

December 2019

## **"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 Kathy Fleury, a very community oriented advocate from the Fond du Lac area. Kathy shares about her life in the community, her job, the caregiver workforce shortage and her advocacy work.

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](mailto:jeremy.gundlach@wisconsin.gov).

## Disability Advocacy Day: Save the Date Tuesday, March 24, 2020



Disability Advocacy Day connects you with your legislators so you can talk about issues that matter to you. You are the expert in sharing how legislative policies affect people with disabilities in their everyday lives.

JOIN US!

**When:** March 24th, 2020

**Where:** Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, One John Nolen Drive, Madison, WI

**You must register to participate. No walk-ins allowed**

Registration, agenda and additional information will be available in January.

## Youth Leadership Forum 2020: Application Available!



Do you know a high school student who is a leader or a budding advocate? Youth Leadership Forum is the perfect place to gain or refine leadership skills!

What will participants get out of the training?

- Leadership Skills
- Friends
- Tips for self-advocacy
- Practice for getting/keeping a job
- FUN!!

**WHERE:** Edgewood College, Madison, WI

**WHEN:** July 19 – 24, 2020

**COST:** FREE\*

Application: <https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2020-YLFAApplication-Printable.docx>

Applications are due April 1st, 2020 and although it is April Fools Day, this is no joke!

Being selected to attend the Youth Leadership Forum is a distinct honor that you can be very proud of. Please take the time to apply – you'll have the time of your life!

If you have questions or for more information about Youth Leadership Forum contact Jenny at [Jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov) or call 608-266-7707.

What should I do if I need help filling out the application?

Ask a friend, sibling, parent/guardian, teacher or contact Olivia Johnston, YLF Director at (920) 539-5640 or [wisconsinylf@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinylf@gmail.com).

## BPDD's Website Redesign Will Launch in January of 2020



We are proud to announce that our website is currently going through a redesign! BPDD is committed to sharing our projects, grants, events and resources in the most accessible format possible.

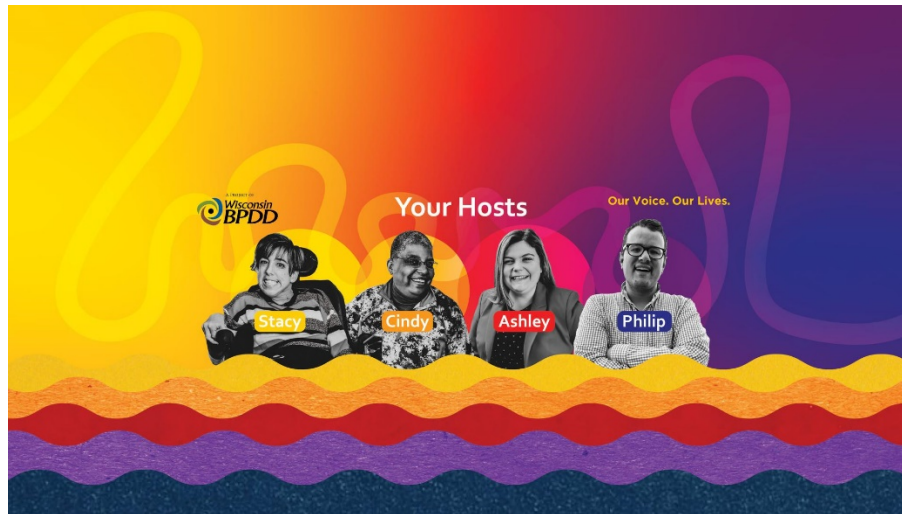
What can you expect with the new look?

- Easier navigation
- Suggested ways to get involved with BPDD depending on what is best for you
- An emphasis on connecting with our staff and board members
- An updated calendar so you can stay connected with BPDD or BPDD affiliated events

The new website will have the same address and links as before, just a new cleaner look! We are planning to have the website switched over by the end of January. If you have any issues finding resources, you can always feel free to contact Jeremy at [Jeremy.Gundlach@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jeremy.Gundlach@wisconsin.gov) or call at 608-266-7826.

BPDD staff are working hard to make sure it is a smooth transition but once again if there are any issues or bugs as the new site rolls out, please feel free to contact Jeremy and we will get the issues resolved in a timely manner.

## Self-Determination YouTube Channel: Subscribe Today



The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities is sponsoring a new self-determination project – the Self-Determination Channel - a YouTube channel by and for people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. The Self-Determination Channel stands out from other channels on YouTube because self-advocates host the videos, and decide and create the content.

The theme of the channel is: Self-Determination is Empowerment. It was started to give self-advocates a place where they can be seen and heard, connect with others, and mentor each other. Our hope is that the channel can be used as a teaching tool and show examples of what is possible.

Videos are being produced on topics self-advocates care about such as technology, employment, caregivers, living on ones own and advocacy. Every Tuesday, a Tuesday's Tips video is posted on how to live a more self-determined life.

A question is asked at the end of each video. Viewers are encouraged to share their answers in the comment section. Links and additional information are posted below the video.

To visit the Self-Determination Channel, go  
to: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSBRbXjC\\_l0iTS92fjGvxA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqSBRbXjC_l0iTS92fjGvxA)

Please consider subscribing by clicking on the Subscribe button.

If you want to be notified every time we post a new video, click on the bell that is next to the subscribe button.