The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities: A History

1970s
The WI Council on Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is created in 1972
- 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.
- 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.

1980s
- BPDD created the Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations, which continues to unify the voice of disability advocacy in WI.
- BPDD's public awareness efforts on fetal alcohol syndrome increased prevention of FAS.
- 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.
- 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.
- Tens of thousands of young children get services they need because BPDD worked to expand, improve, and increase funding for Birth to Three.

1990s
- 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.
- BPDD's voter education and registration initiative helped thousands of people with disabilities vote.
- Lifespan respite services were increased and improved through BPDD's early support of the Respite Care Association.
- BPDD promotes improvements in Medicaid prior authorization policies and practices, helping children with disabilities get needed therapies.

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

2010s
- 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.
- BPDD took the lead on advocating for Supported Decision-Making Agreements as a legal alternative to guardianship that was signed into law in 2018.