



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# *2013 - 2015 Biennial Report*



# About Wisconsin BPDD

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## Mission

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is charged by federal law to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities via advocacy, capacity building, and systems change leading to increased self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people. The Board advocates for the independence and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in Wisconsin.

## What is a Developmental Disability?

Under Wisconsin State Law, a developmental disability is defined as a list of conditions: brain injury, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, Prader-Willi syndrome, intellectual disability, or another neurological condition closely associated to an intellectual disability. The condition must be severe and permanent.

## BPDD State Plan, 2012-2016

BPDD's current work focuses primarily in three areas: self-advocacy, employment, and self-determination.

- BPDD works so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families are effective advocates and leaders, resulting in systems change on issues that impact their lives.
- BPDD's employment efforts increase the number of individuals with developmental disabilities who obtain and keep community-integrated jobs in Wisconsin.
- BPDD's self-determination work increases opportunities for people with developmental disabilities of all ages to make informed choices about their lives, which includes active engagement in planning their services and supports.

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Oct. 15, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker:

Please find attached the 2013-2015 biennial report from the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD). The report details our Board's mission, membership, goals, accomplishments, and budget.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is charged by federal law to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change leading to increased self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

Informed by statewide input from the disability community, BPDD's 2012-2016 State Plan focuses primarily in three areas: advocacy, employment, and self-determination.

During 2013 - 2015, BPDD made significant progress in every goal area.

- More than 600 self-advocates and family members participated in policy efforts related to expanded employment, improving public school quality, improving state services, increasing the number of people who vote, and other important policy issues.
- Nearly 500 more youth and adults found and kept competitive-wage jobs.
- The number of people selecting self-direction in long-term care increased by more than 300 and more people reported they felt increased control in their lives.

As a Governor-appointed Board, BPDD is committed to working with people with developmental disabilities and their families and allies to increase the number of people in Wisconsin with I/DD to become more independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life. Two-thirds of the Board's members live with disability, either as a self-advocate or family member.

If you have questions or comments regarding this report or about BPDD, please contact me at 608-266-1166 or [beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov). Additional information, including our five-year plan for 2012-2016, is located on our website, [www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org).

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Swedeen".

Beth Swedeen, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



# Current Board Members

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**PATRICK YOUNG**  
**Chairperson**  
*Self-Advocate*  
Germantown



**ELSA DIAZ-BAUTISTA**  
*Parent*  
Whitefish Bay



**WENDY ACKLEY**  
*Parent*  
Hartland



**MEREDITH DRESSEL**  
*Dept. Workforce Development*  
Madison



**BARBARA BECKERT**  
*Disability Rights Wisconsin*  
Milwaukee



**KEVIN FECH**  
*Parent*  
Cudahy



**AMANDA BELL**  
*Waisman Center*  
Madison



**JULIE HYLAND**  
*Dept. Health Services*  
Madison



**ALIZA CLAIRE BIBLE**  
*Self-Advocate*  
Madison



**ROBERT KUHR**  
*Self-Advocate*  
Menasha



**LYNN CARUS**  
*Self-Advocate*  
Milwaukee



**RAMSEY LEE**  
*Self-Advocate*  
Hudson



**NATHANIEL LENTZ**

*Self-Advocate*  
Reedsburg



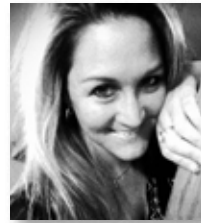
**CAROLE STUEBE**

*Service Provider*  
Port Washington



**PAM MALIN**

*Service Provider*  
DePere



**SHEILA THORNTON**

*Parent*  
Tomah



**CAMILLE NICKLAUS**

*Parent*  
Rothschild



**SUZAN VAN BEAVER**

*DPI*  
Madison  
*Designee for Carolyn*  
*Stanford-Taylor, DPI*



**DAVID PINNO**

*Self-Advocate*  
New London



**JUDITH QUIGLEY**

*Parent*  
Elm Grove



**LYNN  
STANSBERRY-BRUSNAHAN**

*Parent*  
Shorewood

# Advocacy

*Individuals with disabilities and their families must be at the table when programs, services or changes in the community are occurring that will have a direct effect on their lives. This includes changes in local, statewide, and federal policies and practices. In order for individuals to be involved with change, they need to have the tools to make the change.*

*Goals: BPDD's advocacy goals include helping establish 30 effective advocacy groups engaging in advocacy and organizing activities of their choice; establishing a statewide self-advocacy organization that is led by an individual with an intellectual disability; and building a network of at least 3,000 individuals and organizations that are connected through BPDD's Action Alert system to act on opportunities for systemic change.*



***“Participating in Partners in Policymaking allowed me to gain the skills and confidence I lacked to be a successful advocate.”***

***- Partners Graduate***

at least once and more than 70% of graduates report that they will be more connected with their legislators.

## **Impact:**

Almost 100 self advocates and family members have graduated from the program since 2011. Partners have been active in shaping policy around increased school accountability, expanding employment opportunities, and improving long-term care.

For more, see <http://www.wi-bpdd.org/projects/partnersinpolicymaking/index.cfm>



## **Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking**

Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking is an advocacy and systems change training program designed to develop the next generation of leaders in the disability advocacy movement. During the program, every participant meets with an elected official

## **People First Wisconsin**

BPDD supports the statewide self-advocacy organization, People First Wisconsin. Members of the organization have increasingly taken on more leadership roles within the organization.





### **Impact:**

People First has created local chapters throughout Wisconsin. Issues they have worked on include voter education and turnout, increasing integrated employment, and expanding transportation opportunities.

### **Disability Advocacy Day**

BPDD collaborates with Survival Coalition Wisconsin during Disability Advocacy Day. This event connects disability advocates from around the state with their legislators at the State Capitol. The day includes a briefing about current disability issues and meetings between disability advocates and their legislators.

### **Impact:**

More than 700 people participated in this event this year, and nearly all state legislators receive a visit from a constituent. Of the disability advocates who participated in Disability Advocacy Day, more than 80% said that their experience increased the likelihood that they will participate in other advocacy activities.

### **Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition**

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (WDVC) is a non-partisan effort to increase voter turnout and participation in the electoral process by members of Wisconsin's disability community.

### **Impacts:**

WDVC has produced more than 10 videos with information on where to get help with voting, same-day registration, the election schedule, accessibility and voting, absentee voting, and more. To increase the accessibility of voting sites in Wisconsin, the coalition worked with the Government Accountability Board to ensure every polling place was assessed for accessibility on election day. WDVC also sponsored a State Superintendent of Public Instruction candidate forum. Since 2008, the number of people with disabilities who vote has increased by 15%.

For more, see <http://www.disabilityvote.org/>

# Advocacy

## BPDD Action Alert Network

BPDD has developed an extensive email alert system for disability advocates (formerly called the Disability Advocates: Wisconsin Network or DAWN) that helps people stay informed about disability issues. The system sends email alerts about advocacy opportunities related to state and federal policy. Alerts also keep people informed about opportunities to advocate at events like town hall meetings and public hearings.

### Impacts:

Currently more than 1,522 people are subscribed to BPDD alert emails and more than 3,662 people are connected to BPDD via social media (2,062 on Facebook and 242 Twitter followers), events, and email communications.



## Disability Policy Partnership

The Disability Policy Partnership (DPP) coordinates policy work among BPDD, Disability Rights Wisconsin, the Waisman Center, and People First Wisconsin to work



on joint high-priority issues, including Family Care/IRIS quality and statewide expansion, expanding integrated employment, special education quality/general education access, health care reform, and Medicaid quality and access. Long-term goals of the DPP include the implementation of policies that support people with disabilities to live and work in their communities, and increase participation and informed decision-making by people with disabilities in key policy decisions.

### Impacts:

An estimated 100 self-advocates, family members, and students made their first visit with a state or federal level policymaker as a result of a training or support from a DPP partner. More than 10 pieces of state legislation were impacted by the DPP.

## SPARKS Grants

SPARKS Grants lead to innovative methods that ignite systems change that improve the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin. The grants help people with disabilities explore innovative ways to use self-directed supports and participate more fully in their communities.





Throughout the duration of the project, grant recipients have the opportunity to receive mentorship from BPDD. Each SPARKS Grant team participates in a day-long SPARKS Retreat that includes project work plan development and an opportunity to collaborate with other SPARKS teams from around the state.

### Impacts:

SPARKS Grants during 2014-2015 included:

- Working with the local community to develop an accessible playground
- Developing a video to educate people with disabilities about their voting rights.
- Working with the local community to increase accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities.
- Creating a two-day transition conference for more than 200 Milwaukee youth and their families.
- Gleaning project that aims is to increase community-integrated employment for people with disabilities and also to provide healthy food in Kickapoo.
- Project to paint parking lots with the new revamped accessibility logo.

### Youth Leadership Forum

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. YLF provides training in leadership, self-advocacy skills, and career awareness to 25 students in 2014 and 27 students in 2015 with disabilities from throughout the state of Wisconsin.

***“YLF gave me the voice I needed to stand up for my disability and myself.”***

***- YLF Graduate***

### Impacts:

A survey of participants found:

- 78% of participants report they will be a more effective leader.
- 87% of participants report they are more comfortable speaking with legislators
- 74% of participants report they are more comfortable advocating for themselves.

# Employment

*In Family Care, only 8% of working-age individuals have a community job at minimum wage or higher. In IRIS, the rate is only 4%. Yet nationally, more than 80% of people with disabilities who are unemployed say they want to work.*

*Goals: BPDD's goal is to double the number of individuals in Wisconsin's long-term care system who have jobs at minimum wage or higher in the community within five years. In 2012, the number of individuals in Wisconsin's long-term care system who were participating in integrated employment was 2,094. We are now at 2,280.*

## Wisconsin Employment First

BPDD partners with Wisconsin Assn. of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) on the Wisconsin Employment First, an effort to promote Integrated Employment (IE) for people with disabilities and double the IE rate in Wisconsin in five years. Wisconsin Employment First is part of a national movement of over 45 states advocating for integrated employment to be the first option for people with disabilities.

***“Employing Patrick provides an opportunity for our employees to mentor a young talent.”***

***- Employer***

### Impacts:

An annual event, the Employment First Conference now has close to 400 people attending.

Participants reported:

- Almost all (98%) said they would use what they learned at the conference to help themselves or someone they know.



- Nearly 90% said they would share what they had learned with others.
- Nearly 30% said they will join the Employment First Coalition.

The Employment First Coalition has doubled in size and is now more than 100 people that have formed a sustaining effort to double the number of people with disabilities in integrated employment in Wisconsin by 2016.

For more information, see <http://www.wiemploymentfirst.com/>

## Wisconsin Think College

Research shows that when individuals with intellectual disabilities have at least some college experience, their employment outcomes significantly improve. The Wisconsin Think College Initiative increases opportunities for inclusive post-secondary education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

### Impacts:

Through the initiative, seven colleges statewide have shown interest in offering Think College opportunities and are getting support on how they can involve and include



people with intellectual disabilities in campus life experiences, including coursework, peer mentorships, and work experiences like internships.

For more information, see [www.waisman.wisc.edu/thinkcollege/](http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/thinkcollege/)

### **Let's Get to Work**

Let's Get to Work is a Partnerships in Employment federal grant awarded to 8 states to improve community employment outcomes for youth with I/DD who are transitioning from high school to the workforce by improving, developing, and implementing policies and practices that raise community expectations.

#### **Impacts:**

Nine pilot sites developed throughout the state: Grafton, Holmen, Kewaunee County schools, Manitowoc, New Auburn, Oconomowoc, Rhinelander, Stoughton, and West Allis/West Milwaukee.

Examples include:

- Manitowoc: Created partnership with UW Manitowoc for I/DD students to earn certificates.
- Holmen: Developed a co-teaching model to increase inclusive classes.

- Grafton: Collaborating with Chamber of Commerce to make business connections.

The employment rate in BPDD's 12 Let's Get to Work pilot schools is now 66%: up more than 500% from what we started with 2 1/2 years ago.

This grant resulted in 62% of students having paid community employment and 89% engaged in some type of integrated work activity (paid/unpaid). Every student in paid employment was employed by a different business (30 unique employers) indicating the schools are keeping up with matching student's interests, skills, and abilities to jobs in the community.

Jobs were in several industries including hotel, restaurant, retail, bowling alley, church, school district, insurance company, grocery store, movie theater, and an auto parts store. For more, see <http://www.letsgettoworkwi.org/>

### **Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign**

BPDD created the Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign to raise awareness among policymakers about the importance of jobs in the community that pay market wages for people with disabilities in Wisconsin. During a visit, an individual with a disability provides a tour of his or her workplace to a legislator, introduces the legislator to co-workers and talks about why the job is important to them.

#### **Impacts:**

There were 61 visits during the 2014-2015 campaign: 35 State Representatives; 19 State Senators; 2 U.S. Representatives; Governor Walker; and the State Attorney General.

Most legislators (77%) involved say they have increased expectations about the ability of people with disabilities to work in the community and are more likely to support legislation (85%) that will increase integrated employment. For more information, see <http://wi-bpdd.org/takeyourlegislatorwork/>



# Self Determination

*Individuals and families with I/DD must have choice and control of their public funds to support their needs, including the use of paid and unpaid supports. Self-directed supports (SDS) offer the greatest flexibility to individuals and families in the long-term care system. SDS can also create cost efficiencies for their public dollars. Individuals and families engaged in developing a person/family-centered, self directed service plan are able to choose services and supports outside the service system.*

*Goals: BPDD's goals include increasing by 1,000 the number of individuals with I/DD of all ages participating in SDS, and increasing by 450 the number of youth transitioning from high school to adult supports using SDS. BPDD also aims to increase by 50% the use of natural/community supports by people with I/DD.*



IRIS, and/or building community capacity; and engage in systems change activities that promote the expansion of SDS options in Wisconsin.

## Wisconsibs

Siblings of individuals with disabilities often have the longest relationship with their sister or brother experiencing disability. Yet, few supports, resources, and opportunities exist for siblings to learn together, share experiences, and build the skills to navigate the challenges of advocating for their siblings with developmental disabilities. Many are raising their own children and caring for aging parents.

The purpose of this project is to begin expanding a sibling network statewide that first was launched by the Fox Valley Sibling Support Network in the Fox Valley area



## Self-Directed Supports (SDS) Grants

The purpose of BPDD's SDS Grants are to develop a network of individuals and families who utilize formal and informal supports; develop and pilot innovative models of support in areas such as: community supported living, SDS in Managed Care and



(established in 1998). This project's purpose is to create and pilot a successful program of connecting and developing resources and opportunities for and by siblings in strategic areas of Wisconsin that will be capable of expanding state-wide while being financially sustainable.

### **Family-Led Networks**

This project helps youth and young adults with developmental disabilities and their families turn the worry they feel in transitioning to the "real" world after high school to creating a more welcome community. They will do this by organizing a network of family members committed to educating themselves, their circles of supports, and their community about the value and opportunities self-directed supports can bring to their lives. Families will learn from other family-governed communities and develop individual person-centered plans.

### **Community Supported Living**

Deciding where and with whom you live is at the heart of self-determination. To be actively engaged and fully participating in those decisions requires many pieces to come together. Community Supported Living (CSL) promotes informed decision making and risk taking while providing flexible supports.

This project develops partnerships and ways expand opportunities for self-direction through the development of options for Community Supported Living, including collaboration with landlords, technology providers, community support providers, community service clubs and faith communities.



# Self Determination

## Peer Mentoring

This project develops a peer mentoring program for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to gain greater control of their lives by obtaining the skills necessary to live independently.

The peer mentoring program will maximize self-advocates' abilities with a goal to create greater awareness for self-direction and self-determination through the pursuit of independence. A self-advocate serves as mentor for the program.



## CORE Mini Grants

Grants were awarded to groups of families of children with disabilities, ages birth to six, to expand opportunities and build relationships between their children and others in their community.

Family and community expectations play a huge role in the opportunities that children with disabilities have. Access to opportunities is one of the biggest predictors that children with disabilities will grow up to be more independent, more employable, and better able to participate in their communities. CORE stands for Community, Opportunity, Reciprocity, and Enjoyment.

***"I learned that I can make my own choices with the help of my family and friends."***

***—SD Conference Attendee***





## Self-Determination Conference

The Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference empowers people with disabilities in the state to have more control over their lives. Self-determination is strong in Wisconsin and self-directed supports are one of the most creative tools available for individuals with disabilities to get the support they need to live the life they want.

More than 600 conference participants including people with disabilities and their family members, direct care providers, and professionals from Wisconsin's disability community attend this event each year.

## Impacts:

As a result of participating in the conference:

- The majority of participants (95%) reported they would take action to increase self-direction.
- Two-thirds reported they have more tools to help themselves get the life they want.
- Two-thirds said they will increase their connection and involvement in their communities.



## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 2013 AND 2014 GOALS AND ACTUALS\*

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2013	Actual 2013	Goal 2014	Actual 2014
1	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	4,649	2,094	5,682	2,280
1	Number of people with developmental disability age 18 to 24 in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	865	466	1,057	496
1	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	5,425	6,800	5,529	7,010
1	Number of people with developmental disability age 18 to 24 in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	1,864	1,895	2,019	2,203
1	Number of people with developmental disability who report using informal supports for activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living on their functional screen.	18,491	12,879	20,032	13,953
1	Number of advocacy groups created and supported by the Board.	12	7	18	17
1	Number of individuals who are signed up for electronic alerts through the Disability Advocates: Wisconsin Network.	2,055	1,470 (DAWN)	2,346	3,662 (Total) 1,522 (DAWN) 2,062 (Facebook) 242 (Twitter)

\*Note: Based on fiscal year

Note: The measures are established by the federally required five- year State Plan, which covers the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 2015, 2016, AND 2017 GOALS \*

Prog. No.	Performance Measure	Goal 2015	Goal 2016	Goal 2017
1	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	6,715		
1	Number of people with developmental disability age 18 to 24 in long-term care programs participating in integrated employment.	1,249		
1	Number of people with developmental disability in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	5,633		
1	Number of people with developmental disability age 18 to 24 in long-term care programs participating in self-directed supports.	2,174		
1	Number of people with developmental disability who report using informal supports for activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living on their functional screen.	21,573		
1	Number of advocacy groups created and supported by the Board.	24		
1	Number of individuals who are signed up for electronic alerts through the Disability Advocates: Wisconsin Network.	2,637		

\*Note: Based on fiscal year

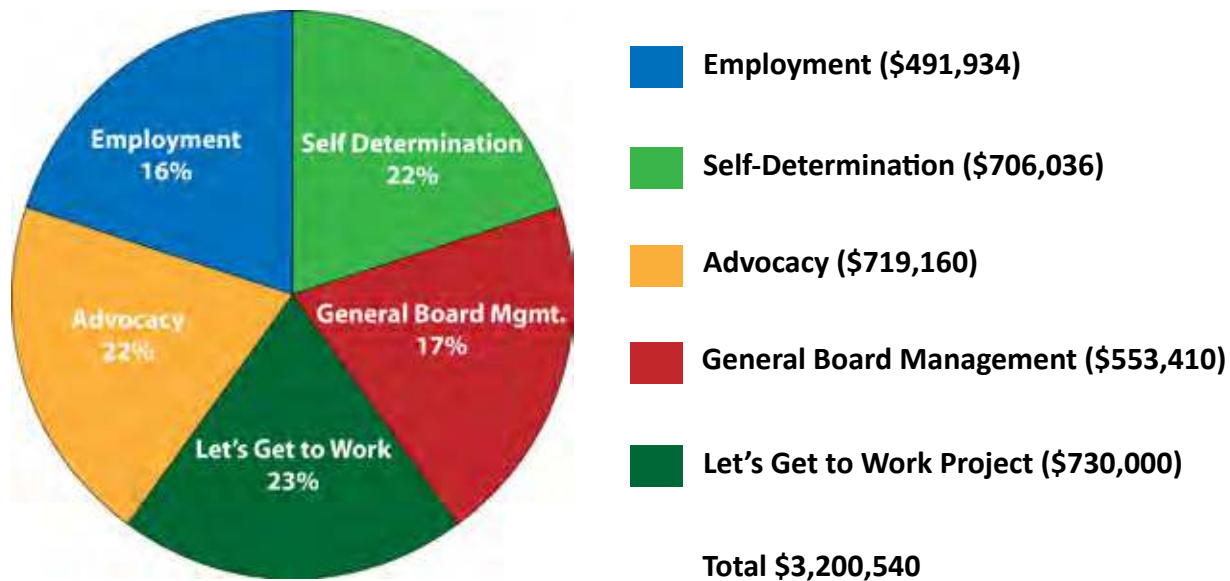
Note: The measures are established by the federally required five- year State Plan, which covers the period October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2016.



# Financial Information

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## 2013-2015 Budget \*



*\* Please note that these figures represent the totals for the two-year period.*

# Staff Contacts

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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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