services to support people to safely, explore, connect, and contribute to their communities while developing specific life skills.
- Services occur in integrated settings – in typical places other community members without disabilities use to learn, exercise, volunteer, socialize, recreate, and contribute to the community.
- Provider organizations are partnering with over 70 community sites at which people with disabilities can learn, socialize, and work alongside other community members without disabilities.
- One provider organization has greatly transformed their service delivery model: in 2015 23% of people with disabilities receiving their services were in the community; now 82% are served in the community.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 2017 AND 2018 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2017*	Actual 2017	Goal 2018*	Actual 2018
1.	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	4,194	6,898 (81% increase)	4,575	**
1.	Number of people with developmental disability who report they make choices about their everyday lives	22,688	21,845 (1% increase)	23,768	**
1.	Number of people with a developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	8,808	20,120 (140% increase)	9,227	**
1.	Number of people with a developmental disability who report they have a way to get where they want to go.	21,354	24,719 (22% increase)	22,368	**
1.	Number of people with developmental disability who report that they have a network of community members (outside paid supports) they can rely on.	21,354	23,857 (17% increase)	22,368	**
1.	Number of people with developmental disability who participate in a state self-advocacy organization led by people I/DD.	210	275 (38% increase)	220	394 (97% increase)
1.	Number of people with developmental disability and their families who participate in leadership training and practice their leadership skills	267	326 (34% increase)	291	414 (70% increase)
1.	Number of individuals who are signed up for electronic alerts through the Board's content management/action alert system.***	6,000	6,543 (19% increase)	6,500	7,876 (43% increase)
1.	Number of improved policies and practices that increase community participation, decision making and full inclusion	5 per year	2	5 per year	12

**Note:** Based on fiscal year.

**Note:** The measures are established by the federally required five-year State Plan, which covers the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2021.

\*Goals for 2017 and 2018 have been revised. These measures are based upon statewide National Core Indicators Data.

\*\* Data for 2018 not yet available from the Department of Health Services

\*\*\*The Board has transitioned from Disability Advocates: Wisconsin Network (DAWN) to an internal content management/action alert system.

## 2019, 2020 AND 2021 GOALS

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2019	Goal 2020	Goal 2021
1.	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	4,956	5,337	5,720
1.	Number of people with developmental disabilities who report they who report they make choices about their everyday lives.	24,848	25,928	27,010
1.	Number of people with a developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	9,646	10,065	10,486
1.	Number of people with developmental disabilities who report they have a way to get where they want to go.	23,385	24,402	25,421
1.	Number of people with developmental disabilities who report that they have a network of community members (outside of paid supports) they can rely on.	23,385	24,402	25,421
1.	Number of people with developmental disability who participate in a state self-advocacy organization led by people I/DD.	230	240	250
1.	Number of people with developmental disability and their families who participate in leadership training and practice their leadership skills	315	339	365
1.	Number of individuals who are signed up for electronic alerts through the Board's content management/action alert system.***	7,000	7,500	8,000
1.	Number of improved policies and practices that increase community participation, decision making and full inclusion	5 per year	5 per year	5 per year

**Note:** Based on fiscal year.

**Note:** The measures are established by the federally required five-year State Plan, which covers the period October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2021.

\*\*\*The Board has transitioned from Disability Advocates: Wisconsin Network (DAWN) to an internal content management/action alert system

# Financial Information

## Budget Summary by Funding Source

FY18

GENERAL PURPOSE REVENUE	\$117,600
State Operations	\$42,600
Grants	\$75,000
FEDERAL REVENUE *	\$1,308,704
State Operations Aids to Ind. & Org.	\$885,740
	\$422,964
TOTALS - ANNUAL	\$1,308,704
State Operations	\$928,340
Aids to Ind. & Org.	\$422,964

\* includes Program Revenue-Federal and Segregated Revenue-Federal.

### Additional Financial Notes

Leverage of financial resources: the Board has been lead grantee or sought out to receive four subcontracts from two federal grants in the past year, totaling an added \$2,343,721 beyond it's core funding.

BPDD has seven full-time permanent employees. Official office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Staff can choose their start and stop times within a 2-hour range, starting between 7 and 9, and ending between 3:30 and 5:30. Staff with positive performance reviews also can elect to work up to one day per week from a remote location. Staff who work extra or outside hours (e.g. nights, weekends) earn comp time. This serves as the agency's report on the success or failure in developing and creating flexible-time work schedules; additional, permanent part-time positions; and other alternative work patterns as required by s. 230.215(4), Wisconsin Statutes.

If you have questions or comments regarding financial information in this report or about BPDD, please contact Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, BPDD (contact information listed on Staff page). Additional information, including our five-year plan for 2017-2021, is located on our website, [www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org).

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WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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 in Wisconsin.

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### To Find Out More about WI-BPDD

#### **The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD)**

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<http://www.wi-bpdd.org/>

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