

# The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities: A History



## 1970s

The WI Council on Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is created in 1972

People with Developmental Disabilities get coordinated services today because BPDD sponsored and promoted system-wide case management in counties

BPDD created the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, which continues to unify the voice of disability advocacy in WI.

## 1980s

Tens of thousands of young children get services they need because BPDD worked to expand, improve, and increase funding for Birth to Three

Over 10,000 people left institutions and tens of thousands never had to go to one because BPDD took the lead in developing and funding the Community Integration Program

BPDD's Lead Poisoning Prevention effort resulted in early detection and treatment, as well as safer environments for thousands of children all over the state.

BPDD's public awareness efforts on fetal alcohol syndrome increased prevention of FAS.

## 1990s

Lifespan respite services were increased and improved through BPDD's early support of the Respite Care Association.

With BPDD's support, hundreds of people with developmental disabilities have found their voice to advocate as part of People First Wisconsin and its local chapters.

Parents can get information about their children's disabilities and special healthcare needs because BPDD piloted Wisconsin First Step, a statewide information and referral service.

## 2000s

BPDD's voter education and registration initiative helped thousands of people with disabilities vote.

People with developmental disabilities are finding competitive employment through BPDD-sponsored business to business collaboration.

BPDD promotes improvements in Medicaid prior authorization policies and practices, helping children with disabilities get needed therapies.

BPDD holds the first Self-Determination Conference that helps people with I/DD how to live more independently, participate in their communities, and direct their public funds effectively.

## 2010s

BPDD took the lead on advocating for Supported Decision-Making Agreements as a legal alternative to guardianship that was signed into law in 2018.

BPDD advocated for the Partners with Business initiative to be signed into law in 2018 to help businesses interested in hiring and employing people with disabilities with co-workers providing natural supports.