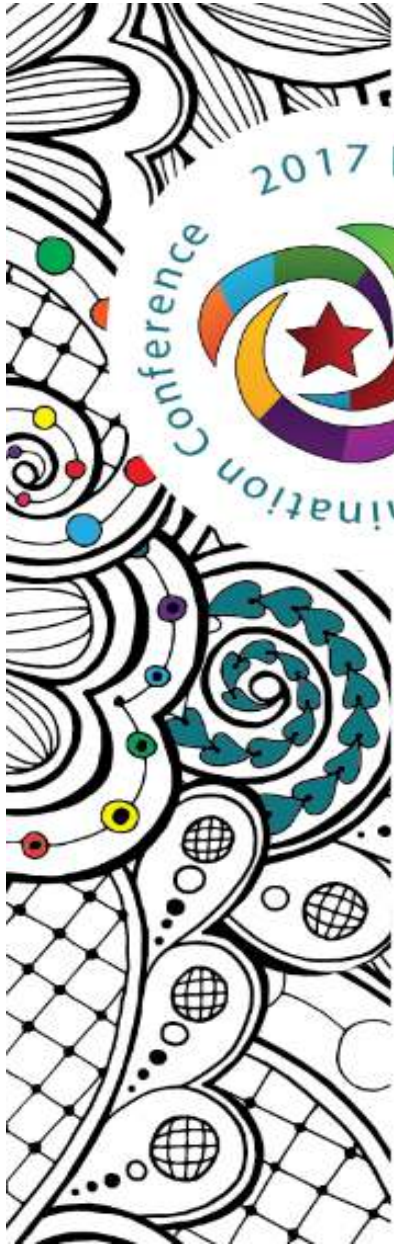




# 2017 Diehard Awards



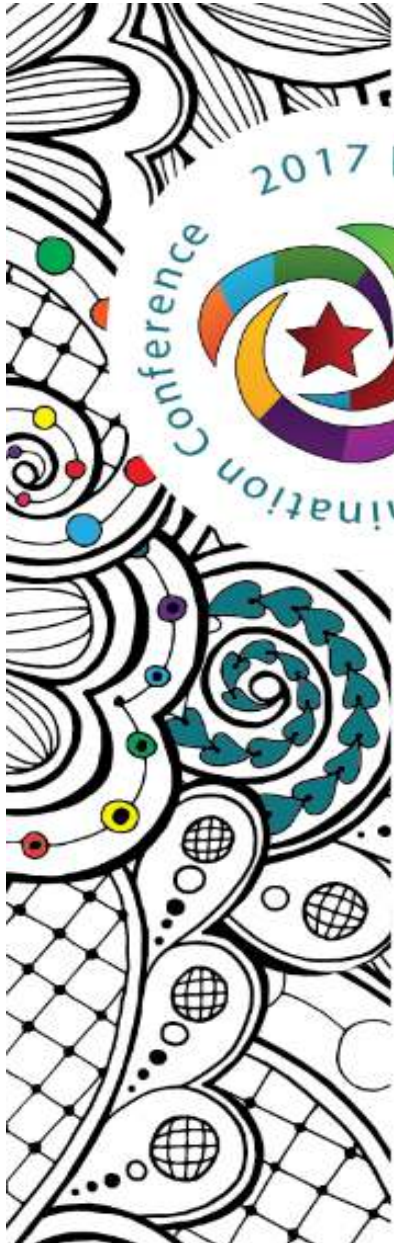
A **Diehard** is someone with a steadfast commitment to the principles of self-determination.

# Diehard Self- Advocate Award



# David Pinno





## Diehard Self- Advocate Award



## David Pinno

David Pinno is a member of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, a co-chair of its Governmental Affairs Committee, and a Partner in Policymaking alum. Public policy has become David's passion, and he uses his story and the stories of others with disabilities to make important points about how people with disabilities want the same opportunities as everyone else, including the opportunity to work competitively, contribute in their communities, and live independently. David has been a statewide leader in getting reforms to the Medicaid Purchase Plan, an option for people with disabilities who work to buy into the Medicaid program. He also has been a strong advocate at the state and federal levels on increasing integrated employment, The Able Act and reforms to FoodShare. David uses his story of moving from a subminimum wage job to competitive employment and a home of his own to educate policymakers on the abilities of people with disabilities when given the right opportunities.



## Diehard Self-Advocate Award

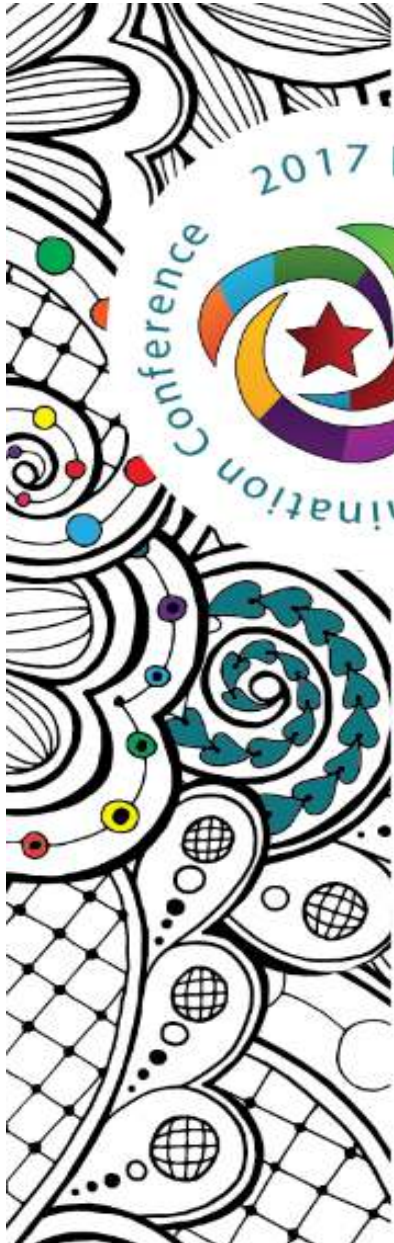


Abigail Tessman  
Madison, WI

- For me, Medicaid means:
- \* Community Options Program
  - \* Community Integration Program
  - \* Transportation, Employment, Living



# Abby Tessmann



## Diehard Self-Advocate Award



## Abby Tessmann

Abby was one of the first individuals with a disability to receive a para-professional educator's certificate. She also has her own business- Transit2Go in which she helps others learn to get around the Madison area.

She is a BPDD partners in policy making graduate.

She has a strong relationship with her legislators and has been involved on the leadership team at Save IRIS and is frequently found at the Capitol going office to office for Save IRIS, or other disability issues.

Senator Risser refers to her as his "Favorite Constituent".

# Diehard Advocate Award



# Deb Wisniewski

## Diehard Advocate Award



**Deb Wisniewski**

Deb understands the power of helps individuals connect in their communities and organizations learn better ways to support people with disabilities to lead fully included lives. She has seen many grant projects and helped individuals and organizations create better communities including developing on line communities.

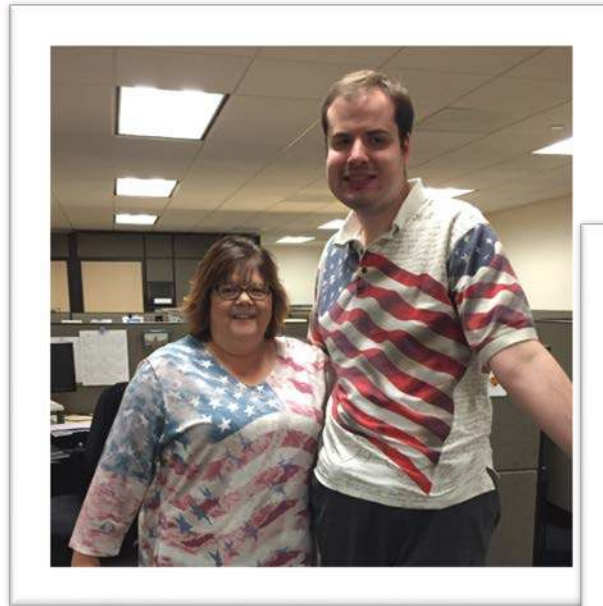
She has applied her training with ABCD (Asset based community development) to bring out the potential in others. She has a kind way of asking difficult question that get to the heart of a matter so that problems can be solved and barriers overcome. Thank you Deb for all you do to build better communities for everyone.







## Diehard Advocate Award



# Sue Urban RN, CDP

## Diehard Advocate Award



**Sue Urban RN, CDP**

*Sue is a positive role model and tremendous resource for people everywhere to experience their lives in full color. She recognizes that people with disabilities and their families are an important part of the team. She models a person-centered approach in her professional and personal life, including in the caring support she provides to her mother in her journey with dementia over the past several years.*

*Her work and training in dementia care, especially for people with developmental disabilities, is critical to ensuring the best supports to individuals as they age.*

