



Board Meeting Packet

July 21-22, 2021
Virtual Board Meeting



Board Meeting

Virtual Board Meeting · July 21st-22nd, 2021

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BOARD AGENDA JULY 21-22, 2021

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

Time	Symbol	Topic	Facilitator/Presenter
3:00-3:30 PM		Member Caucus	Staff: Jeremy Gundlach
3:30-4:00 PM		Diversity Committee	Staff: Molly Cooney

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021

Time	Symbol	Topic	Facilitator/Presenter
8:00-8:30 AM		Welcome and Technical Assistance (meeting starts at 8:30am)	All
8:30-9:30 AM		Governmental Affairs	Staff: Tami Jackson
9:30-10:30 AM		State Plan	Staff: Molly Cooney
10:30-11:00 AM		Break/ Group Photo	All
11:00-11:30 AM		State-Plan	Staff: Molly Cooney
11:30-12:00 PM		Public Comment	Members of the public
12:00-12:45 PM		Outgoing Board Member Send Off	All



= Meal



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote



=Walking Activity



=Break

12:45-1:00 PM



Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

All

Business Meeting

All

1:00-1:05 PM

- Vote to accept May 2021 Minutes

All

1:05-1:10 PM

- Chair Report

- Elsa Diaz-Bautista

1:10-1:15 PM

- Executive Director Report

- Beth Swedeen

1:15-1:20 PM

- Financial Report

- Beth Swedeen

1:20-1:25 PM

- Executive Committee

- Elsa Diaz-Bautista

1:25-1:30 PM

- Diversity Committee

- Andy Thain

1:30-1:35 PM

- Nominating & Membership Committee

- Ashley Mathy

1:35-1:45 PM

- Partner Agency updates

- DRW, DPI, DHS,

1:45-1:50 PM

- Additional Questions

- DWD, Waisman

- Adjourn



= Meal



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote



=Walking Activity



=Break

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Present:	Chair: Elsa Diaz-Bautista, Vice Chair: Greg Meyer, Sydney Badeau, Barbara Beckert, Kevin Coughlin, Pam Malin, Ashley Mathy, Shannon Mattox, Daniel Parker, Hector Portillo, Nathan Ruffolo, Tricia Thompson, Amy Whitehead, Chris Wood, George Zaske, Gail Bovy, Andy Thain, Meredith Dressel, Kelly Weyer, Alicia Reinhard,
Absent:	Patrick Friedrich, Stephenie Mlodzik, Kedibonye Carpenter, Cheryl Funmaker, Desi Kluth, Houa Yang, Pam Delap,
Staff Present:	Molly Cooney, Natasha Fahey-Flynn, Jeremy Gundlach, Tami Jackson, Kaitlin McNamara, Jennifer Neugart, Beth Swedeen

Chair Elsa Diaz-Bautista called the meeting to order at 11:19 AM.

1. Chair Report:

- Board Chair Elsa shared that the board is still planning to have an in-person meeting in Madison, but we will also have a virtual option.

2. Executive Director Report:

- Executive Director Beth Swedeen talked about how we received a grant from ACL on Youth Ambassador SDM work and we also received a grant from ACL to do outreach and education on COVID-19 vaccines. Beth also talked about the summer intern BPDD has hired to help with the COVID grant. Staff are starting to plan on fall project and grant applications. Beth also talked about the great turnout for the Employment First conference. There were about 300 people on virtually.

3. Financial Report:

- BPDD's accountant is opening up our FY21 funds. We are running about 6-7 months behind schedule which isn't a bad thing and is partially because of the pandemic and saving costs from in person events.

4. Nominating & Membership Committee Report:

- The committee discussed board chair and vice chair along with executive committee members. Voting will take place in July for board chair and vice chair. Executive Committee will then be appointed.

5. Diversity Committee Report:

- Committee Chair Andy Thain gave updates about the previous day's meeting. The committee discussed ways to better diversify our grantees and our contractors. Data was used based on demographics from previous years. The committee also talked about creating a glossary of terms for translation that are disability specific. There was also discussion on possible speakers for the board retreat but also in general for equity work.

6. Action Items:

- Motion to accept the March 2021 board meeting minutes made by George Zaske and seconded by Chris Wood. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Agency Updates:

Disability Rights Wisconsin

- [DRW updates](#)
- [Voting Bills updates](#)
- [Disability Vote Coalition updates](#)
- Pam Malin also gave an update about trainings available through the Victim Advocacy team at DRW.

Department of Health Services

- [May Updates](#)

Waisman Center (UCEDD)

- [May updates](#)

Department of Workforce Development

- [May updates](#)
- Meredith also gave an update on the CIE report public hearing.

Department of Public Instruction

- [May updates](#)
- Alicia also shared information on: The DPI recently released a new visual version of the 2020 Indicator 14 Survey results: <https://wi-dpi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=31c4db02ae2546ce8154897142eafea8>
- Compensatory Services information: <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/compensatory-services-exiting-students.pdf>
- Memo from Deputy Superintendent Mike Thompson on providing compensatory services for students with IEPs leaving high school this year: <https://dpi.wi.gov/administrators/e-mail/covid-response-and-relief-planning-recommendations>

Motion to adjourn made by George Zaske at 12:29 PM; seconded by Greg Meyer. Unanimously passed.

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 BPDD Board Meeting
 BPDD Executive Committee Meeting
 National Election Day

 Self-Determination Conference / Disability Advocacy Day / Employment Conference
 Partners in Policymaking

Updated: 11/11/20 NF

Exec meeting dates should be scheduled 6 weeks before board mtg dates

Board Meeting Dates & Locations:

January 20 & 21, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
March 24, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
May 19 & 20, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
July 21 & 22, 2021	TBD
September 22 & 23, 2021	TBD
November 17 & 18, 2021	TBD

Executive Committee Meeting Dates

February 9 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM
April 6 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM
June 15 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM
August 10 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM
October 12 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM
December 7 th , 2021	2:00-3:00 PM

Other BPDD Dates:

March 23 rd , 2021	Disability Advocacy Day
May 13 th , 2021	Employment First Conference
October 18-20 th , 2021	Self-Determination Conference-Virtual

*Dates are not final and still need approval from the Board.

Committee Assignments 2020 - 2021

Diversity committee:

- 1. Andy Thain – Chair**
- 2. Hector Portillo – Vice Chair**
3. George Zaske
4. Kedibonye Carpenter
5. Barbara Beckert
6. Daniel Parker
7. Meredith Dressel
8. Desirae Kluth
9. Pam Malin
10. Houa Yang
11. Cheryl Funmaker
12. Shannon Mattox

Nominating and Membership Committee:

- 1. Ashley Mathy - Chair**
2. Patrick Friedrich
3. Tricia Thompson
4. Nathan Ruffolo
5. Stephanie Mlodzik
6. Kevin Coughlin
7. Pamela DeLap
8. Greg Meyer
9. Chris Wood
10. Kelli Weyer
11. Sydney Badeau

Executive Committee:

- 1. Elsa Diaz-Bautista - Chair**
- 2. Greg Meyer – Vice Chair**
3. Gail Bovy
4. Tricia Thompson
5. George Zaske

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

BPDD Office and Teleconference

Present: George Zaske, Tricia Thompson, Elsa Diaz-Bautista, Gail Bovy, Greg Meyer

Staff Liaison: Beth Swedeen

Absent: Gail Bovy, George Zaske

Staff Present: Beth Swedeen, Jeremy Gundlach

Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm.

1. Set July Board Mtg Agenda:

Wednesday July 21st

3:00 – 3:30 PM	Member Caucus
3:30 – 4:00 PM	Nominating and Membership Committee
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Diversity Committee
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Dinner

Thursday July 22nd

8:00-8:30 AM	Welcome and Technical Support
8:30-9:30 AM	Governmental Affairs
9:30-10:30 AM	State Plan
10:30-11:00 AM	Break/Group Photo
11:00-11:30 AM	State Plan
11:30-12:00 PM	Public Comment
12:00-12:30 AM	Outgoing Board Member Send Off
12:30-1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30-2:30 PM	Business Meeting with Voting first and a line item for BPDD Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1:30-1:35 Approval of minutes- 1:35-1:40 Chair report- 1:40-1:45 ED Report- 1:45-1:50 Financial Report- 1:50-1:55 Committee reports- 1:55 DHS update- 2:00 DPI Update- 2:05 DVR Update- 2:10 Waisman Update- 2:15 DRW update- 2:20 Additional questions- 2:30 Adjourn

2. Discuss September Board Retreat:

- The Board Retreat will be held at the Green Lake Conference Center on September 22-23rd. Our focus will be on equity and the new state plan.
- We will take time to watch the recording of the Georgetown Cultural Competence webinar for DD councils.
- If the Nina Collective isn't able to facilitate our September meeting, board staff will start looking into other options.

3. Other Agenda Items:

-

Motion to adjourn at 2:51 PM. Unanimously passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Committee Present: **Chair:** Ashley Mathy, Tricia Thompson, Greg Meyer, Pam Delap, Sydney Badeau, Kelly Weyer, Chris Wood

Committee Absent: Patrick Friedrich, Nathan Ruffolo, Stephenie Mlodzik, Kevin Coughlin,

Staff Present: Jenny Neugart

Meeting called to order at 2:59 pm.

- Updated where we were at with outreach to possible board members.
 - For service provider:
 - Shawn Rivers Adams: No update, Stephenie was not present.
 - Chelsey Meyer Foster: Pam reached out and she said she would think about it. Jenny will follow up with more details.
 - Christie Carter: Jenny will contact
 - For family member
 - Courtney Waller: Chris said she took care of it. Jenny will follow up to see if her application has been turned in.
 - Pamela Hencke: She is interested. Jenny will follow up with how to apply.
 - Anna Stevens: No update, Nathan was not present
 - Mary Haase: Kelly will contact in the future. She is too busy now.
- Provide update on the list of recommendations for next year's Executive Committee. George Zaske agreed to be Vice Chair and Andy Thain agreed to be on the committee. Everyone else volunteered.
- Voting will take place for the Executive Committee at the July 2021 meeting.
- Chris Wood informed the committee that Flora Csontos was no longer the Appointments Director. The new person is Kevin. Jenny will make contact and check in on applications.
- Adjourned at 3:30 pm






July 21, 2021

4:00-5:00 pm

Diversity Committee Agenda

<https://zoom.us/j/94341550217>
(phone number listed below)

Members **Chair:** Andy Thain **Vice Chair:** Hector Portillo; George Zaske, Kedibonye Carpenter, Barbara Beckert, Daniel Parker, Meredith Dressel, Desirae Kluth, Pam Malin, Houa Yang, Cheryl Funmaker, Shannon Mattox, Alicia Reinhard, Elsa Diaz-Bautista
Staff Liaison: Molly Cooney

Symbol	Topic	Presenter	Time
	1. Call Meeting to order	Chair	4:00
	2. Community Mapping to get the word out about grant applications for new projects	All	4:05-4:45
	3. Identify next steps	All	4:45-4:55
	4. THANK YOU to our Committee Chair and Co-Chair!	All	4:55-5:00
	5. Meeting closes	All	5:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94341550217>

Meeting ID: 943 4155 0217

One tap mobile: 1(312) 626-6799



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote



BPDD Budget Update



Category	Federal Fiscal Year 2020			Federal Fiscal Year 2021		
	Budget	Spent	Remaining	Budget	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	504,467.00	508,537.81	(4,070.81)	499,866.00	0.00	499,866.00
Grants, Contracts, Partnerships*	647,758.00	606,826.94	40,931.06	668,549.00	2,648.20	665,900.80
Programming Subtotal	1,152,225.00	1,115,364.75	36,860.25	1,168,415.00	2,648.20	1,165,766.80
Must be >=70%	86.2%	82%		89.5%	22.6%	



Category	Budget	Spent	Remaining	Budget	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	134,667.00	82,677.64	51,989.36	86,359.00	0.00	86,359.00
Grants, Contracts, Partnerships*	49,090.00	161,978.77	(112,888.77)	50,718.00	9,060.19	41,657.81
Board Operations Subtotal	183,757.00	244,656.41	(60,899.41)	137,077.00	9,060.19	128,016.81
Must be <=30%	13.8%	18.0%		10.5%	77.4%	



1,335,982.00	1,360,021.16	(24,039.16)	1,305,492.00	11,708.39	1,293,783.61
		-1.8%			99.1%

Summary		Summary	
Project Period:	10/01/2019 - 09/30/2021	Project Period:	10/01/2020 - 09/30/2022
Project Status:	Open	Project Status:	Open
Total Award:	1,335,982.00	Total Award:	1,305,492.00
Spent	1,360,021.16	Spent	11,708.39
Remaining	(24,039.16)	Remaining	1,293,783.61



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.

2022-2026 State Plan

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Every five years, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) submits a plan to the federal government for systems change focused on improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities through full inclusion and participation in all aspects of community life.

The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act requires that each state establish a Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council. The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities is the state of Wisconsin's DD Council. The act also required each state to establish a Protection and Advocacy Agency and University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. In Wisconsin, Disability Rights Wisconsin is the Protection and Advocacy Agency, and the Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. Together the three entities are referred to as the Developmental Disabilities Network Partners.

To develop its next state plan, BPDD spent a year collecting public input on the most pressing issues and needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Nearly 500 people with disabilities, family members, professionals, and advocates provided input. Key issues raised include the need for social networks and relationships, inclusive communities, family support, caregiving, transportation, mental health, decision making (or having control over one's life), and employment. Board members reviewed the input to determine the best investment of available resources based on priorities identified statewide.

The state plan meets all the requirements of the [Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 \(DD Act\)](#). The federal government expects Developmental Disabilities Councils to identify goals that can be met in five years using available resources. In addition, the federal government requires that Council activities focus on efforts to change entire systems, not on direct service. The Council cannot be involved in legal action, such as lawsuits.

This plan will be in effect for the 2022-2026 federal fiscal years. The 5-year federal fiscal calendar begins October 1, 2021 and ends September 30, 2026. The plan will be submitted to the federal oversight agency, the Office of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, by September 15, 2021.

There are three required goals or objectives that must be included in every Council's state plan:

1. Self-advocacy: The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act requires that Councils have a self-advocacy goal every year of the state plan that includes: 1) support to a statewide self-advocacy organization, 2) facilitating people with developmental disabilities providing leadership training to their peers, and 3)

activities to promote the participation of people with disabilities in cross-disability and culturally diverse leadership coalitions.

2. Targeted disparity: Councils are required to identify a disparity faced by a group of people identified by the Council as unserved or underserved (this group may be based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, geography, gender, etc.). Councils must include a state plan goal or objective that seeks to address this disparity.
3. Collaboration - The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act calls for collaboration among the [Developmental Disabilities Network partners](#), and Councils are asked to identify specific strategic activities to further this collaboration.

To reach the goals outlined in the state plan, the Council uses a number of strategies, including training and consulting, building coalitions, educating policy makers and the general public, organizing grassroots advocacy, and funding demonstration projects.

The plan includes the goals and objectives BPDD chose for the 2022-2026 State Plan. It also includes examples of activities that could be used to reach the identified goals and objectives.

Accessibility info: The State Plan is available in Spanish, Hmong, and in plain language English, Spanish and Hmong versions. If you need the in another language or format, please email beth.swedeen@wisconsin.gov or call (608) 266-7826.

2022-2026 State Plan: The Board is dedicated to uniting all of Wisconsin in supporting our citizens with developmental disabilities to lead their most independent lives. BPDD is charged with bringing people together to solve problems, remove barriers and create statewide change for the developmental disability community. BPDD is dedicated to improving the **independence, productivity, and integration** of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Independence means having choices available, being able to choose, and exercising control over one's own life.

Productivity means contributing to one's own household, neighborhood and community. It means working in the community and earning a living.

Integration means being present in the community, participating in the life of the community and being valued as a person, friend, family member and neighbor.

In addition, people with developmental disabilities have the same rights as anyone -- the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, the right to be treated with respect and dignity, and the right to control one's own life and destiny.

The state plan will advance the opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. With the support of families and allies who believe in these values, people will pursue their own goals and be fully included in the community.

Goal 1:**Amount for Grants: \$80,000**

By September 2026, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, including those with diverse identities, are aware of and able to access, use, and improve programs to maximize inclusion, self-determination, productivity, integration, and independence in community life as evidenced by:

Objective 1.1: By September 30, 2026, as a result of BPDD action, 1,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families will say they **know about** and **can access** the **supports** they need **to live the lives they want**.

Objective 1.2: By September 30, 2026, as a result of BPDD action, **50 families of young children of color** will use the **public services, public programs and community supports** they need.

Objective 1.3: By September 30, 2026, the Board will **act as a policy adviser** to the legislature, Governor, and other policymakers on policies that impact all aspects of community life, decision-making, and full inclusion, resulting in **25 improved policies and practices** that increase community participation, decision making and full inclusion.

Rationale:

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families must be:

- a) aware of the services and supports available to them throughout the life span,
- b) able to understand what the services offer,
- c) able to apply for the services,
- d) able to use the services to build a meaningful life, and
- e) able to provide feedback and voice concern on the quality of services and ways to improve.

Despite efforts by service systems to inform eligible people of the available programs, many --especially people of color--remain either unaware of these opportunities or do not find that the services help them live full lives in their communities. The service systems are often fragmented and difficult to navigate. Program and service materials and websites are often difficult to find, read and understand. Opportunities for input to improve services or voice concerns are either nonexistent or often do not result in positive change.

Participation in children's long-term care in Milwaukee County continues to lag compared to participation rates in other counties. Participation in Milwaukee County is 1,191 children, while Dane County with a population about half of Milwaukee County has 1,363 children on the waiver (March 2021). This continued disparity in the county with the highest cultural and linguistic diversity in the state, and among the highest poverty rates, continues to be a concern.

Tribal children and Latino children also are significantly under-represented in Children's programs related to Caucasian children.

Demographic data on applicants/participants is unavailable in some service systems. To address disparities, it is important that all systems collect demographic data and be able to readily share it when asked.

Definitions:

Plain Language: communication your audience can understand the first time they read or hear it. Plain language is easy to read, understand, and use. It avoids using too many words and jargon.

Self-advocates: a person with a disability who speaks up for the rights, needs and wants of him/herself and of other people with disabilities

Stakeholder: a person or group of people who have an interest or concern about something

Suggested activities:

- Promote the use of plain language by agencies, service providers and other organizations so that people with disabilities, families and other users understand the information and are able to use it effectively
- Coordinate useability studies or stakeholder reviews of publications and websites
- Work with self-advocates and family members to educate others about the value of plain language materials
- Pilot innovative strategies to alleviate information gaps
- Pilot innovative strategies to empower people with disabilities and families, including people/families of color, to navigate service systems and support others to do so
- Inform policymakers on policies that impact all aspects of community life, decision-making and full inclusion
- Provide information and e-mail alerts on key policy and legislative initiatives affecting people with disabilities.

Goal 2:

Amount for Grants: \$310,000

Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with diverse identities, experience equity, access, and opportunity to foster authentic relationships and be seen as valued contributors to their communities as evidenced by:

Objective 2.1: By September 30, 2026, as a result of BPDD action, 650 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will say they have **increased social connection and reduced isolation**.

Objective 2.2: By September 30, 2026, as a result of BPDD action and through collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Network, 775 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will **make choices** about their everyday lives.

Objective 2.3: September 30th, 2026, as a result of BPDD action, 900 self-advocates will engage in effective **advocacy**.

Objective 2.4: By September 30th, 2026, as a result of BPDD action, 250 self-advocates will **participate in leadership training and practice their leadership skills** across all aspects of community life.

Rationale:

Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities want authentic, meaningful relationships with people beyond family members, caregivers, and paid staff. These relationships are often made when participating in everyday life of a community: playing with friends, going to school, exercising at the gym, going to religious services, being a member of a club, volunteering, and working. They also want to make choices and decisions about their own lives, and they want to have a voice about the decisions that get made about their community, state and country. However, there are many barriers to this level of full, inclusive participation in community life.

Barriers stem from biases that perpetuate low expectations, attitudes, and systemic inequities that do not value and recognize the contributions possible by children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. These barriers result in limited opportunities. They also result in limited decision and choice-making, putting people with disabilities at greater risk for abuse and neglect.

Despite Wisconsin's focus on self-direction in managed care and an increase in the number of people who report self-directing some of their supports (NCI data), over 71% of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who use the self-directed long term care program are under legal guardianship. Guardians sign their service plans and are often making multiple decisions every day (what clothes the ward can wear, what food they can eat) that go well beyond the intended role of a guardian, which is to ensure the health and safety of a ward. More training is needed on the range of decision-making supports available. Prospective and current guardians are also in need of education to better understand their role and its limitations.

Wisconsin, like most other states, has a fragmented reporting system for abuse and neglect, making it unclear when it happens, how often, and how to report. The Adult Protective Services system in Wisconsin is run by the 72 individual counties, and our state statute requires mandatory investigation **ONLY** for complaints of people over 60 (elder abuse). Complaints of adults 18-59 is at the discretion of the county. Likewise, people report being unsure whether to report to Adult Protective Services, Division of Quality Assurance, Wisconsin's Protection and Advocacy organization, or the police. Children and adults with disabilities need access to trainings on their rights and how to stay safe.

Expectations held by children and adults with disabilities, their families, and the federal government about services are shifting away from a focus on caretaking and towards building skills and connections in the community. When services are used to connect children and adults with disabilities to others and to opportunities, they gain skills, independence, and authentic relationships. This in turn positively impacts the attitudes and expectations of community members and employers.

Definitions:

Discretion: having the freedom to make a decision about something

Developmental Disabilities Network: three agencies that each state is required to have: a Protection and Advocacy organization, University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Developmental Disabilities Council. In Wisconsin these include Disability Rights Wisconsin, Waisman Center, and Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Prospective: expecting to be something in the future

Self-direction: guiding or managing your own life or work or supports

Systemic inequities: the ways that our systems are not fair

Suggested activities:

- Provide grants to develop and pilot innovative strategies to support people with disabilities to build connections in their communities
- Provide education and training to people with disabilities on their rights and ways to stay safe and connected
- Provide education to service providers and businesses about natural supports or mentoring in the workplace
- Provide education and training on the range of decision-making options available
- Promote collaboration among agencies and strengthen coalitions
- Support People First Wisconsin, a statewide self-advocacy organization, to strengthen their chapters and to provide members opportunities to engage in advocacy activities
- Provide grants to develop and pilot innovative strategies to support people, especially children and young adults, to make choices and decisions about their lives
- Support voting activities
- Support opportunities for people with disabilities to connect with legislators to educate and advocate on issues important to them
- Provide advocacy and leadership training and mentoring to self-advocates, including youth and families
- Engage in systems change activities that promote the inclusion of people with I/DD in all facets of community life
- Host statewide network/training events, such as the Self-Determination Conference
- Promote collaboration among the Developmental Disabilities Network partners—Disability Rights Wisconsin and Waisman Center

Goal 1 | Amount for Grants: \$80,000



More people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) and their families will participate in inclusive activities that they choose.

By September 2026, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, including those with diverse identities, are aware of and able to access, use, and improve programs to increase inclusion, self-determination, productivity, integration, and independence in community life as evidenced by:

Objective 1.1



More people with I/DD will have the supports they need to live the life they want.

By September 30, 2026, because of BPDD action, 1,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and families will say they **know about** and **can access** the supports they need **to live the lives they want**.

Objective 1.2



More families of color with young children with disabilities will use the programs they need.

By September 30, 2026, because of BPDD action, **50 families of young children of color** will use with the **public services, public programs and community supports** they need.

Objective 1.3



Work with legislators and policy makers to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Wisconsin.

By September 30, 2026, the Board will **act as a policy adviser** to the legislature, Governor and other policymakers on policies that impact all aspects of community life, decision-making, and full inclusion, resulting in **25 improved policies and practices** that increases community participation, decision making and full inclusion.

Why we chose this goal:

People with I/DD and their families must:

- a) know about the services and supports available to them throughout their life,
- b) be able to understand what the services offer,
- c) be able to apply for the services,
- d) be able to use the services to build a meaningful life, and
- e) be able to provide feedback and voice concern on the quality of services and ways to improve.

Definitions:

Plain Language: Plain language is easy to read, understand, and use.

Self-advocates: a person with a disability who speaks up for their rights and what they or others with disabilities needs

Stakeholder: a person or group of people that have an interest or a concern about something

Suggested activities:

- Promote the use of **plain language** by agencies and organizations so that people with disabilities, families and others understand the information and can use it
- Work with **self-advocates** and family members to educate others about the value of **plain language** materials
- Have people with disabilities look at of publications and websites to make changes
- Fund activities to **reduce information gaps**
- **Empower people** with disabilities and families, including people/families of color, to **easily use service systems**
- **Let policymakers know how policies will affect** community life, decision-making and full inclusion for **people** with disability
- Provide information and e-mail alerts on key policy and legislation that affect people with disabilities.

Goal 2 | Amount for Grants: \$300,000



Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will be seen as valued members of their communities.

Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including those with diverse identities, experience equity, access, and opportunity to foster authentic relationships and be seen as valued contributors to their communities as evidenced by:

Objective 2.1



Children and adults with I/DD will have more social connections and feel less lonely.

By September 30, 2026, because of BPDD action, 650 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will say they have **increased social connection and reduced isolation**.

Objective 2.2



Children and adults with I/DD will make choices about their everyday lives.

By September 30, 2026, because of BPDD action and through collaboration with the Developmental Disabilities Network, 775 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities will **make choices** about their everyday lives.

Objective 2.3



Increase the number of self-advocates with I/DD involved in advocacy.

September 30th, 2026, because of BPDD action, 900 self-advocates will take part in effective **advocacy**.

Objective 2.4



Support more people with I/DD and families to be leaders.

By September 30th, 2026, because of BPDD action, 250 self-advocates will **participate in leadership training and practice their leadership skills** across all aspects of community life.

Why we chose this goal:

Children and adults with I/DD want real and meaningful relationships with people beyond family members, caregivers, and paid staff. These relationships are often made when participating in everyday life of a community: playing with friends, going to school, exercising at the gym, going to religious services, being a member of a club, volunteering, and working. They also want to make choices and decisions about their own lives, and they want to have a voice about the decisions that get made about their community, state, and country. However, there are many barriers to this level of full, inclusive participation in community life.

People with disabilities unfairly face barriers that do not value and recognize the contributions possible by people with I/DD. These barriers result in limited opportunities. They also result in limited decision and choice-making, putting people with disabilities at greater risk for abuse and neglect.

Many people w/ IDD are under guardianship. Guardians often make multiple decisions every day (what clothes the person with a disability can wear, what food they can eat, etc.) that go beyond the intended role of a guardian, which is to ensure the health and safety of a [ward](#). More training is needed on the range of decision-making supports available and the role of guardians.

Wisconsin, like most other states, has a patchy reporting system for abuse and neglect, making it unclear when it happens, how often, and how to report. Likewise, people report being unsure where to file a report. Children and adults with disabilities need access to trainings on their rights and how to stay safe.

Expectations held by children and adults with disabilities, their families, and the federal government about services are shifting away from a focus on caretaking and towards building skills and connections in the community. When services are used to connect children and adults with disabilities to others and to opportunities, they gain skills, independence, and real relationships. This creates higher community expectations for people living with disabilities.

Definitions:

Discretion: having the freedom to make a decision about something.

Developmental Disabilities Network: three agencies that every state is required to have: Protection and Advocacy organization, University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, and Developmental Disabilities Council. In Wisconsin, these agencies are Disability Rights Wisconsin, Waisman Center, and Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

Prospective: expecting to be something in the future

Self-direction: guiding or managing your own life or work or supports

Systems change: addresses unfairness and problems in our systems.

A ward: a person who has a guardian

Suggested activities:

- Provide grants for activities that support people with disabilities to build connections in their communities
- Provide education and training to people with disabilities on their rights and ways to stay safe and connected
- Provide education to service providers and businesses about supporting people with disabilities in the workplace
- Provide education and training on available decision-making options
- Promote agencies to work together and strengthen coalitions
- Support People First Wisconsin, a statewide Self-Advocacy organization, to strengthen their chapters and to provide members opportunities to engage in advocacy activities
- Provide grants to support people, especially children and young adults, to make choices and decisions about their lives
- Support voting activities
- Support opportunities for people with disabilities to connect with legislators to educate and advocate on issues important to them
- Provide advocacy and leadership training and mentoring to self-advocates, including youth and families
- Engage in systems change activities that promote the inclusion of people with I/DD in all areas of community life
- Host statewide network/training events, such as the Self-Determination Conference
- Promote collaboration among the Developmental Disabilities Network partners—Disability Rights Wisconsin and Waisman Center.