

April 2023



### *Advocacy Updates*

Hi! I wanted to update the community on what I have been up to since the last time I did What's the Word?

Last year in April I started working for People First Wisconsin as an outreach Self-Advocate, then last year in July I started working for the Arc Wisconsin as a social media assistant. I am also a social media ambassador for the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition. I am on the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) board and I'm the Youth Leadership Forum Board president.

With my work for People First Wisconsin, I host the Speaker Series once a week where speakers from different organizations come and talk to our members about topics of interest. I also help with meet up meetings and chapter connection meetings.

With the work I do for the Arc Wisconsin, I post on social media in the group Pass the Mic with Self-Advocates, and I also help teach the class the Art of Storytelling, I also have gone through training with people from the Arc National. Pass the Mic with Self Advocates is a Facebook group for self-advocates to interact with each other and learn how to tell their story and get involved with advocacy. The Art of Storytelling is a class that The Arc Wisconsin teaches, it was taught every Sunday in March and April.

This past November, I traveled to Denver for the Arc National Convention, and I spoke on a panel about digital advocacy. Digital advocacy is doing advocacy on social media with using Facebook and other sites to get advocates and their families the info they need. Since speaking in Denver, I have spoken to other self-advocacy groups in other parts of the country such as Southwest Colorado and Nevada and hope to speak to groups in all 50 states and I even have a scratch-off map to keep track. I talk to other self-advocate groups in other states about how to get more involved in advocacy and how to set up a Facebook group for their state/area and how to tell their stories.