



# 2020 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference

## Turning Vision Into Reality



**October 26-28, 2020**  
Virtually Everywhere



 "Like" us on Facebook!  
Search 'Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities'



For more information, visit:  
[www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org)





# Make the Disability Vote Count in the 2020 Elections

**November 3, 2020: General & Presidential Election**

*Request your absentee ballot today at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)*

**Register to vote online at [MyVote.wi.gov](http://MyVote.wi.gov)**

- Questions? Call Wisconsin Election Commission: **1-866-VOTE-WIS / elections.wi.gov** or email [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov)
- For help with disability related voting issues: Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline: **844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683**

**The #2020Census counts: Be counted!**



**“** I vote because it gives me a voice in all the elections. **”**

ZACHARY REETZ  
NESHKORO, WI




**“** I vote because it's my right! If I don't vote, I cannot hold people in office accountable. I want to make my community better and to set an example for others with disabilities. **”**

CINDY BENTLEY  
GLENDALE, WI




**“** If you do NOT vote then you cannot complain or share your concerns with the political leaders. That is why I vote—because I want my human rights as a Deaf person to be heard! **”**

DENISE JOHNSON  
WAUKESHA, WI




**“** I vote because it is a way all Americans can participate in our democracy and make informed decisions. Voting is a way we can show love to our country and neighbors. **”**

RAMSEY LEE,  
HUDSON, WI



## Follow Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition:

[www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org)

[www.facebook.com/wisconsinindisabilityvote/](http://www.facebook.com/wisconsinindisabilityvote/) • [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)



disabilityrights | WISCONSIN

Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities.

# Get Ready for a Virtual Conference

Monday, October 26

2-6 PM

## Zoom Tutorials



Not familiar with Zoom or virtual conferences? Watch a series of information videos to help you participate in everything the conference has to offer.

Link will be open at 2 pm: You will find links to lots of tutorials on how to prepare and navigate the conference to have the best experience possible!

Go to: [www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org) and click on the Conference logo

- How to set up Zoom and use Zoom tools during the conference
- How to get CEU credits during the conference

Learn how to use Zoom in a simple way and have fun at this amazing conference!



## Zoom Information and Support Lounge

If you need help during the conference, you can make your way to the Zoom Support Lounge and speak to a live person: <https://zoom.us/j/91270598989>

Call: (312) 626-6799 | Meeting ID: 912 7059 8989

### Zoom Support Lounge Hours:

Monday, October 26 from 2 pm – 6 pm

Tuesday, October 27 from 8:30 am – 4 pm

Wednesday, October 28 from 8:30 am – 3 pm

Or if you are having trouble with Zoom, call Michelle at (920) 723-5571.



## How to Get CEU Credits During the Conference

CRC/CEU credits are available in this virtual conference format. You will find a link to a survey in the Chat button in each session. The survey will ask you a couple questions for proof of attendance as well as a spot for your name and email address. Your responses are compiled after the conference and the requested forms will be emailed to you.



CEU & CRCs provided by: **University of Wisconsin – Stout**



# What to Know If You Are Attending a Watch Party

## Watch Parties

If you have signed up to attend a local Watch Party, here are some things to remember to make your experience the best it can be:

- Please follow all current and local COVID safe practices
- Make sure you bring a face mask with you
- Bring your own water bottle
- If you bring a smartphone, iPad or laptop with you, please also bring a set of headphones
- Lunch and afternoon snack will be provided. You are welcome to bring your own if you wish.



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Self-Advocates

Educators

Family Members

Advocates

Providers

# Turning Vision Into Reality

Well, we didn't see THIS coming! Never did we imagine a virtual conference! The Self-Determination Conference has always been a highly interactive conference with lots of opportunities to network, connect, and explore new opportunities. We are determined to make the 2020 virtual conference just as interactive!

**Good thing the entire 2019 conference was dedicated to technology!** 😊

Life is sure different now. We are socially distancing, working from home, wearing facemasks, and using Zoom! We've learned new ways to get our needs met through home deliveries, curbside pickups, and virtual meetings!

At the Self-Determination Conference, self-advocates can share their successes and struggles so others can learn from their experiences. Self-Determination inspires us and guides our vision for the future. At the Self-Determination Conference, we will move forward together!

This is the 13th Self-Determination Conference! Some would skip the "13th" of anything but not us! We are determined as ever to be creative, think outside the box and help you reach your vision!

So, keep an open mind, put on your fuzzy slippers and join us virtually. Together-apart!

**"Dream Big and Try"** - George Zaske, parent





# Celebrating 20 years of People First's members making **BIG IMPACT** all over the state!

See Our **dis**Ability

## *Some Highlights:*

- Worked with Legislators to pass the People First Bill which ended the "R" word. As a result, the Rhinelander Knights of Columbus removed the "R" word off of their Tootsie Roll campaign.
- Changed the purpose of sheltered workshops to empower people to earn what they are worth. Meaningful pay for meaningful work!
- Fox Cities lobbied the transportation department to add curb cuts to provide accessibility to the Fox Valley Shopping Center.

## *But We Still Have Work To Do! Our Current Focus:*

- We need to empower people to choose where they live.
- We need to ensure people have the tools they need to work in their community.
- We need people to have access to proper care and caregivers.
- We need people to have easy access to transportation.



# Monday, October 26

## KICK-OFF: Microbusiness Night Market

4-6 PM

This won't be your average Night Market! Join the All Abilities Marketplace Artists for a virtual night market experience from your favorite chair.

Join us on the BPDD Facebook Page and learn all about fabulous artists. Visit them, ask questions about their business, shop their products, and you may even win a free item!

### BONUS!

From Monday at 4 pm until Wednesday at 8 pm - you will receive a **\$10.00 free shipping credit**. Get your holiday shopping done early while supporting local artists and businesses!



## ALL ABILITIES MARKET

We love our conference vendors!

The All Abilities Market was created to offer a virtual shopping experience for microenterprise owners to sell their products.



Visit the Marketplace Website:

[www.allAmarket.org](http://www.allAmarket.org)

How to Watch the Night Market:

Go to [www.facebook.com/WisconsinBPDD](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinBPDD)



[/WisconsinBPDD](https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinBPDD)

# Agenda at a Glance

## Tuesday, October 27

- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Check in to your watch party or test out your internet connection
- 9:00 am - 10:15 am **General Session 1, Welcome and Keynote: Opening Celebration!**
- 10:15 am - 11:00 am Networking Break, Exhibitors & More
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Really Good Learning Sessions**
- 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm Lunch, Networking & Diehard Awards
- 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm **Really Good Learning Sessions**
- 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm Networking Break, Exhibitors & More
- 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Self-Advocate's Stories of Vision
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm **People First Wisconsin Virtual Dance Party.**  
Celebrate 20 years of advocacy!



## After-hours Activities

- 5:30 pm Movie: Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (Rated R for mature content)
- 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Hang Out: Join us for some laughs, see old friends, play some games! You may even win a prize!



Crip Camp

# Agenda at a Glance

## Wednesday, October 28

- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Check in to your watch party or test out your internet connection
- 9:00 am - 10:00 am **General Session 2, Keynote:  
Self-Determination Advocates Speak Out**
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am Networking Break, Exhibitors & More
- 10:45 am - 11:45 am **Really Good Learning Sessions**
- 11:45 am - 1:00 pm Lunch and Networking Break, Exhibitors & More
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm **Really Good Learning Sessions**
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Closing & Really Good Door Prizes!  
Stick around for our wrap-up video and really cool door prizes!

## *After-hours Activities*

- 5:00 pm Movie: Peanut Butter Falcon  
[PG-13]
- 7:00 pm - 8:00pm Hang Out: Join us for some laughs, see old friends, play some games! You may even win a prize!



Peanut Butter Falcon

## Tuesday Breakout Sessions

Sessions 1-6 | 11:00am - 12:00pm

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 |  | Self-Health: One Key to Success                                      |
| 2 |  | Independent Living: Creating an Individualized Moving On Plan        |
| 3 |  | Supported Decision-Making Conversations with Families and Caregivers |
| 4 |  | Safe and Free: Abuse Awareness                                       |
| 5 |  | What Do I Bring With Me on the Transition Path?                      |
| 6 |  | Finding Your Voice: Let's Make a Podcast Together!                   |

Sessions 7-12 | 1:15pm - 2:15pm

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 7  |    | Moms with a Vision on a Mission: Creating Employment Opportunities |
| 8  |    | Living in Your Own Community-Integrated Affordable Home            |
| 9  |  | What Do You Really Want to Know about Relationships?               |
| 10 |  | Voting in the Time of Pandemic                                     |
| 11 |  | IRIS Program 2021 Updates  |
| 12 |  | I Envision a Future With You In My Life: A Love Story              |

Sessions 13-18 | 3:00pm - 3:30pm

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 13 |  | Autism, Seeing the World from a Different Perspective |
| 14 |  | Is Your 'Vision' Blurry? See My Reality               |
| 15 |  | Follow Your Passions and Connect to Your Community    |
| 16 |  | My Employment Story: More Than Just a Job             |
| 17 |  | Realizing Your Own Employment Path                    |
| 18 |  | Carol Ann Matthies: A Force to be Reckoned With       |

|    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 19 |  | Building Long Lasting Community Connections                                |
| 20 |  | Living Well, Stay Healthy, Safe and Connected Toolkit                      |
| 21 |  | Understanding ABLE Accounts  |
| 22 |  | Creating a Plan for a Self-Directed Life: Seeing Through the Fog with IRIS |
| 23 |  | Creating Your Own Plan for Employment - Self-Directed Employment Modules   |
| 24 |  | Understanding and Getting Involved in Research                             |

Sessions 25-30 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm

|    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 25 |    | Getting the Health Care You Need and Deserve                |
| 26 |    | Pathways to Leading a Self-Determined Life                  |
| 27 |   | How COVID Realities Impact our Vision of Self-Determination |
| 28 |  | 20/20 Vision for Electronic Visit Verification              |
| 29 |  | A Self-Direction Plan in Family Care                        |
| 30 |  | Virtual Learning: Let's Stay Connected and Healthy          |



# Tuesday, October 27

## Keynote: Celebrating Our Diverse Community

### Our Native American Communities

The Ho-Chunk Nation is one of 11 tribes in the state of Wisconsin. There are approximately 4,000 Ho-Chunk tribal members currently residing throughout Wisconsin.



**AMPRESANACA'TIGA (Dr. Cheryl Funmaker)**, a WONAGIRE WAKSIK (warrior clan member) grew up in MANA CO (Minnesota). Her father was a member of the SAHA Standing Rock Sioux tribe and her mother is a Ho-Chunk tribal member. Cheryl resides in NEESHLA (Wisconsin Dells) with her family and relatives. Cheryl has had the pleasure to serve in the field of American Indian education for over 27 years. Most recently, Dr. Funmaker supports Ho-Chunk children with disabilities and their families as they navigate special education. Believing in the power of community, Dr. Funmaker collaborates with a variety of agencies throughout the state to build connections amongst Wisconsin's tribes for their children with disabilities.



**HUCXETEGA, (Ken Funmaker Jr.)**, HUC bear clan member, grew up in GUSGAK (Chicago) and NEESHLA (Wisconsin Dells). Ken raised his children in Wisconsin Dells. Ken values Ho-Chunk ways passed down from his relatives and supports the continuation of Ho-Chunk culture for future generations.

**The drum**, a valued part of Ho-Chunk gatherings (along with song), is meant to bring people together. The Ho-Chunk Station singers are HUC (bear clan) members. Rick Cleveland Sr. Ho-Chunk Station Lead Singer and his sons travel throughout the United States and Canada with their drum. Jacqueline supports the drum and sings back-up. The family resides in Lyndon Station.



### Our Hmong Communities

**Houa Yang** has lived in the Madison area most of her life. She is Hmong. Her parents are from Laos and they along with her grandparents and relatives, all came to the U.S. as refugees after the war. The Hmong are ethnic minorities from Southeast Asia and China. Many Hmong people are in the U.S. and other Western countries. such as Australia, France, and Canada because they were allies to the United States during the Vietnam War. After the war, the communist Pathet Lao were persecuting and killing the Hmong so they fled to Thailand and from Thailand to the U.S.





The Hmong culture is over 5,000 years old. Their strength is their resilience - their fierce independence, and the rich heritage that influences their everyday choices.

However, what they are not is some primitive civilization. There is a reason they have survived two genocide (killings) and continue to carry on their heritage.



**Peng Her** is the CEO of The Hmong Institute, a nonprofit whose mission is empowering communities by educating, promoting, and preserving the Hmong heritage. He has over 20 years of community development experience working with elected officials, residents, and service providers. As a cultural broker, Peng provides cultural training, facilitation, interpretation, and translation to governmental agencies, educational institutions, and numerous nonprofits.

**Dee Herr** was born and raised in the Madison area. Her parents are Hmong refugees from Laos, immigrating to the US in the late 70's. In 2001, I was diagnosed with kidney failure and lost full kidney function about a year after leading to dialysis full time. Shortly after starting dialysis, I also suffered a stroke which led to having multiple physical disabilities. Despite the many health setbacks, her strength and endurance has continued to grow. Dee spends her free time her nieces and nephew, who she says, have never judged her as anything different despite my differences.

## Our Latinx Communities

**Hector Portillo** is the father of a teenager with Autism. He has been actively involved as a parent throughout his son's school years and continues to support him to have a happy fulfilling life in his community.



This led Hector to create PADRES E HIJOS EN ACCIÓN (Parents and Children in Action). His goal is to help build strong partnerships between educators and families and to enhance the success of underrepresented students with special needs. Hector works with his families to provide an range of services with people of any type of disability, and of all ages, including: Information and Referral, Peer Support, Skills Training, Advocacy, Transition, and Assistive Technology, and he collaborates with other agencies to provide technical assistance, resources, and training to families.

Prior to starting PADRES E HIJOS EN ACCIÓN , Hector worked as an Academic Case Manager at the Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD). He had opportunities to help LAWD to assist the Latino Community with bilingual education and employment programs. He also worked with families, schools (MATC), and community agencies (Centro Hispano, FUNNE, and Job Connect) to support building positive partnerships.



PADRES E HIJOS EN ACCION Radio Show is reaching and supporting Families Learning Together. It is the product of collaboration between PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN ACTION and WLMV La Moviada radio. This monthly radio show provides information in Spanish to parents, early childhood professionals, and the community about issues relating to children with special needs and their families. The show is live, every second Tuesday of the month on La Moviada 1480AM from 9:00 to 10:00 am.

### Our Black Communities



**Delores Sallis**, lives in Milwaukee County and is a mother of five children. Her youngest, Albert, who is 31 years old, has multiple disabilities. Additionally, her 11-year-old granddaughter, Liberty, has cerebral palsy.

As her son grew up and she started supporting other families, she would meet with them once a month so they could share information together. For privacy reasons and to help families feel comfortable they would meet in public places, away from the educational setting. Meeting with families once a month allows her to build trust and allow them to be more confident for them to talk with service providers who could help them with their own situations.

She founded Parent University to help other families. Parent University serves as a resource center for black families and their loved ones with disabilities in the Milwaukee area. Parent University helps families navigate systems of support including schools. Delores has a great passion for the families she serves because she knows there is a great divide of resources. "My passion calls me to encounter people in life that touch my heart, my mind and my spirit. The parents and families I serve find that I'm willing to battle and commit to making changes that meet their needs", says Delores.



One of the biggest barriers her families have is meeting with the schools or other services systems because they feel they might not be smart enough, strong enough or good enough because they don't communicate in a professional way.



**Keith Jones** is the President and CEO of SoulTouchin' Experiences. As an African American community activist and entrepreneur with cerebral palsy, he is a strong advocate and is also extremely active in multi-cultural, cross-disability education and outreach efforts. Keith will share his experiences (REALITY) to help us improve the future (VISION).

## Our LGBTQ Communities (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer)

**Denise Jess** began her tenure as CEO/Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired in 2016. Prior to this role, she served on the Council's Board of Directors. Denise's more than three decades in advocacy, leadership development, education of all ages, and small business ownership, along with being legally blind since birth, combine to provide the unique experience and perspective necessary for advancing the Council's vital mission. [djess@wcblind.org](mailto:djess@wcblind.org)



**Ticia Kelsey** is a Senior Advocate connecting with LGBTQ+ seniors to assist them in finding services, and work with senior serving agencies in Dane County to ensure that they are welcoming and culturally competent to provide services to LGBTQ+ seniors. Ticia holds an Associate in Gender and Women's Studies degree from Madison College (MATC) and is currently enrolled in UW Madison for a degree in HDFS and a Certificate in Gender and Women from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. [ticiak@lgbtoutrea](mailto:ticiak@lgbtoutrea)

In the role as LGBT For more resources go to <https://www.outreachmadisonlgbt.org>

**Lydia X. Z. Brown (They/Them)** is an autistic activist deeply invested in queer politics. In a recent blog, Lydia writes: "I've managed to fumble my way around without ever developing a conventional understanding of gender. Growing up, everyone around me assumed I was a girl based on the genitals I was born with, but I always felt deeply uncomfortable with being labeled a "girl" or "woman." I don't feel like a woman, but I know I'm not a man either. I now identify as genderqueer or non-binary. It wasn't until partway through college, though, before I began to question what gender might mean to me, my explorations largely kindled by developing important relationships with many openly trans autistic people through my activism. (continued)



More recently, I've started referring to myself as gendervague, a term coined within the autistic community to refer to a specifically neurodivergent experience of trans/gender identity. For many of us, gender mostly impacts our lives when projected onto us through other people's assumptions, but holds little intrinsic meaning."

In 2015, Lydia was named to Pacific Standard's 30 Top Thinkers Under 30 list, and to Mic's list of 50 impactful leaders, cultural influencers, and breakthrough innovators. In 2018, NBC featured them as one of 26 Asian Pacific American breakthrough leaders for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and Amplifier featured them as part of the We The Future campaign for youth activism. Most recently, Lydia was named to Gold House Foundation's A100 list of the most impactful Asians in America for 2020. Their work appears in numerous scholarly and community publications, and they have received many awards for their work, including from the Obama White House, the Society for Disability Studies, the American Association of People with Disabilities, the Washington Peace Center, the Disability Policy Consortium, and the National Council on Independent Living.

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## Tuesday, October 27

### Diehard Awards - 12:30pm

Diehard Awards are presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the advocacy work here in Wisconsin. A diehard is someone with a steadfast commitment to the principles of Self-Determination, goes above and beyond what's expected, and helps others along the way.





People First Wisconsin



See Our dsAbility



## People First Celebrates 20 Years *Congratulations*

to People First for 20 years of Advocacy, Determination and Freedom!

In celebration of People First Wisconsin's 20th Anniversary, we will be holding a dance party!

People First has been advocating for issues that affect Wisconsin residents for the last 20 years. In that time, they have helped break down barriers for people with disabilities to find employment, live independently, and to leave institutions and return to their communities.

Cindy Bentley, their Executive Director, was actually freed from an institution herself! She is very passionate about making sure people are empowered to make their voices heard in their communities. As People First's late President, Jennifer Kuhr, always said - "NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US!"

## People First Dance Party! - 3:30pm

DJ Joe will shake up some excitement and keep the party going! Joe will come to us live from Norwalk, Connecticut. For as long as he can remember, he has loved music and has been the life of the party. He loves being a DJ! [www.djjoe.info](http://www.djjoe.info)

**Tuesday, October 27 - 5:30pm - After Hours**

**Movie:** Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution (Rated R for mature content)

Hang Out Room will be open from 7-8pm.

# Wednesday, October 28

## Keynote: Envisioning the Future

Lessons from our Advocates: Advocates will share their vision for the future. Their stories will inspire you to live a more self-determined life.



**King Hall** is a 24 year old living in downtown Milwaukee with his 16 year old brother and mother. He is currently a student at the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and is working hard to become a chef. He works at the Home Depot and volunteers with My Choice Family Care - Care Wisconsin.



**Desi Kluth** lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin and loves working on issues that affect people with disabilities and mental health issues. She is a board member of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD), a People First Wisconsin member, and lives in her own apartment. She is also a great friend and listener to others who need help.



**Dakota Maynard** is a young man with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He is a busy student, attending the Fire Protection Program at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI. Dakota was brought up in a large, loving and fun filled family. One of his passions is educating people in the community about ASD.



**Erin Miller** is a Milwaukee resident who lives with her cat Temba. She is a fierce self-advocate and currently works for People First Wisconsin. When Erin isn't working, she enjoys reading, raising butterflies, and learning new recipes.



**Harriet Redman, M.S. Ed.** is Executive Director and founder of WisconSibs, a non-profit organization dedicated to children and adults who have siblings with disabilities. She has a 30-year-old son with developmental disabilities.



**George Zaske** is an attorney who works with families to help plan for the future for their child with a disability. He is a proud parent of an adult son with developmental disabilities who is currently employed in his community. A seasoned conference presenter on guardianship, and supported decision making.



## Networking Breaks

### What to do in between sessions?

- ✔ Visit **Micro Businesses** - They will be there to help you with your purchases - stop by and say hello!
- ✔ Visit **Exhibitors** - Exhibitors will be live and will be happy to answer questions and share information with you. Many exhibitors will have drawing for prizes.
- ✔ **Play Bingo** - Use your Bingo card [in your conference kit], visit Networking rooms and get your “chip”.

## Stop by the YouTube Channel Room!

Want to be on The Self-Determination YouTube Channel? Come on into this Zoom room and we'll show you how. We'll also be filming for the Conference Wrap up Video. Bring your “**Vision and Reality**” signs with you! Come be a part of our Conference history. Hosted by Susan Borri.



## BINGO!

Zoom around to the exhibitor rooms during the Networking Breaks to get your virtual Bingo chips!

Once you have “BINGO”, hop over to the Zoom Support Lounge to turn in your card, text a picture of your completed card to (920) 723-5571, or email a photo to [selfdetermined@incontrolwisconsin.org](mailto:selfdetermined@incontrolwisconsin.org). We will have a drawing at the end of the conference and announce the lucky winners!

✦ Conference sessions will be recorded and available after the conference.

# Tuesday, October 27

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:30 am - 9:00 am   | Check in to your watch party or test out your internet connection |
| 9:00 am - 10:15 am  | General Session 1, Welcome and Keynote: Opening Celebration!      |
| 10:15 am - 11:00 am | Networking Break, Exhibitors & More (see page 21)                 |

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

|                           |  |   |   |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| 11:00 am<br>-<br>12:00 pm | <b>SESSION 1</b><br><b>Self-Health:</b><br><b>One Key to Success</b><br>Presenters: Tim Markle, Beth Guthrie-Moss, and Abigail Tessman | <b>SESSION 2</b><br><b>Independent Living:</b><br><b>Creating an Individualized Moving On Plan</b><br>Presenters: Alyssa Hermanson and Philip Temme | <b>SESSION 3</b><br><b>Supported Decision-Making Conversations with Families and Caregivers</b><br>Presenters: Beth Swedeen, Cara Swedeen |
|                           | <b>SESSION 4</b><br><b>Safe and Free: Abuse Awareness</b><br>Presenters: Nathaniel Lenz and Shannon Webb                               | <b>SESSION 5</b><br><b>What Do I Bring with Me on the Transition Path?</b><br>Presenters: Kathryn Burish, Dan Krohn, Deb Ehr                        | <b>SESSION 6</b><br><b>Finding Your Voice: Let's Make a Podcast Together!</b><br>Presenter: Lisa Pugh                                     |

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm | Lunch, Networking & Diehard Awards |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

|                         |   |   |  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1:15 pm<br>-<br>2:15 pm | <b>SESSION 7</b><br><b>Moms with a Vision on a Mission: Creating Employment Opportunities</b><br>Presenters: Angie Fech, Tyler Fech, Adam Notstad, Deb Notstad, Gina Ramazini, and Shannon Webb | <b>SESSION 8</b><br><b>Living in Your Own Community-Integrated Affordable Home</b><br>Presenter: Kathyryne Auerback       | <b>SESSION 9</b><br><b>What do you really want to know about relationships?</b><br>Presenters: Cindy Bentley, Pam Malin, Shirley Pacey |
|                         | <b>SESSION 10</b><br><b>Voting in the Time of Pandemic</b><br>Presenters: Jason Endres, Wendy Heyn, and Jenny Neugart   | <b>SESSION 11</b><br><b>IRIS Program 2021 Updates</b><br>Presenters: Leon Creary, Kyle Novak, and Karina Virrueta Running | <b>SESSION 12</b><br><b>I Envision a Future with You in My Life: A Love Story</b><br>Presenters: Madie Gerbitz and Andrew Gerbitz      |

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm | Networking Break, Exhibitors & More (see page 24) |
|-------------------|---|



# Tuesday, October 27

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

|                         |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| 3:00 pm<br>-<br>3:30 pm | <b>SESSION 13</b><br><b>Autism, Seeing the World from a Different Perspective</b><br>Presenter: Dakota Maynard | <b>SESSION 14</b><br><b>Is your 'Vision' Blurry? See My Reality</b><br>Presenters: Brett R. Everman and Kareen Everman | <b>SESSION 15</b><br><b>Follow your Passions and Connect to your Community</b><br>Presenter: Dominic Dean    |
|                         | <b>SESSION 16</b><br><b>My Employment Story: More Than Just a Job</b><br>Presenter: Callie Rademacher          | <b>SESSION 17</b><br><b>Realizing Your Own Employment Path</b><br>Presenter: Elijah Jimenez                            | <b>SESSION 18</b><br><b>Carol Ann Matthies: A Force to be Reckoned With</b><br>Presenter: Carol Ann Matthies |
| 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm       | People First Wisconsin Virtual Dance Party<br>Celebrate 20 years of advocacy!                                  |  |  |

## After hours movie and hang out

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 5:30 pm           | Movie: Crip Camp [Rated R for mature content]   |
| 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Hang Out: Join us for our evening hang out, have some laughs, see old friends, play some games! You may even win a prize! |



# Wednesday, October 28

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8:30 am - 9:00 am   | Check in to your watch party or test out your internet connection     |
| 9:00 am - 10:00 am  | General Session 2, Keynote: Self-Determination Advocates<br>Speak out |
| 10:00 am - 10:45 am | Networking Break, Exhibitors & More (see page 27)                     |

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

|                           |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| 10:45 am<br>-<br>11:45 am | <b>SESSION 19</b><br><b>Building Long Lasting Community Connections</b><br>Presenters: Sara Alarie, Sam Katz, and Philip Temme                                     | <b>SESSION 20:</b><br><b>Living Well, Stay Healthy, Safe and Connected Toolkit</b><br>Presenters: Sally Flaschberger and Ashley Mathy  | <b>SESSION 21:</b><br><b>Understanding ABLE Accounts</b><br>Presenter: Joel Dettwiler  |
|                           | <b>SESSION 22:</b><br><b>Creating a Plan for a Self-Directed Life: Seeing Through the Fog with IRIS</b><br>Presenters: Patti Becker, Anna Gouker, and Angela Gomez | <b>SESSION 23:</b><br><b>Creating Your Own Plan for Employment - Self-Directed Employment Modules</b><br>Presenters: Molly Cooney, Shannon Webb, Kristin Voss, and Nicole Voss | <b>SESSION 24:</b><br><b>Understanding and Getting Involved in Research</b><br>Presenters: Natalie Dulaney, Megan Gray, Alison Mushett, and Steve Woodward |

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 11:45 am - 1:00 pm | Lunch & Networking Break |
|--------------------|--------------------------|

## Concurrent Workshop Sessions

|                         |   |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1:00 pm<br>-<br>2:00 pm | <b>SESSION 25:</b><br><b>Getting the Health Care you Need and Deserve</b><br>Presenters: PATCH Teen Educators and Erica Koepsel | <b>SESSION 26:</b><br><b>Pathways to Leading a Self-Determined Life</b><br>Presenters: Vincent Lara, Marie Massart, and Joyce Pierson | <b>SESSION 27:</b><br><b>How COVID Realities Impact our Vision of Self-Determination</b><br>Presenters: Lynn Breedlove, Jason Endres, and Shannon Webb      |
|                         | <b>SESSION 28:</b><br><b>20/20 Vision for Electronic Visit Verification</b><br>Presenters: Amy Chartier and Martha Pings        | <b>SESSION 29:</b><br><b>A Self-Direction Plan in Family Care</b><br>Presenters: Mary Clare Carlson and Tricia Lazare                 | <b>SESSION 30:</b><br><b>Virtual Learning: Let's Stay Connected and Healthy</b><br>Presenters: Kathryn Burish, Molly Cooney, Dan Gluske, and Brittany Kraft |

|                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Closing and Really Good Door Prizes |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|

## After hours movie and hang out

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 5:00 pm           | Movie: Peanut Butter Falcon [Rated PG-13]   |
| 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm | Hang Out: Join us for our evening hang out, have some laughs, see old friends, play some games! You may even win a prize! |

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 1-6

Tuesday, October 27 | 11:00am - 12:00pm

| Tuesday Networking Break #1 | 10:15 am - 11:00 am   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1                           | <b>Exhibitors:</b> Visit with Exhibitors in their own Zoom Room. See links starting on page 44  |
| 2                           | <b>Microbusiness:</b> Visit with Microbusinesses, shop their goods. Links start on page 42  |
| 3                           | <b>YouTube Channel/Wrap Up Video:</b> Want to be on the Self-Determination You Tube Channel? Come on into this Zoom room and we'll show you how. We'll also be filming for the Conference Wrap up Video. Come be a part of our Conference history. Hosted by Susan Borri. |
| 4                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> Health Check: Do you have questions about COVID? How to stay healthy during cold and flu season? Come hang out with our panel of IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care nurses. Hosted by the IRIS Self-Directed Personal Care Oversight Agency.               |
| 5                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> Take a stretch and join YAFA Yoga for a low impact way to stretch your body and mind. There is a Yoga move for everyone! Brought to you by YAFA (Yoga Accessible for All)  |
| 6                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> Want to learn more about what College Life is like? Join students from the Cutting Edge Program at Edgewood College.   |

## SESSION 1: Self-Health: One Key to Success

**Presenters:** Tim Markle, Beth Guthrie-Moss, Abigail Tessman

Understanding your health profile and knowing how to talk about your health issues can help you build your self-health awareness. This session will explore the challenges of disclosure and advocating for self-health with employers and educators. Learn about tools and resources to help you build your self-health awareness.

## SESSION 2: Independent Living: Creating an Individualized Moving On Plan

**Presenters:** Alyssa Hermanson, Philip Temme

Let's think creatively about independent living! We will discuss the planning and preparation needed to create an Individualized Moving On Plan (iMop). Join self-advocate, Philip Temme, who has completed the iMop workbook and learn the importance of working alongside other families/teams in order to creatively address barriers to moving out.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 1-6

Tuesday, October 27 | 11:00am - 12:00pm

## **SESSION 3: Supported Decision-Making Conversations with Families and Caregivers**

**Presenters:** Beth Swedeen, Cara Swedeen

The process of guardianship is one that should be considered as a last resort, yet often it is the first option presented to families or is what families have always thought they must do. This session will discuss the common myths about what guardianship does (or doesn't) accomplish and share creative ways to spark the necessary conversations with families and

## **SESSION 4: Safe and Free: Abuse Awareness**

**Presenters:** Nathaniel Lenz, Shannon Webb

Participate in the Living Well Safe and Free Session on Abuse Awareness. Learn what abuse is, ways to prevent abuse, and how to report abuse. Participants will share their understanding on abuse and how they can keep themselves safe.

## **SESSION 5: What Do I Bring With Me on the Transition Path?**

**Presenters:** Kathryn Burish, Dan Krohn

Planning for a self-directed life after high school requires strong partnerships. Learn how young adults and their families develop community connections and identify local resources to support self-direction. Building a full life in your community means having choice and control over the things that are important to us. This session provides an overview on how we apply the principles of Self-Determination to help build full lives in the community.

## **SESSION 6: Finding Your Voice: Let's Make a Podcast Together!**

**Presenter:** Lisa Pugh

The Arc Wisconsin is launching a new, fun podcast series about success stories in our state. A podcast is like a radio show interviewing interesting people and leaders. That's you! Come to this session to practice writing a statement about your own plan to turn your vision into reality, then join in to record a podcast episode live where selected folks get to share their vision! The episode we record will be featured on Apple podcasts and other national podcast players at a later date.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 7-12

Tuesday, October 27 | 1:15pm - 2:15pm

## SESSION 7: Moms with a Vision on a Mission: Creating Employment Opportunities

**Presenters:** Angie Fech, Tyler Fech, Adam Notstad, Deb Notstad, Gina Ramazini, Shannon Webb

EVERYONE can work! It takes high expectations, creativity, and involving the right people and resources to help turn the vision into a reality. This session will focus on the critical role families play with employment and business. Two moms on a mission, Angie Fech and Deb Notstad, will present the strategies and resources they used to create meaningful, customized employment opportunities with their sons, Tyler and Adam. Learn how Tyler's IRIS plan supported the development of his business.

## SESSION 8: Living in Your Own Community-Integrated Affordable Home

**Presenter:** Kathyne Auerback

Learn how Movin' Out helps individuals and families that include someone with a disability to secure safe, affordable, community-integrated homes.

## SESSION 9: What Do You Really Want to Know About Relationships?

**Presenters:** Cindy Bentley, Pam Malin, Shirley Paceley

In this session, participants will engage in a conversation about healthy and safe relationships. Self-advocates want real information about relationships. Parents and support staff have real concerns about relationships. Together we will ask the questions and explore the answers and come up with an understanding about the reality and responsibilities of healthy and safe relationships.

## SESSION 10: Voting in the Time of Pandemic

**Presenters:** Jason Endres, Wendy Heyn, Jenny Neugart

Join us to learn about the important upcoming election! We'll talk about why it's important to vote, help you find out if you're registered to vote, where to vote, what is on your ballot, and how to stay safe at the polls. We'll also talk about voting rights and responsibilities and the Census. Your vote is your voice, don't miss your chance to speak up!

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 7-12

Tuesday, October 27 | 1:15pm - 2:15pm

## SESSION 11: IRIS Program 2021 Updates

**Presenters:** Leon Creary, Kyle Novak, Karina Virrueta Running

Every five years, the WI Department of Health Services revises the Home and Community Based Services 1915(c) Waiver which authorizes the WI IRIS program. The IRIS waiver was revised for the year 2021, which resulted in some IRIS program changes. IRIS program staff will be presenting on these changes during this session.

## SESSION 12: I Envision a Future with You in my Life: A Love Story

**Presenters:** Madie Gerbitz, Andrew Gerbitz

Madie Ehlers and Andrew Gerbitz fell in love. They wanted what everyone wants; love, friendship and to spend their lives together. They will share their journey from relationship to wedding planning and married life.

| Tuesday Networking Break #2 | 2:15 pm - 3:00 pm   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1                           | <b>Exhibitors:</b> Visit with Exhibitors in their own Zoom Room. See links starting on page 44  |
| 2                           | <b>Microbusiness:</b> Visit with Microbusinesses, shop their goods. Links start on page 42  |
| 3                           | <b>YouTube Channel/Wrap Up Video:</b> Want to be on the Self-Determination You Tube Channel? Come on into this Zoom room and we'll show you how. We'll also be filming for the Conference Wrap up Video. Come be a part of our Conference history. Hosted by Susan Borri. |
| 4                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> The Relationship Conversation Hosted by Pam Malin  |
| 5                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> Conversations about staff retention and motivation. Hosted by Quillo   |
| 6                           | <b>Hang Out:</b> Get Out the Vote! As the 2020 elections are fast approaching. Get your questions answered so you are prepared to vote on November 2nd. Hosted by the Disability Vote Coalition.  |

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 13-18

Tuesday, October 27 | 3:00pm - 3:30pm

## **SESSION 13: Autism, Seeing the World from a Different Perspective**

**Presenter:** Dakota Maynard

Growing up on the Autism Spectrum, Dakota shares stories from his life. Through these lifetime experiences, he hopes to educate others regarding this developmental disorder. Dakota will talk about the obstacles he has faced, the goals he has reached and the dreams he hopes to realize. Dakota shares an inspirational message on self-determination!

## **SESSION 14: Is Your 'Vision' Blurry? See My Reality**

**Presenters:** Brett R. Everman, Kareen Everman

You will be captivated by Brett Everman's journey of living with a traumatic brain injury. Learn about his transition to life as an adult, renting an accessible apartment, and staffing his care 24-hours a day. Find out how he expresses himself without verbal communication. How he develops relationships, including a girlfriend. He will share his employment, transportation, and favorite activities with his friends, and finally, the pros and cons of his decision to move to self-directed services.

## **SESSION 15: Follow Your Passions and Connect to Your Community**

**Presenter:** Dominic Dean

Dominic has always loved food and food reviewer greats like Adam Richman of Man vs. Food. When he and his family were thinking of ways to help Dominic get involved in his community, visiting local restaurants and other local places seemed like an obvious place to start. He will speak about how he got started as a food critic, the things he enjoys about interacting with the community, and how anyone can find creative ways to follow their passions in life!

## **SESSION 16: My Employment Story: More Than Just a Job**

**Presenter:** Callie Rademacher

Join Callie to hear her employment story: how her high school team supported her to work, how she's overcome pitfalls and struggles along the way, and how employment became more than just a job.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 13-18

Tuesday, October 27 | 3:00pm - 3:30pm

## SESSION 17: Realizing Your Own Employment Path

**Presenter:** Elijah Jimenez

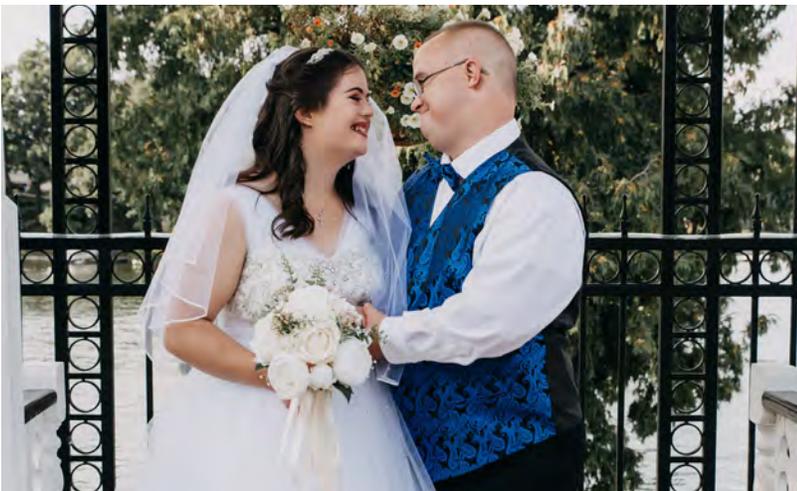
Getting ready to leave High School is exciting and challenging. Elijah Jimenez will share his work experiences as he prepared to transition from school to a job in the community. Join this session to hear the stories of how EJ and an educator from one high school in Madison prepared students for the world of work.

## SESSION 18: Carol Ann Matthies: A Force to be Reckoned With

**Presenter:** Carol Ann Matthies

Carol Ann lives in her own apartment and has shown everyone who knows her that she is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to her goals and moving forward in her life. Hear how Carol Ann's life goal to live independently came true when she moved into her own apartment and began her journey to independence. She now has a job in the community and is learning how to budget her money. This has motivated her to take a bigger role in her overall independence and life management. Her story is an example of personal determination and courage. She can tell you the importance of developing a team around who understands your vision for your life.

Join the Dance Party at 3:30pm!



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 19-24

Wednesday, October 28 | 10:45am - 11:45am

| Wednesday Networking Break #3 | 10:00 am - 10:45 am   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1                             | <b>Exhibitors:</b> Visit with Exhibitors in their own Zoom Room. See links starting on page 44  |
| 2                             | <b>Microbusiness:</b> Visit with Microbusinesses, shop their goods. Links start on page 42  |
| 3                             | <b>YouTube Channel/Wrap Up Video:</b> Want to be on the Self-Determination You Tube Channel? Come on into this Zoom room and we'll show you how. We'll also be filming for the Conference Wrap up Video. Come be a part of our Conference history. Hosted by Susan Borri. |
| 4                             | <b>Hang Out:</b> Caregiver's Café- Sharing stories of resilience, offering support and Resources Hosted by Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)   |
| 5                             | <b>Hang Out:</b> ABLE accounts: Do you have questions about ABLE accounts? Hosted by Joel Dettwiler   |
| 6                             | <b>Hang Out:</b> Join the fun! Get some exercise, and stretch! Hosted by <b>PINC!</b>   |

## SESSION 19: Building Long Lasting Community Connections

**Presenters:** Sara Alarie, Sam Katz, Philip Temme

Learn how the Bridge Builder Project helps individuals turn goals into community connection. From the planning to execution, triumphs to challenges, and everything in between. We will also discuss the benefits of independent community connections. The presentation will have a perspective from both a Bridge Builder and one of their members.

## SESSION 20: Living Well, Stay Healthy, Safe and Connected Toolkit

**Presenters:** Sally Flaschberger, Ashley Mathy

Learn about the Living Well grant's Stay Healthy, Safe and Connected Toolkit. Get some specific resources to use during the COVID crisis but also how you can always use the toolkit. Develop your own plan to keep yourself healthy, safe and connected. Hear from a self-advocate and how they have been using the toolkit. View some videos of self-advocates and how they are using the toolkit during COVID.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 19-24

Wednesday, October 28 | 10:45am - 11:45am

## SESSION 21: Understanding ABLÉ Accounts

Presenter: [Joel Dettwiler](#)

The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) was signed into law in 2014. The ABLE Act allows qualified individuals with a disability to own tax-free savings accounts that can be exempt from traditional asset reporting. This workshop will provide an overview of ABLE account eligibility for individuals, rules for use of funds for qualified expenses, and planning strategies for ABLE accounts that can best benefit you while considering your current life stage, as well as future family estate planning needs.

## SESSION 22: Creating a Plan for a Self-Directed Life: Seeing Through the Fog with IRIS

Presenters: [Patti Becker](#), [Anna Gouker](#), [Angela Gomez](#)

Join a discussion with Wisconsin self-advocates who use the IRIS Waiver. Learn tips on how you can live a full community self-directed life. The advocates will share their life experiences and things they felt helpful along the way.

## SESSION 23: Creating Your Own Plan for Employment - Self-Directed Employment Modules

Presenters: [Molly Cooney](#), [Shannon Webb](#), [Kristin Voss](#), [Nicole Voss](#)

Learn about Self-Employment Modules to help you work towards your job goals. These online modules can help you learn about different jobs, including self-employment opportunities. Explore the possibilities in your community by talking with people about what they do, visiting businesses, and asking for informational interviews and job shadows.

## SESSION 24: Understanding and Getting Involved in Research

Presenters: [Natalie Dulaney](#), [Megan Gray](#), [Alison Mushett](#), [Steve Woodward](#)

Session attendees will participate in a Health Research Participation curriculum for people with disabilities and their caregivers. The curriculum was designed to help people get involved in research as a participant, researcher, and consumer. Participants will learn about health research, how it can be used to advocate for their health, and why it is important for people with disabilities to be members of research teams. We will also conduct our own research on the health behaviors of attendees.

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 25-30

Wednesday, October 28 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm

## **SESSION 25: Getting the Health Care You Need and Deserve**

**Presenters:** PATCH Teen Educators, Erica Koepsel

Join PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health) Teen Educators as they lead their peers (that's you!) through activities that explore teen health care rights, discuss relationships with health care providers (like doctors, nurses, & counselors), and engage in conversations about your responsibility to be open and honest with health care providers. By the end, you'll feel more comfortable advocating for yourself and take advantage of the knowledge, advice, and treatment that health care providers offer.

## **SESSION 26: Pathways to Leading a Self-Determined Life**

**Presenters:** Vincent Lara, Marie Massart, Joyce Pierson

Use your voice to better self-direct your plan and build a meaningful life. Self-advocates will provide helpful tips for developing a plan. You will also learn how to flex your advocacy muscles when completing the functional screen. Learn how to prepare for your functional screen and partner with your Screener to effectively work through the process. An IRIS Consultant and Functional Screen Supervisor will be present to assist with any questions. Finally, self-advocates will lead you in a game of Electronic Pathways for self-advocacy and plan development.

## **SESSION 27: How COVID Realities Impact our Vision of Self-Determination**

**Presenters:** Lynn Breedlove, Jason Endres, Shannon Webb

The COVID care pandemic has affected the lives of people with disabilities in major ways and changed many aspects of disability and health care systems. This session will focus on how COVID has impacted people who self-direct their services. We will focus on: a) social isolation and loneliness, b) disruption of employment, and c) obstacles to obtaining (non-COVID) healthcare. But we won't dwell on the problems – we'll present practical ideas for how to overcome them.

## **SESSION 28: 20/20 Vision for Electronic Visit Verification**

**Presenters:** Amy Chartier, Martha Pings

Electronic Visit Verification starts November 2! Find out the latest updates, where you can find resources, and who is available to help you. Come share our vision to make this federal mandate a Wisconsin success!

# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS - SESSIONS 25-30

Wednesday, October 28 | 1:00pm - 2:00pm

## SESSION 29: A Self-Direction Plan in Family Care

**Presenters:** Mary Clare Carlson, Tricia Lazare

Wisconsin participants in long-term care have options and enrolling in Family Care provides exciting possibilities for self-directing your plan. Hear from people who are using the unique features of SDS in a managed care organization to create the good life they envision. Join My Choice Wisconsin and Inlusa and learn what SDS is all about.

## SESSION 30: Virtual Learning: Let's Stay Connected and Healthy

**Presenters:** Kathryn Burish, Molly Cooney, Dan Gluske, Brittany Kraft

It can be difficult to stay connected with your friends, family, and service providers when you are trying to stay home and safe. Yet it is so important! Virtual Services are a fantastic way to stay connected, stay busy, and keep your spirits up. Join self-advocates and service providers to hear their stories and experiences with virtual services. Learn how to access these services as well as technology tips.



# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Sara Alarie** is from Madison, Wisconsin and although she has been working as a LOV Inc. Bridge Builder for a little over a year, Sara and her family have been a part of the LOV community since she was young. [sara@lovinc.org](mailto:sara@lovinc.org)

**Kathryne Auerback**, Executive Director, joined Movin' Out, Inc. in Spring 2018. She brings over 25 years of experience leading change for healthier and more equitable organizations and communities. She has managed numerous green building and other environmental and health-related enterprises. Her experience includes designing and leading a broad range of innovative community and economic development initiatives. Auerback earned her MA and MBA degrees from UW-Madison. [ka@movin-out.org](mailto:ka@movin-out.org)

**Patti Jo Becker, MS** brings more than 25 years of experience and passion to her current role. Patti's experience includes provider roles of direct support and management, consultant roles with families, advocates, and funding agencies as well as, advocacy in local, state, and federal venues. She is currently the Director of Program Operations at Community Living Alliance focusing on work that brings health, independence and dignity home. Patti is a graduate of WI-BPDD Partners in Policy Making, 2018 SD Diehard Award Winner, member of the WI Children's Long-Term Support Advisory Council, as well as the InControl Wisconsin and Respite Care Association of Wisconsin Board of Directors. She lives in Oregon, Wisconsin. [beckerp@clanet.org](mailto:beckerp@clanet.org)

**Cindy Bentley** is currently the Executive Director of People First Wisconsin. Cindy is the first Executive Director of a People First organization nationwide that has an intellectual disability. Cindy spent much of her childhood in foster care and at the Southern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled. Cindy is an author and a proud self-advocate. Cindy wants to continue to use her voice to make life safe, accessible and equal for everyone with and without disabilities. [peoplefirstwi@gmail.com](mailto:peoplefirstwi@gmail.com)

**Lynn Breedlove** was the Executive Director of Disability Rights Wisconsin from 1980-2011. He served as Co-Chair of the Survival Coalition from 1999-2011. He is a Board Member of InControl Wisconsin from 2009 to date. [lynnbreedlove.wi@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbreedlove.wi@gmail.com)

**Kathryn Burish** is a 24-year-old self-advocate. She loves music, fashion, make-up, hanging out with friends and accessing all her community has to offer. She currently works for a large healthcare provider as a Health Information Clerk and does data entry and has been employed at this job for 3 years. She lives in her own apartment and LOVES being an independent adult, just like her brother.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Mary Clare Carlson** is currently the Self-Advocacy Specialist at My Choice Wisconsin. Mary Clare has over 25 years of disability advocacy experience, with 13 of those years at People First Wisconsin. She also has an extensive background in person centered planning, community connections and Circles of Friends. She is the author of Stories of Circles/Circles of Stories. Mary Clare is a storyteller and a connector. She excels at bringing together diverse people, resources and ideas to discover gifts and talents, capture opportunities, build community, inspire innovative problem solving and facilitate positive change. [maryclare.carlson@mychoicefamilycare.org](mailto:maryclare.carlson@mychoicefamilycare.org)

**Amy Chartier** has worked a variety of roles, including that of provider, Community Integration Specialist, stakeholder and funder within the County, Family Care and IRIS waivers. As a Community Integration Specialist, she served as a subject matter expert for integrated community service coordination and promotion of employment. Amy is currently the IRIS Section Chief. [amy.chartier@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:amy.chartier@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Molly Cooney** works for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities on employment and diversity initiatives, including Employment First and Building Full Lives. She's interested in finding ways for service systems to more intentionally use peers with lived experience to provide support to people with disabilities and family members. [molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.cooney@wisconsin.gov)

**Leon Creary**, IRIS Program & Policy Analyst, Wisconsin Department of Health. [leon.creary@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:leon.creary@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Dominic Dean** is a 15-year-old from St. Francis, WI. He started his own food review page to help improve his writing skills and to try new foods and meet new people. He hopes that his page will inspire other kids and adults with special needs to find their voice and their passion in life.

**Ben DeLap** is a 2019 graduate of Oshkosh West High School; he focused on taking marketing, business and leadership courses. He is actively looking for work in his field of interest. Ben is also a graduate of YiPPE (Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment). He used many of his leadership skills as a Volunteer Ambassador serving the sponsors and exhibitors of the 2019 Circles of Life Conference. Ben has been a speaker at previous Supported Decision-Making trainings. Ben has created personal relationships with several legislators as he advocated in Madison for laws that affect him as a person with a disability. It is very important to Ben to maintain independence as an adult, he leads his life using the Supportive Decision Making option, and it allows for support when needed but creates all possible opportunities for him to make his own decisions in the life he dreams about.

**Pam DeLap** is a business owner, actively involved citizen, a proud parent, and grandparent. Pam looks for ways to connect, serve and empower others. Pam has worked with the team of advocates in passing the Supported Decision-Making Law. She has led training in her community on the Supported Decision-Making Agreement and continues to work with the resource team to educate families and other stakeholders around the state. Pam is a parent of an adult child with a developmental disability who currently uses supported decision making. [pdelap5@gmail.com](mailto:pdelap5@gmail.com)

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Joel Dettwiler** is the founder of the Quantum Group Special Needs Planning in La Crosse, WI. Joel is a financial advisor and a Chartered Special Needs Consultant (ChSNC). His practice is dedicated helping families through the complexities of planning for a loved one with a disability. [jdettwiler@quantumplanners.com](mailto:jdettwiler@quantumplanners.com); [www.quantumplanners.com](http://www.quantumplanners.com)

**Natalie Dulaney** is a recent UW-Madison graduate and a research assistant for the PCORI funded Research Engagement Curriculum. She helped develop the Research Engagement Toolkit as well as assisted in leading the virtual pilots. During the pilots, she collaborated with the participants with intellectual disabilities on developing their health stories. [ndulaney@wisc.edu](mailto:ndulaney@wisc.edu)

**Madie Ehlers (Gerbitz)** is a self-advocate from the Lake Country area in Wisconsin. She married Andrew Gerbitz on 9/05/2020 and is getting used to living with her new husband. Madie loves Andrew, Zumba, Special Olympics, the Y at Pabst Farms, YouTube and music. She has been employed part-time at a local restaurant for 5 years. She loves her community and her co-workers. In 2019, Madie and her mom started a People First Chapter in Lake Country and plan to resume this fall with monthly Zoom meetings.

**Deb Ehr** is the Long Term Care Functional Screen Operations Supervisor at TMG. Deb has spent most of her adult life working and volunteering with agencies as an advocate for people. She was instrumental as a part of a small group who started Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville in 2006 that continues today. Deb loves to travel, including a favorite 5-week trip around Australia and New Zealand. She lives on a small farmette in rural Mineral Point and spends as much time as possible spoiling her 3 grandchildren.

**Jason Endres** is a long time Self Advocacy Leader, a Veteran Legislative Activist, and Partners in Policymaking graduate from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He is currently the President of People First of Wisconsin and advocates on their behalf statewide. [jason54701@gmail.com](mailto:jason54701@gmail.com)

**Brett Everman** lives with a traumatic brain injury. He lives by himself in an accessible apartment with 24-hour care. Brett communicates with a voice output communication device and drives a power wheelchair. He switched to self-directed services October 2019. [bretteverman@gmail.com](mailto:bretteverman@gmail.com)

**Tyler Fech** is a 2017 Cudahy HS Graduate, long-time self-advocate and new business owner. Tyler wanted to contribute to society. With the help of his family he fulfilled his dream and TJ Shredzz was born! Tyler's excited to grow his business and be able to hire individuals of ALL abilities to work side by side.

**Angie Fech** is Tyler Fech's mom. She and her family have been involved in the Disability community for 20+ years. Angie is an advocate who believes that everyone has talents and if you want to work, it can be a reality. [anjnkev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:anjnkev@sbcglobal.net)

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Sally Flaschberger** is the Living Well Project Manager for Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Sally has been a disability advocate for over 20 years. She was a lead advocacy specialist and public policy associate for Disability Rights Wisconsin for the last 11 years. Sally has served on several statewide committees, including the State Special Education Council, the Superintendent's Equity Council, and the Governor-Elect transition team on children's issues. Sally is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking and is now the co-leader. She is also the parent of an adult son with a developmental disability who uses the long-term care system in Wisconsin. [sallyflaschberger@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sallyflaschberger@wisconsin.gov)

**Andrew Gerbitz** has an amazing life! He lives independently in Oconomowoc where he works in a childcare center at YMCA Pabst Farms. He also has his driver's license. He is the owner of Andrew's Voice, a motivational speaking business. Andrew was voted an Emerging Leader by the Waukesha Business Alliance and married the love of his life, Madie, in the summer of 2020.

**Angie Gomez** believes living her life in a positive way. Angie is a graduate of Lakeland High School. She likes to keep busy and having a purpose in life. She enjoys horseback riding, activities at SEES day program. She also likes watching YouTube videos, listening to music. She is currently enjoys working at Inspired Coffee Shop. She hopes to remain long term at Inspired or another coffee shop.

**Anna Gouker** was born with a degenerative muscle disease that requires her to use a high-tech, super sci-fi motorized wheelchair. Anna views the world from a unique perspective and focus her immense energy on finding solutions where others see limitations. After earning her Master's degree in rehabilitation psychology from University of Wisconsin-Madison, Anna established her professional roots in counseling and program development while working for several years in the Human Services field. Anna's first book, 'Don't Ask Permission to Fly' set to be released this fall, will give readers an intimate glimpse of the personal and professional experiences that give Anna her unique vantage point on the world. [gouker@eri-wi.org](mailto:gouker@eri-wi.org)

**Megan Gray** is an occupational therapy student at UW-Madison. She has worked in the Ausderau Lab with a diverse stakeholder group for the past two years on the development and piloting of the Research Engagement Curriculum. [megray@wisc.edu](mailto:megray@wisc.edu)

**Beth Guthrie-Moss** has 2 adult children; she is coordinator of the Youth Health Transition Initiative at the Waisman Center and worked at BPDD for 8 years. [guthriemoss@wisc.edu](mailto:guthriemoss@wisc.edu)

**Alyssa Hermanson** started working for LOV Inc. as administrative and event support in 2017. She has since taken on many key roles in the organization, including workshop facilitation, event coordination, billing, and communications. Alyssa worked previously as a direct support provider for several children and adults in Waukesha and Dane County. [alyssa@lovinc.org](mailto:alyssa@lovinc.org)

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Wendy Heyn** is the Voting Outreach Advocacy Specialist with Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW). Wendy works with DRW staff and with the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition to provide outreach and education to people with disabilities, their families, and other stakeholders on voting rights and working to increase the electoral participation of Wisconsinites with disabilities. [wendyh@drwi.org](mailto:wendyh@drwi.org)

**Elijah (EJ) Jimenez** is a 23-year-old West High alum who currently works at the Goodwill Donation Center in Middleton. During his high school transition years, he volunteered and worked at numerous places to gain experience, and to better realize what his true ambitions were. When he isn't working, EJ likes to play basketball, go boating with his family, spend time with his girlfriend and her family, and watch Michigan football.

**Sam Katz** is very passionate about nearly everything. He once said his greatest weakness is that he had too much passion. Bridge Builder helps him with his social life, his calendar, and some disability-related questions and troubleshooting. He is lucky to have it.

**Erica Koepsel** is a sexual health educator and a youth engagement expert. She's been working to improve health education for adolescents and young adults for over 10 years. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Gender and Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2015 and began working with Providers and Teens Communicating for Health (PATCH) Program shortly after. [erica.koepsel@wiawh.org](mailto:erica.koepsel@wiawh.org)

**Brittany Kraft** graduated from Edgar High School in 2016. Following that, she spent one school year in the Project SEARCH Program through Marshfield High School doing three different internships, graduating from the program in 2017. Brittany started with Marshfield Medical Clinics in May 2017 and currently works in Pediatrics EVS department at the Clinic.

**Dan Krohn** is a Community Partnership Specialist at TMG. For the last 12 years, his work has been focused on partnering with people to build full lives in their communities by using his expertise in Community Based Supports and Person-Centered Thinking. Dan uses his talents to support people, families, schools, and service providers in the successful navigation of the Wisconsin IRIS Waiver. He lives in Milwaukee with his wife and two boys. [dwkrohn@tmgwisconsin.com](mailto:dwkrohn@tmgwisconsin.com)

**Vincent Lara** lives in Southwest Wisconsin and is proud to be one of the first people to self-direct in Wisconsin using IRIS. He loves going to festivals and community gatherings. He is an auctioneer and enjoys spending time with his caregivers, coworkers and out in his community.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Tricia Lazare** is passionate about community, and helping people live the best life possible, whatever their circumstances may be. She has worked in long term care for the past 14 years and provides education and training surrounding individuals self-directing their supports and all aspects of Inclusa's model of Community. Special interests include person-centered planning and self-determination. Outside of long-term care, Tricia serves as President for the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin. [tricia.lazare@inclusa.org](mailto:tricia.lazare@inclusa.org)

**Nathaniel Lentz** has presented at numerous state and national conferences about how people with disabilities can achieve success in education and employment over the last 13 years. Nathaniel was a member of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities for eight years. Nathaniel advocated for people with disabilities at the Wisconsin Legislature and the United States Congress in Washington, D.C. Currently, he is a Self-Advocate for the Living Well Grant and for People First Wisconsin. Nathaniel earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 2014.

**Pam Malin** is currently working at Disability Rights Wisconsin in the Victim Advocacy Program, as an Advocacy Specialist for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant, where she works with victims of crime with disabilities. She is also the Violence Against Women (VAWA) Healthy and Safe Relationships Project Coordinator. She was appointed to sit on the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, by the governor of Wisconsin for the last 10 years. She is passionate about advocating for victims of crime with disabilities. [pamm@drwi.org](mailto:pamm@drwi.org)

**Tim Markle** is the dad of two wonderful 20-somethings and enjoys helping them figure out what that means. Tim has worked professionally and on a volunteer basis with youth from church work, to runaway? shelters, to musicals. Currently, as part of his cool job, he tries to figure out ways to help youth, families and providers prepare for transitioning into the world of adult health care.

**Marie Massart** is the President of People First – Door County, and an alumna of the Youth Leadership Forum. She's been a self-advocate for her entire life. She enjoys summers and spending time with her best friend and her kitty. Marie is enrolled in the TMG IRIS Consultant Agency. [marie.massartpfdc@gmail.com](mailto:marie.massartpfdc@gmail.com)

**Ashley Mathy** is a 24-year-old disability advocate who was diagnosed with PDD-NOS (autism spectrum). She is a Wisconsin Policymaking Partner, Employment 1st Ambassador and President of People First's Rhinelander Chapter. Most recently, she was appointed to the Board of Directors for BPDD. Ashley has spoken around Wisconsin advocating for individuals with special needs. In addition, she has been interviewed on the TV, radio and newspaper on multiple occasions to provide her insights on various topics. Ashley works aggressively as an advocate for individuals with special needs with a motto "Cross out the Dis and Embrace the Ability". [ashleymathy@gmail.com](mailto:ashleymathy@gmail.com)

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Carol Ann Matthies** is a self-advocate who lives in her own apartment in Rhinelander, WI.

**Dakota Maynard** is a young man with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). He is a busy student, attending the Fire Protection Program at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, WI. Dakota grew up in a large, loving and fun filled family mixed with treatment foster children, special needs adults, adopted children, biological children and two nieces and a nephew. Dakota has traveled the world extensively, has several exciting high interests that he loves to discuss and spends a large portion of his time volunteering and helping others. One of his passions is educating people in the community about ASD.

**Alison Mushett** is a Special Olympic Athlete and leader of the PCORI Wisconsin Working Group. She provided feedback for the Researcher Engagement Toolkit and advocates for people with disabilities in her health story. She discusses in her health story her healthy lifestyle and strategies that keep her body and mind healthy. [agahanna@aol.com](mailto:agahanna@aol.com)

**Jenny Neugart** is the Disability Community Organizer for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. She has more than 15 years' experience with community organizing. She is the co-developer of the Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) program, which trains youth and their parents on the transition from high school to the adult world. She has invested her career in eliminating barriers to employment for youth with disabilities. [jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov)

**Deb & Adam Notstad** have over 8 years of experience working with Adam Notstad's business, AdamCan Recycling. Adam and Deb have been working with a variety of businesses in the Madison and Stoughton areas providing recycling services for their aluminum cans. Adam is a member of the Chamber of Commerce in Stoughton and participates in community events. Over the years, they have hosted legislators in Dane County at Adam's business location demonstrating the abilities of an individual with complex care needs. Additionally, they have provided informational sessions to Dane County leaders. Deb and Adam's mission is "Together We CAN crush barriers".

**Kyle Novak** is a Program and Policy Analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services IRIS program (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct). She previously worked as a Quality Assurance Specialist with the IRIS program, and has additional prior experience in the field of Long-Term Care. [kyle.novak@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.novak@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Shirley Paceley** is currently working as a consultant with Disability Rights Wisconsin on the Violence Against Women (VAWA) Healthy and Safe Relationships Project. She has worked at the intersection of violence and people with disabilities for 45 years. She has a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Illinois. She is a published author, international trainer, counselor, consultant, advocate, and visionary. [shirleypaceley@gmail.com](mailto:shirleypaceley@gmail.com)

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**PATCH (Providers and Teens Communicating for Health)** are a group of high school students (aged 14-18) from across Dane County. They are trained as public speakers and advocates. The Teen Educators come from many different backgrounds and are experts on the needs and concerns of young people. They use storytelling and guided discussion to empower other teens to take control of their health care and to advocate for changes within health care systems that would help all young people access high-quality, youth-friendly health care. Through their work they are breaking down stigma associated with many health issues and are prepared to discuss a wide variety of sensitive or challenging health topics.

**Joyce Pierson** is an IRIS Consultant at TMG and licensed social worker. Prior to joining TMG she worked as case manager for the state Home and Community Based Services program in Kansas. Joyce also partnered with her husband in ownership and management of a full-line music store for 15 years and homeschooled her four children. She is passionate about partnering with people to become self-advocates and helping them find appropriate services and supports so they can continue to live the life they want in the community.

**Martha Pings** is working with the Department of Health Services to make sure Wisconsin is ready to start Electronic Visit Verification (EVV). She sees self-determination through her lens as a former broker, a past employee of a residential provider agency, a daughter, and an aunt. Her uncorrected eyesight is 20/200. [martha.pings@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:martha.pings@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Lisa Pugh** is Executive Director of The Arc Wisconsin who has been a statewide and national disability leader for over a decade. After working in Congress as a Kennedy Foundation Fellow, she returned to the state as policy director for Disability Rights Wisconsin. She was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities and she currently co-chairs Governor Evers' Task Force on Caregiving. [pugh@thearc.org](mailto:pugh@thearc.org)

**Gina Ramazini** has a BA in Human Services. As an IRIS Consultant she is passionate about supporting individuals as they work towards their employment and independent living goals. Gina has significant experience supporting individuals that use assistive technology to communicate. She has assisted students from High School transition and partnering with DVR to employment. [gina.ramazini@lsswis.org](mailto:gina.ramazini@lsswis.org)

**Callie Rademacher** is in her 20s and lives with her family in rural Wisconsin. She is happiest when she's with people, and she absolutely adores her nephews. She likes being outside, dance and music.

**Beth Swedeen** is Executive Director with the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, which coordinates the Self Determination conference. She is most passionate about making sure that people with disabilities have equal opportunities and the right supports so they can be successful and live their best lives. Her work has focused on inclusive education, youth transition, employment and self determination. Beth first learned about alternatives to guardianship when Cara was in elementary school, and together they pursued other decision-making tools so that Cara retains all her rights.

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Cara Swedeen** is a self-advocate who has had many opportunities to make her own choices during her life, often with the help of her family and other important people in her life. Cara got some help, but chose her jobs, her apartment and her roommate. She also makes smaller choices every day with no help at all, like what she buys at the grocery store, how she spends her free time, when she goes to bed and wakes up, and whether she will exercise! Cara is an artist at Artworking, where all her creations are her own concepts. She loves animals, making art, watching YouTube videos, talking to her friends and sister on the phone, and taking walks with her sister's dog.

**Philip Temme** lives in Madison, Wisconsin and has been a member of LOV Inc. since 2018. He loves history, watching movies, reading, writing, and making new friends.  
[pctemme3@gmail.com](mailto:pctemme3@gmail.com)

**Abigail Tessman** is owner of Transit2go, teaching people with disabilities to use public transportation in Madison. She loves advocating for disability rights. Abigail learns best by hands-on activities, such as cooking. [tessmannabigail@yahoo.com](mailto:tessmannabigail@yahoo.com)

**Karina Virrueta Running** is a Program and Policy Analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services IRIS program (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct). She was previously a Contract Specialist with the IRIS program. Karina received her Master of Public Policy/Affairs from the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW-Madison.  
[karina.virrueta1@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:karina.virrueta1@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Kristin Voss** is a proud mother, teacher, social justice advocate, and loves when these three things can intersect. She teaches psychology at Memorial High School in Madison and coordinates SPARK, a networking group for families with special needs kids.

**Nicole Voss** is a 19 year old who loves to swing, swim, and go to Starbucks. She has worked at Walgreens and Aspire therapy helping a sensory support group for 6-10 year olds. She currently is participating in the Transitions program through the Middleton Cross Plains School District.

**Shannon Webb** has over 25 years of experience working in the field of employment and community services for people with disabilities. Since 2005, she has been fostering innovation and systems change as subject matter expert for state and federal initiatives to increase integrated employment for youth and adults with disabilities. Over the years, she has collaborated extensively with self-advocates, family members, service providers, schools and funders and has received the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Leadership Award. Shannon is creative and an excellent problem solver. She believes everyone can work. Expert Trainer, Speaker, Consultant on Transition and Integrated Employment. Former Executive Director, In Control WI. [shannon@incontrolwisconsin.org](mailto:shannon@incontrolwisconsin.org)

**Steve Woodward** is a Special Olympics Athlete and leader for the PCORI Wisconsin Working Group. He advocates and encourages people with disabilities to live a healthy lifestyle. Steve has developed personal health stories that discuss his innovative ideas and solutions for complex issues related to emotional wellness, loneliness, and isolation.  
[steven.c.woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:steven.c.woodward@hotmail.com)

# GET INVOLVED!



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## Apply for a Board project!

**PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a six-session advocacy and systems change leadership program to develop future leaders across the state who are able to work with legislators and communities on policies and initiatives that will support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life. **Apply by Sept. 1**



**BUILDING FULL LIVES:** This initiative provides training and technical assistance to support organizations that want to support people with disabilities in community settings both for employment and other activities. **Apply by Dec. 1**



**TAKE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO WORK:** Individuals with disabilities working in their community invite their legislator to visit them at work. Legislators visit their constituents with disabilities at their jobs and meet their supervisors and co-workers **Year-round**

**SPARKS GRANTS** help local grassroots groups identify and make changes in their communities that result in a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. SPARKS Grants are available to people with developmental disabilities and family members in Wisconsin. **Apply by Aug. 1**



To find out more and get announcements about these programs, sign up for Board emails at [wi-bpdd.org](http://wi-bpdd.org) or call 608-266-7826.

# GET INVOLVED!



## Apply for a Board project!

**EMPLOYMENT FIRST:** BPDD partners with Wisconsin APSE and People First Wisconsin on Wisconsin Employment First. This initiative promotes integrated employment jobs in typical business settings at minimum wage or higher in the general workforce for people with disabilities. The goal is to double the employment rate in Wisconsin in five years. **Year-round**



**VOTING:** The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (WDVC) is a non-partisan effort to increase voting turnout and participation in the electoral process among members of Wisconsin's disability community. The WDVC is funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Wisconsin. **Year round**

**FAMILY-LED NETWORKS:** A family led group is a network of 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 with a disability. Families meet, learn about resources, and provide support to each other. **Apply by October 1**



**WISCONSIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM** is a week long leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. Being selected to attend the YLF is a distinct honor that you can be very proud of and include on your resume. **Apply by May 1**

To find out more and get announcements about these programs, sign up for Board emails at [wi-bpdd.org](http://wi-bpdd.org) or call 608-266-7826.



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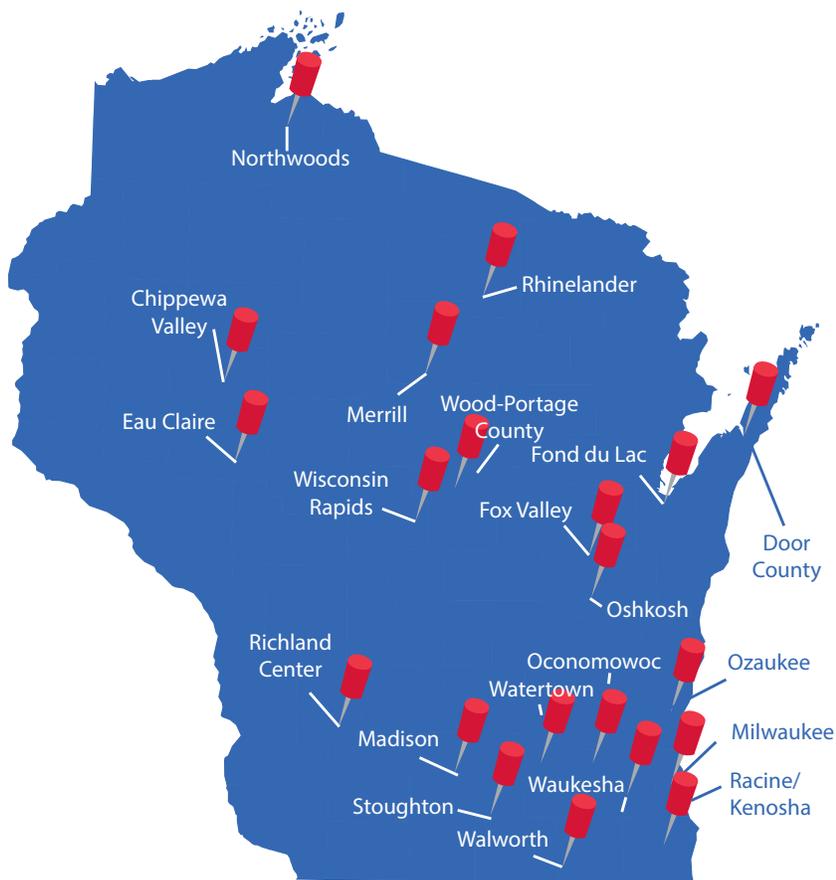
Interested in joining a local group? Visit [www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org/groups](http://www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org/groups) to find your local contact.

**People First Wisconsin**  
central office phone: 414-483-2546

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**Fox Valley** • Lynndale Ihm • (920)-915-4297-Lynndale • lynndaleihm@gmail.com

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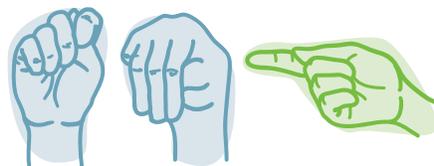
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\*Wisconsin Department of Health Services Options Scorecard data for IRIS Consultant Agencies, July 2019. Datos de Fuente: Wisconsin Department of Health Services Options Scorecard data for IRIS Consultant Agencies, July 2019



# Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities 2019 IMPACT



OVER

**11,000** volunteer hours

contributed resulting in \$225,725 in volunteer support to make WI communities better places for people with disabilities.



BPDD invested more than **70%** of its **\$1.3 million** federal grant directly into WI communities: more than **\$910,000**.

Creation or improvement of **25 local and state policies** that positively impact the lives of people with disabilities.

**16 state laws passed** or improved to positively impact the lives of people with disabilities.



Equipped **3,500** people to make improvements in their own lives and in the lives of those with disabilities.

Supported **13** provider agencies to increase the number of people they are supporting in the community, resulting in over **280** community-based jobs.

**\$375,125,167**

leveraged in 2019, including millions in the state budget that support and improve WI disability programs.



The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life.

# Thank you



**to our Conference Planning Committee:**

Patti Becker, Cindy Bentley, Cathy Derezinski, Carrie J. Gartzke, Vicky Gunderson, Norah Jahnke, Ashley Mathy, Shannon McKinley, Chris Patterson, Philip Temme, Sue Urban, and Rebecca Wetter.

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**Videography provided by Tapioca Creations.**

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**Thank you to the Department of Health Services technology team** for assisting in setting up all the Zoom Rooms. Recorded sessions will be available online after the conference at [www.wi-bpdd.org](http://www.wi-bpdd.org).

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

**for the 2021 Self-Determination Conference!**

**October 18 to October 20, 2021**

**Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells**

**Dates to remember:**

Call for Presenters Opens: February, 2021

Call for Exhibitors Opens: March, 2021

Registration Opens: July, 2021

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## WANT TO BE A 2021 SPONSOR?

Contact Fil Clissa at [fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov](mailto:fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov).

# Turning Vision Into Reality



## Thank You!

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities, People First Wisconsin, and InControl Wisconsin would like to thank you for attending this year's conference. See you next year!



People First Wisconsin



See Our **ds**Ability



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