



Board Meeting Packet

September 22-23, 2021
Virtual Board Meeting



Board Meeting

Virtual Board Meeting · September 22nd-23rd, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Board Meeting

- Table of Contents (2)
- Letter from the Chair (3)
- September Board Meeting Agenda (4-5)
- July 22, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes (6-7)
- 2021 Board Meeting Calendar (8)
- 2021 Board Meeting List View (9)
- 2021 Committee Assignments (10)

Executive Committee

- August 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes (11-12)

Nominating and Membership Committee

- September Meeting Agenda (13)

Diversity Committee

- September Meeting Agenda (14)
- July Meeting Minutes (15-16)

Other

- BPDD Financials (17)
- State-Plan 2022-2026 (18-23)



Dear Board,

I hope everyone had a safe, healthy, and a great summer. I want to thank everyone one on the board and the staff for their hard work.

As the trees are starting to change colors, the weather starts to get cool, and the days are getting shorter, we are on the next journey to start our new 5-year state-plan. As we begin in the next few months, we will be continuing with zoom meetings and waiting for COVID-19 to settle down before we decide to come back together as a group for everyone's health and safety.

Partners are still accepting applications. Spark grants has closed and hopefully we have some good applications with new creative projects. The Self-Determination conference is going to be great and hopefully we have the same amount of people or more than last year.




Please be safe, stay healthy and be happy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.






Greg Meyer

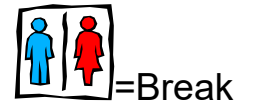
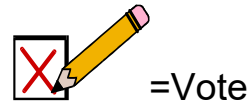
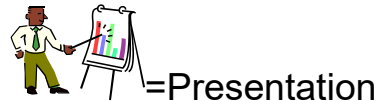
BOARD AGENDA SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2021

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Time	Symbol	Topic	Facilitator/Presenter
3:00-3:30 PM		Member Caucus	Staff: Jeremy Gundlach
3:30-4:30 PM		Diversity Committee	Staff: Molly Cooney
4:30-5:00 PM		Nominating and Membership Committee	Staff: Jenny Neugart

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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
9:30-11:15 AM		Project Overviews	BPDD Project Managers
11:15-11:30 AM		Break – FILL OUT, SIGN, AND RETURN TRAVEL VOUCHERS to BPDD STAFF	All
11:30-11:45 AM		Public Comment	Members of Public



Business Meeting

11:45-11:50 AM
11:50-11:55 AM
11:55-12:00 PM
12:00-12:05 PM
12:05-12:10 PM
12:10-12:15 PM
12:15-12:35 PM
12:35-12:40 PM
12:40-12:45PM



- Vote to accept July 2021 Minutes
- Chair Report
- Executive Director Report
- Financial Report
- Executive Committee
- Diversity Committee
- Nominating & Membership Committee
- Partner Agency updates
- Additional Questions
- Adjourn

All

All

- Greg Meyer
 - Beth Swedeen
 - Beth Swedeen
 - Greg Meyer
 - Andy Thain
 - Ashley Mathy
 - DRW, DPI, DHS,
DWD, Waisman
-



= Meal



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote



=Walking Activity



=Break

BOARD MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

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

Chair called the meeting to order at 11:20 AM.

1. Chair Report:

- Elsa was not in attendance, but Greg Meyer gave remarks on her behalf wishing the board a bright future.

2. Executive Director Report:

- NACDD is having their national meeting virtually August 2-5th in the afternoons from 1-4pm Central time. Board members who are interested in attending should contact Jeremy about registration. There are a lot of national speakers that board members may be interested in hearing from.

3. Financial Report:

- Beth gave an update on the funds that BPDD received from the federal government to help spread information and get people with disabilities and their families vaccinated. Staff will help to share dates on the grantee's pop up clinics or other events so board members can participate. BPDD is also getting some funds from the Puerto Rico DD council since they haven't used all of their core funds.

4. Nominating & Membership Committee Report:

- The Nominating and Membership Committee didn't meet but there are several board member openings as of this meeting.

5. Executive Committee Meeting:

- Greg Gave an update on the September Retreat plans along with the possibility that it could be virtual depending on the state of COVID-19.

6. Diversity Committee Report:

- Vice Chair Hector talked about how the diversity committee is looking to bring the board's equity work to the new SPARKS grants and our new 5-year state plan. The new grants are looking to bring inclusion to communities in all aspects so the committee did some asset mapping to find community groups we could reach out to.

7. Action Items:

- Motion to accept the May 2021 board meeting minutes made by George Zaske and seconded by Stephenie Noggle. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Agency Updates:

Disability Rights Wisconsin

- [DRW updates](#)
- [Disability Vote Coalition updates](#)

Department of Health Services

- [July Updates](#)

Waisman Center (UCEDD)

- [July Updates](#)
- [Press Release](#)

Department of Workforce Development

- Sarah Lincoln gave the update in place of Meredith since she was not able to make the meeting. Sarah gave an update on Project Search. Even during the pandemic they had 167 participants graduate. There are two new sites being opening in Appleton and Green Bay. There are two sites that weren't able to fill their sites so they are having a break year for the program. Several sites, which were hospitals, did not run their programs because of COVID-19 concerns. The DWD job sites are now open and available for in-person appointments.

Department of Public Instruction

- [July Updates](#)

Motion to adjourn made by George Zaske at 12:10 PM; seconded by Pam Delap. 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: 9/17/21 jg

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	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
September 22 & 23, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 17 & 18, 2021	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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 11 th , 2021	3:00-4:00 PM
December 13 th , 2021	3:00-4:00 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. Houa Yang
10. Cheryl Funmaker
11. Shannon Mattox
12. Amy Whitehead
13. Pam DeLap

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. Kelly Weyer
11. Sydney Badeau
12. Gail Bovy

Executive Committee:

- 1. Greg Meyer - Chair**
- 2. George Zaske – Vice Chair**
3. Andy Thain
4. Nathan Ruffolo
5. Ashley Mathy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

BPDD Office and Teleconference

Present: **Chair:** Greg Meyer **Vice Chair:** George Zaske; Andy Thain, Nathan Ruffolo

Staff Liaison: Beth Swedeen

Absent: Ashley Mathy

Staff Present: Beth Swedeen, Jeremy Gundlach

Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm.

1. Set September Board Mtg Agenda: Meeting will be Virtual

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

7:45-8:30 AM	Welcome and Technical Support
8:30-9:30 AM	Governmental Affairs
9:30-11:15 AM	New State-Plan discussion and project implementation
11:15-11:25 AM	Break
11:25-12:30 PM	Business Meeting

2. Discuss November Board Meeting:

- Possibly having a training around cultural competency for the board.
- Create an equity statement for BPDD.
- Public Records training needs to happen for all board members in November

3. Public Records Training:

- Needs to happen in November.
- Jeremy will contact DOA staff to see if we can just go through the training rather than have someone come in.

4. Executive Committee Schedule:

- Monday afternoons seem to be what works best for all exec members. The committee has decided that 3-4pm is the best time on Mondays to have the executive committee meetings.

5. Committee Assignments:

- Ashley has indicated that she would like to stay chair of nominating committee even while she is on executive committee.

- Andy has also indicated that he is happy to stay as chair of diversity committee but would step down if another member wanted the leadership position.
- George discussed having new vice chairs on the committees to start to build leadership for new board members. All members were in agreement.

6. Other Agenda Items:

-

Motion to adjourn at 2:42 PM. Unanimously passed.





September 22, 2021

4:30 – 5:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Nominating Committee Agenda

Members: **Chair:** Ashley Mathy; **Members:** Patrick Freidrich, Tricia Thompson, Nathan Ruffolo, Stephenie Mlodzik, Kevin Coughlin, Pam Delap, Greg Meyer, Chris Wood, Kelli Weyer, Sydney Badeau
Staff Liaison: Jenny Neugart

Symbol	Topic:	Presenter:	Time:
	1. Updates on Open Board Positions	All	
	2. Review Recommendations for Future Board Members	All	
	3. Brainstorm Ideas for Future Board Members	All	
	4. Adjourn		



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote









September 22, 2021

3:30-4:30 pm

Diversity Committee Agenda

[Need](#) to add Zoom link
(need to add phone number listed below)

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

Symbol	Topic	Presenter	Time
	1. Call Meeting to order	Chair	3:30
	2. Introductions and Welcome to new committee members	All	3:30- 3:40
	3. Update on Sparks grants, Partners in Policymaking recruitment, and Family Groups/Navigation project	Molly	3:40- 4:00
	4.	All	4:00- 4:25
	5. Identify next steps	All	4:25- 4:30
	6. Meeting closes	Chair	4:30

Join Zoom Meeting



=Meeting



=Presentation



=Vote





DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 21, 2021

3:30-4:30 pm

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

Committee Present:	Chair: Andy Thain, Vice Chair: Hector Portillo; Cheryl Funmaker, Greg Meyer, Shannon Mattox, Houa Yang, Barbara Beckert, Pam Malin, Kelly Weyer
Committee Absent:	Daniel Parker, Alicia Reinhard, Kedi Carpenter; Meredith Dressel; Elsa Diaz-Bautista; George Zaske; Desi Kluth
Staff Present:	Beth Swedeen; Natasha Fahey-Flynn; Jenny Neugart; Molly Cooney
Guests:	

Meeting called to order at 3:33 PM

1. Topic 1: Community Mapping to spread the word about new projects: Building Connections – the new Sparks grants; Choice-making – still in the works; Family Navigators

- Jenny shared information about the new Building Connections grants; we're calling these grants Sparks grants
 - Up to \$5,000; we'll fund up to 4 projects
- Is the grant clear about how "inclusion looks"? Are we defining it so that people know b/c sometimes think they are doing inclusion but they are not doing it well. Jenny included a graphic that helps define what we really mean about inclusion.
- Mike Hippel connected to Kiwanis and he might be a good person to get this to
- YMCA and Boys and Girls Club has a lot of funding; smaller organizations have fewer funds to do this work
- Could this grant pay for part of someone's salary/time? Yes, it can. However, it can't supplant funds that already exist
- Pastor Walter Lennear coordinates the Miracle Network (pastor at Progressive Baptist Church); he's worked w/ us on some of our voting stuff. Barbara can share it with him.
- Barbara could also ask Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee to share with their membership.
- Hector and Shannon both make great points about trying to encourage small grassroots groups and individuals to apply, rather than reaching out in a targeted way to large groups that already have multiple sources of grant funding.
- Natasha suggested trying to target neighborhood associations or alder people
- Greg has connections through Wisconsin towns associations
- Concern brought up about large organizations, specifically about the YMCA, and the biases there among staff and not knowing how to be more inclusive and welcoming
- There needs to be work on the front end about bias and internal work that needs to happen within organizations
 - Jenny explained that there will be training and coaching to these organizations
- Need to be mindful of the organization's philosophy; may need to filter out applications that treat this as an expansion rather than integration
- Board members will be asked to help review applications
- Sept. 10 is the deadline

- Northcott Neighborhood House
- Tricklebee Café: (46th/North Ave) pay what you can café
- Pam will give the info to Casa Alba
- Jenny will send an email with draft language for an email, Facebook post, etc.
- Running Rebels; Our Next Generation
- Is there a broader association for parks and rec? Jenny has found some regional structures
- Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; 4H; County Associations; Neighborhood Associations; Easter Seals
- Do a brainstorming session with larger board to brainstorm community connections
- Partners in Policymaking: actively recruiting for Partners now. If you know of anyone that you can refer, please share information with them. Jenny will send an email with blurbs people can use or revise. October 1 due date.

2. Next steps

- Jenny will send an email with information and blurbs about Sparks and Partners in Policymaking. Committee members can use this information to talk with, email, Facebook message, etc. people they know who might be interested in applying for either opportunity.

3. Thanked our Committee Chair and Co-Chair for their efforts!

- We will elect a new board chair tomorrow. The new chair will make decisions about the members and chairs of the committees. If people want to stay on one committee or switch to another, it's a good idea to let the chair know. If people want to be the chair of a committee, it's a good idea to let the chair know this as well.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM

BPDD Budget Update



Programming

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	159,987.27	339,878.73
Grants, Contracts, Partnerships*	647,758.00	596,508.31	51,249.69	668,549.00	2,648.20	665,900.80
Programming Subtotal	1,152,225.00	1,105,046.12	47,178.88	1,168,415.00	162,635.47	1,005,779.53
Must be >=70%	86.2%	82.5%		89.5%	60.2%	



Board Operations

Category	Budget	Spent	Remaining	Budget	Spent	Remaining
Personnel	134,667.00	82,677.64	51,989.36	86,359.00	0.29,607.2100	56,751.79
Grants, Contracts, Partnerships*	49,090.00	152,070.86	(102,980.86)	50,718.00	78,109.42	(27,391.42)
Board Operations Subtotal	183,757.00	234,748.50	(50,991.50)	137,077.00	107,716.63	29,360.37
Must be <=30%	13.8%	17.5%		10.5%	39.8%	



TOTAL

1,335,982.00	1,339,794.62	(3,812.62)	1,305,492.00	270,352.10	1,035,139.90
		-0.3%			79.3%

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	1,339,794.62	Spent	270,352.10
Remaining	(3,812.62)	Remaining	1,035,139.90



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, **100 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, 1,000 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