



Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

"What's the Word?"



Each month BPDD features a different leader in Wisconsin living with a disability. "What's the Word?" is an opportunity to hear directly from self-advocates about what's important to them. This month's column comes from Alisha Cloutier of Green Bay, who is one of our Partners in Policymaking graduates!

To read the article click the link below.

[What's the Word?](#)

If you or somebody you know would like to be featured in "What's the Word?" contact Jeremy at jeremy.gundlach@wisconsin.gov.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month



"The Right Talent, Right Now"

WI BPDD is proud to support National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and share our stories of employment success through our projects like Employment First and Building Full Lives grants and Take Your Legislator to Work. Held each October, NDEAM celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. If you'd like to know more about NDEAM or how you can get involved visit: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>

Throughout the month, we will be posting stories on our social media from our board members and our successful employment projects. Click the button below that matches the social media platform you use and follow us to get updates on these stories!

Announcing the 2019 SPARKS Grantees



Our Sparks grants help local grassroots groups bring their community together to solve local challenges and improve the lives of people with disabilities. The grants “spark” innovative ideas and can test new ways to bring about positive community change for individuals with disabilities on issues that are important to them. SPARKS Grants are funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) and are available to people with developmental disabilities and family members in Wisconsin.

Our 2019-2020 grantees are:

All My Friends Playground - Cedarburg

Camp Kindred - Milwaukee

Chitter Chatter - Milwaukee

Empowering Disability Education - Madison

People First of Fond du Lac - Fond du Lac

Padres E Hijos en Accion - Fitchburg

Disability Action Network - La Crosse

ODC Inc - Marshfield

Anger Me Not Foundation - Marshfield

People First of Chippewa Valley - Eau Claire

LOV Dane - Madison

Employment First Partner Grants have been awarded!



Do you want more people with disabilities to get and keep jobs? So do we! Our Employment First partners bring communities together to increase community, integrated employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including people with diverse identities and people who are traditionally underserved.

Below is a list of our 2019-2020 grantees and their location around the state.

Hudson High School

Barron City County on Transition

Southwest Milwaukee Consortium

SPARK – Middleton

Lodi Agricultural Fair

Madison Metropolitan School District

Mukwonago High School

WorkPlus – Madison

Franklin Public Schools

Stay tuned on our social media and like our pages if you'd like to receive updates as we detail out what each grantee will be doing for their project!

Supported Decision Making Training: First Statewide Conference was a success



Thank you for those who attended the first Supported Decision-Making training on September the 13th! There were almost 400 people in attendance. We want to make sure we shared presentations from the sessions. If you would like to plan a webinar training for your local group, we are happy to work with you on finding time and presenters to support further training. Please contact Fil Clissa at 608-266-5395 or email at Fil.Clissa@wisconsin.gov to plan a webinar.

We also have fantastic resources! If you would like to order Supported Decision-Making tool-kits or the Alternatives to Guardianship booklets, you can contact Jeremy Gundlach at 608-266-7826 or email at jeremy.gundlach@wisconsin.gov. You can also click the links below to download the electronic copies of the resources.

Supported Decision Making Training: [Agenda](#)

Alternatives to Guardianship booklet & SDM Toolkit: [Link](#)

September 13th Training Materials:

Keynote 1: [Leah Ortiz](#)

Keynote 2: [SDM Overview](#)

Breakout Session 1: [Nuts and Bolts](#)

Breakout Session 2: [Options in Legal Decision Making](#)

Breakout Session 3: [Rethinking Guardianship](#)

Breakout Session 4: [Conversations on Decision making Options](#)

Help us Welcome BPDDs two new staff members



BPDD has two new staff members! Please help us Welcome Ramona Boswell (left) and Angie Tyler (Right) to the BPDD team!

Ramona is working to support our office manager Natasha with financials and all the tasks that keep BPDD running smoothly! Here is a little bit more about Ramona in her own words:

I am from Youngstown Ohio, moved to WI 25 years ago with my daughter and cousins. This is my home now! I have an Associate degree in fashion design through Youngstown City School System – Chufin. I have an Associate degree in accounting from YSU. Two-year studies at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. I enjoy visiting Museums, Sewing, Cooking and baking classes, my four grandchildren and recently Biking and Exercising. Being part of BPDD is a new and exciting experience for me. I am looking forward to learning how BPDD helps the community while giving me the opportunity to be a part of it.

Angie is excited to be coordinating events around the state for BPDD's board meetings, projects, conferences and our upcoming 5-year state plan. In the past she has coordinated the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Taste of Madison, numerous celebrity charity roasts, as well as meetings and conferences. When not planning, Angie enjoys writing, travel, and Broadway theatre.