



# Circles of Life Conference 2021

May 6 - 7, 2021



Wisconsin's Annual Conference for Families of  
Children with Disabilities and Professionals

Educate and  
Empower Together

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A Virtual Conference

[Find us on Facebook!](#)

[www.circlesoflifeconference.com](http://www.circlesoflifeconference.com)

# Family Voices Annual Listening Session

We want to hear from you!

Wednesday, May 5  
4:00 - 5:15 pm

Let us know what's working for your family and what could make your life better as you care for your child with a disability or special health care need.

Agency representatives and organizations that serve children will take part to hear directly from you!

It's easy!  
Click the Zoom link.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://dhswi.zoom.us/j/84198134540>

Meeting ID: 841 9813 4540

One tap mobile

312-626-6799, 84198134540#



Connect with us!

[familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)



Connect with Us!

[familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)



Family Voices helps families navigate health care and community supports and services by providing training, in-person and online, information and education.

As a family-run organization, we support families in their own leadership and advocacy journey, and we promote family-centered care and family/professional partnerships.

Visit our website to view our fact sheets, newsletters and online trainings.

# Welcome to the 2021 Virtual Circles of Life Conference

**The Circles of Life Conference is for families** who have children of any age with disabilities or special health care needs and the professionals who support and provide services for them. The conference is a unique opportunity to develop new skills, garner the latest information, and form lasting friendships. While this is our first virtual event, it is our 36th annual conference!

The Circles of Life planning committee welcomes new and returning families and providers.

**We are grateful** to the many agencies, organizations, businesses, families and individuals who have supported the Circles of Life Conference through the years, and would like to take this opportunity to thank this year's sponsors.

## Platinum Sponsorship (\$5,000 or above)



## Silver Sponsorship (\$1,000 - \$1,999)



## Gold Sponsorship (\$2,000 - \$4,999)



**Elsie Shaw**  
Parent Scholarship Fund, Inc.



## Bronze Sponsorship (Up to \$1,000)



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### THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!!!

On behalf of the Circles of Life Planning Committee, we want to give a heart-felt and sincere thank you to all our 2021 conference sponsors and contributors! Your financial support makes this event possible for so many families and providers. It is our time to learn, grow and connect with others.

**To all conference sponsors, a big THANK YOU!**

## Join the Circles of Life Planning Committee!

***Did you enjoy this year's virtual conference?  
Do you want to help plan our May 2022 event in Stevens Point? Consider joining the Circles of Life Planning Committee!***

We are a fun group of families and professionals who meet once a month over Zoom or phone. The committee helps determine the keynote speaker, sessions, Gathering of Youth, Family Fun Night, and all aspects of this amazing conference.

If you are interested, please contact Lynn at Family Voices - [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org)

# Overview

## Schedule at a Glance

<b>Wednesday, May 5, 2021</b>	
4:00 - 5:15 pm	<b>Family Voices Listening Session</b> - no conference registration needed to attend

<b>Thursday, May 6, 2021</b>	
9:00 - 10:15 am	<b>Welcome and Keynote Address</b>
10:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Session A</b>
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Exhibitor Visits</b>
12:30 - 1:00 pm	<b>Presentation of Awards</b>
1:00 - 2:00 pm	<b>Session B</b>
2:00 - 3:00 pm	<b>Exhibitor Visits</b>
3:00 - 4:00 pm	<b>Session C</b>
4:00 - 4:30 pm	<b>Online Auction – Winners Announced</b>
6:00 - 7:00 pm	<b>Teen Hangout</b>

<b>Friday, May 7, 2021</b>	
9:00 - 10:00 am	<b>Session D</b>
10:00 - 11:00 am	<b>Exhibitor Visits</b>
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	<b>Session E</b>
12:15 - 1:00 pm	<b>Wrap Up / Slide Show / Door Prizes</b>

<b>Saturday, May 8, 2021</b>	
10:00 - 11:30 am	<b>Sibshop</b> - separate registration required

# Acknowledgments

## Circles of Life 2021 Planning Committee

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**Thank you to our amazing conference planning committee for all your energy and hard work to make Circles of Life possible!**

Susan Barrett	Jenny Neugart
Elsa Diaz Bautista	Harriet Redman
Joclyn Durr Sumner	Lynn Renner
Nancy Heltemes	John Shaw
Tiffany Lisk	Meg Steimle
Allison Lourash	Bonnie Vander Meulen
Tim Markle	

## Special Thanks To

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- The incredible work of Susan Barrett and Sheila Bannister Gross from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point for all their work on the conference!
- Lynn Renner and Family Voices of Wisconsin for keeping the conference planning on track and financially stable.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Cody Michels for staff support for our conference technology needs and access to Zoom meetings.
- Employment Resources, Inc. for their creative work on the Keepsake Booklet and funding the mailing of booklets to families this year.
- Jenny Neugart and the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities for their promotion and design contributions to the conference!
- Harriet Redman and WisconSibs for volunteering her time to host this year's Sibshop.
- The many other people who may not have been mentioned that work tirelessly to make this conference a reality!

## Help Us Plan Next Year's Event!

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Contact [Lynn@fvofwi.org](mailto:Lynn@fvofwi.org) if you are interested in making our next conference even better! The group meets monthly over Zoom or phone.

The 2022 Circles of Life Conference will be held on May 12-13, 2022 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point and the 2023 conference will be held May 11-12, 2023 at the Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells.

## Breakout Session Presenters

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The speakers for this conference donate their time as individuals and on behalf of their agencies. This conference would not be possible without their generosity!

## Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund Online Auction

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**Online Bidding is Now Open at:**

**<https://www.32auctions.com/CirclesofLife2021>**

**Winners will be announced Thursday, May 6 at 4:00 pm**

This year's auction looks a little different! We are hosting an online auction for those near and far to help support the conference parent scholarship fund. Bid on close to 60 items, including specialty autographed Packer's footballs, gift baskets, gift cards, an overnight stay at the Wilderness Resort and Waterpark, homemade crafts and so much more! All proceeds go to support families who need assistance to attend this year's and future Circles of Life conferences.

## Virtual Listening Session

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**Wednesday, May 5  
4:00 - 5:15 pm**

*See the Family Voices ad on the inside of the front cover of this program or their website for the Zoom link.*

**[familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)**

Family Voices of Wisconsin invites you to a listening session. Your stories and experiences matter and we want to hear from you! Representatives from state agencies and advocacy organizations will be attending to learn from families. Spanish interpreters will be available. (Intérpretes de español estarán disponibles.)

# Conference Agenda • Thursday, May 6

## Welcome • 9:00 am

**Special Guest:** Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.

## Opening Keynote Address • 9:15 - 10:15 am

### Nurture Your Nature

**Keynote Speaker:** Matt Glowacki

Matt's "Nurture Your Nature" presentation will help us see past stereotypes, understand why it is so important to incorporate empathy into our lives, and see how our own challenges shape our perceptions of others.

The presentation is an inclusive identity event that welcomes everyone and helps them better understand who they are, why they are, and what they want to be. His revolutionary approach to storytelling conceptualizes difference into common familiar struggles and builds empathy among different groups of people.

Through guiding interactions between audience members, Matt gives voice to the collective experience of the group. He utilizes that experience to broaden the conversation to include perspectives beyond disability, while creating a safe space where everyone can feel like they belong.

#### After the program, people will:

- See past stereotypes and learn the importance of setting realistically high expectations for others.
- Understand why it is important to incorporate civility and empathy into their interactions with others because you have no idea what they are going through.
- Recognize how their own challenges shape their day to day perception of people.

#### Who is Matt Glowacki?

In 1973, Matt was born without legs, but he never placed limitations on himself. He gained recognition having played on the USA Paralympic Sitting Volleyball Team, participating in the 2000 Paralympics in Australia. As a self-professed "Revolutionary," his messages have already reached more than two million people over the past twenty years. He works with groups of all kinds on reinforcing their ethics, values, and cultures, all the while supporting families and individuals through teaching about awareness and inclusion.





# 2021 Exhibitors

Links to these and additional virtual exhibitors will be part of the conference website.

Plan to visit with them virtually using their Zoom links during the times below:

**Zoom Exhibits Open:**            **Thursday, May 6 • 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and 2:00 - 3:00 pm**  
   **Friday, May 7 • 10:00 - 11:00 am**

## Virtual Resource Vendors / Exhibitors

Plan to visit with the many Resource Vendors/Exhibitors during the conference to learn about programs and services for children and teens with disabilities. Staff from organizations will be available via Zoom to answer questions and provide one-on-one guidance to your family!

**New This Year! Exhibitor Passports:** Make sure to get your passport “stamped” by checking out exhibitors and gathering great information. You will connect to exhibitor presentations and activities through Zoom links. Exhibitors will give you their code to use for your passport stamp. Participants who submit their passport will be entered into a drawing for great prizes, including a free-night’s stay at the Holiday Inn Stevens Point and free registration for the 2022 conference!

**AngelSense, Inc.**  
angelsense.com

**Board for People with Developmental Disabilities**  
wi-bpdd.org

**Covey**  
covey.org

**Disability Rights Wisconsin**  
disabilityrightswi.org

**Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund**  
elsieshaw.org

**Employment Resources, Inc. (ERI)**  
eri-wi.org

**Family Voices of Wisconsin**  
familyvoiceswi.org

**Fiscal Assistance, Inc.**  
fiscalassistance.org

**GT Independence**  
gtindependence.com

**J&B Medical Supply**  
jandbmedical.com

**Lakeland Care**  
lakelandcareinc.com

**My Choice Family Care - Care Wisconsin**  
mychoicewi.org

**Mobility Works**  
mobilityworks.com

**Respite Care Association of Wisconsin**  
respitewarewi.org

**Pediatric Home Service**  
phswisconsin.com

**Swedee’s Handmade Jewelry**  
facebook.com/swedees

**TMG**  
tmgwisconsin.com

**Waisman Center**  
ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu

**Wisconsin FACETS**  
wifacets.org

**Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System**  
wsems.us

**Wispect**  
wispect.org

**Wisconsin DHS, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program**  
dhs.wisconsin.gov

# Elsie Shaw Foundation Annual Awards

Each year the Elsie Shaw Foundation, Inc. recognizes and honors individuals, groups or both who have made outstanding contributions to supporting families and strengthening services statewide for families of individuals with disabilities. Award nominations are reviewed and selected by the Elsie Shaw Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. Awards will be presented at the Conference on **Thursday, May 6 at 12:30 pm.**

## Award Categories

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### **Outstanding Parent Award - The Kasidhe Olson Award**

The Kasidhe Olson Award recognizes a parent who has made outstanding efforts to improve the lives of families of children with disabilities in their community. This award is given in memory of Kasidhe Olson who was loved by many and whose family volunteered at the Circles of Life Conference for many years



### **Outstanding Professional Award - The Shaw Brothers Award**

The Shaw Brothers Award honors a professional who goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist families of children with disabilities. The Shaw Brothers - Barry, Elliott and Richard (Dick) - are Elsie's children, and are themselves grandparents and great-grandparents now. They have supported the Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund with annual donations for over 30 years. Funds given by the middle brother, Elliott, who lost his battle with cancer in 2001, ensure that families with children impacted by cancer are supported by the Elsie Shaw Scholarship Fund.



### **Educator Advocate of the Year - The Barb Breen Award**

The Barb Breen Educator Award recognizes someone from the education field who has worked to support inclusion and leadership development in schools. The Barb Breen Award honors a long-time advocate who passed away suddenly in 2003. Barb was involved in many activities in the disability community. She was the statewide WSPEI coordinator, a Parents in Partnership (PIP) facilitator and a Special Olympics coach.

# 2021 Elsie Shaw Foundation Award Recipients



## Outstanding Professional Award - The Shaw Brothers Award

### Daniel Parker of Madison, Wisconsin

Daniel has worked at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for close to 9 years and currently serves as Assistant Director for Special Education. Daniel was originally a classroom teacher. When he moved to Wisconsin, he served as the Autism Consultant for DPI and consultant for other special needs. Daniel excelled in training educators, paraprofessionals and the community. It became obvious early on that Daniel had a high commitment to family engagement. In his position at DPI, he continues to forge partnerships with educators and families. One of his close colleagues stated, "You have built a foundation of excellence with the quality of your actions and the integrity of your intent" and, "You have chiseled equity into a more perfect state through unwavering vision, dedication and determination."



## Outstanding Parent Award - The Kasidhe Olson Award

### Delores Sallis of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Delores Sallis is a mother of five and founder of Parent University, which serves as a resource center for black families and their loved ones with disabilities in the Milwaukee area. She was a member of the Governor's Task Force on Caregiving, a board member for the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and an active and passionate advocate for Black families. Her inspiration was her son Albert, her "pride and joy" who passed away this year.

Over the last decade, Delores has tirelessly provided opportunities for families to be empowered and educated to plan for their child's future. Delores has initiated dozens of events, including "Empowering Parents for Leadership in Transition for Your Youth's Future." For many years, Delores has organized a bus full of Milwaukee area families to attend the Circles of Life Conference - another example of her dedication to making sure families are educated and empowered. In her work with Parent University, Delores offered information, training, and support to family members so they could be the best advocates for their children and others.

"My passion calls me to encounter people in life that touch my heart, my mind, and my spirit. The parents and families I serve find that I'm willing to battle and commit to making changes that meet their needs," says Delores.

## 2021 Elsie Shaw Foundation Award Recipients - continued



### Educator Advocate of the Year - The Barb Breen Award

## Nancy Molfenter of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

Nancy Molfenter has been the Assistant Director of Student Services at Madison Metropolitan School District since 2018. She currently directs MMSD's Project Search and has been actively involved in improving the school district's transition programming. She was instrumental in the effort to develop an Employment First Coalition in Wisconsin. Nancy has been a special educator, transition coordinator, led trainings and authored numerous articles on integrated employment and worked on the national level on public policy related to employment for individuals with disabilities.

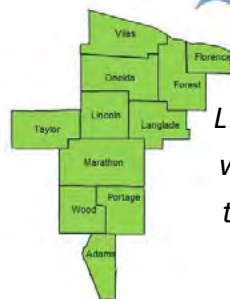
A friend and colleague stated, "Nancy Molfenter is an extraordinary professional and advocate for the needs of children and youth with disabilities. In her personal time, she has served as a powerful guardian for adults with disabilities, while throughout her career, she has been a tireless champion for community and school inclusion. Nancy is creative and passionate in her desire for people with disabilities to be seen as contributing members of their communities. She comes to the table with ideas and never gives up, often pushing her colleagues to do better by kids. **Families need more Nancy's in this world!**"

## Children and Families Slide Show

### 2021 Celebrating Families Slide Show

12:15 - 1:00 pm • Friday, May 7

Our conference will wrap up with our families slide show! See your family and friends on Zoom!



*Midstate Independent Living Choices serves people with disabilities to increase their independence in their home and community.*

Our services include...

- Information & Referral
- Advocacy
- Peer Support
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Transition to Community Living

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T-715.344.4210 | F-715.344.4414  
milc@milc-inc.org | www.milc-inc.org  
3262 Church St. Stevens Point, WI 54481

## Gathering of Youth Program

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Gathering of Youth will look different this year. We will offer youth the opportunity to sit in Zoom sessions that have been checked as teen-friendly/teen-appropriate. We will also be partnering with the Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin for a Teen Hangout. We plan to return to a full schedule at next year's Circles of Life Conference, **May 12-13, 2022** in Stevens Point.

### Gathering of Youth: Teen Hangout

**Date: May 6, 6:00 - 7:00 pm** (virtual hangout)

Facilitators: Brittany Meyers and Kayla Edwards, Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin

Teens can join us for chat and activities at the end of the day. All teens participating in the conference are encouraged to attend and connect.

### How to Join Teen Hangout

**Join Zoom:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86215987372?pwd=MG5MYINKQ1R4dIVoL1Z6OWZWNWhnZz09>

Or, go to the **Circles of Life website** for the Zoom Link:

[circlesoflifeconference.com/goy](https://circlesoflifeconference.com/goy)

#### To join by phone:

312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID: 862 1598 7372 and hit the pound(#) key. Enter the password: 063295 and hit pound twice.

## Sibshop

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This year's Circles of Life Sibshop will be virtual (using Zoom) on **May 8, from 10:00 - 11:30 am**. This is for siblings ages 8-12. *Registration is required* – families should have received details on how to sign their child up when they registered for the conference.

**What Are Sibshops?** Sibshops are celebrations of the many contributions made by sisters and brothers of kids with special health or developmental needs. As a registered Sibshop of WisconSibs, Inc., this workshop for “typical” siblings **ages 8-12** provides lively, age-appropriate activities and relaxed discussions about the challenges and joys of having a sibling with disabilities.

To learn more about Sibshop, please contact Harriet Redman at [Harriet@wisconsibs.org](mailto:Harriet@wisconsibs.org) or go to [wisconsibs.org](https://wisconsibs.org)



*The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund would like to say "Thank you" to those who have donated their time and resources to make the fund possible.*



Sunrise Glassworks  
Scott Simmons



***The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund would also like to thank...***

Barbara Gadbois  
Todd Shaw  
Tim & Tracy Markle  
Rich Wilson  
Sarah Kate Johnson  
Wynne Cook  
Genelle Baun  
Dick & Jean Shaw  
Barry & Ruby Shaw

Delores Sallis  
Nancy Wally & Nick Olson  
Robin Mathea  
Elsa Diaz Bautista  
John Hahn  
Linda Rowley  
Mitchell Hamilton  
Kim Hernandez  
Greg Shaw

Jeanne Roberts  
Joy Reichenbach  
Judy Shaw  
Mark Shaw & David Bahl  
Bob Shaw  
Joleen Nielson  
Philippe & Arlette Sormani  
Beth Wroblewski  
Scott Shaw

***And to the many, many people that we may have missed:  
Thank you for helping to make the conference affordable and a reality for parents  
of children with disabilities in Wisconsin.***

***For more information about The Elsie Shaw Parent Scholarship Fund:  
[www.elsieshaw.org](http://www.elsieshaw.org)***



## Sessions A - B

### Session A: Thursday, 10:30 – 11:30 am

#### A1 • Nurture Your Nature

Matt Glowacki

Did you feel inspired by Matt’s keynote? Come talk with Matt in a smaller group to ask questions and hear more about his experiences and ideas for making our world more accepting and inclusive.

#### A2 • Medicaid Made Easy

Barbara Katz

Are you confused by Medicaid and what your child’s ForwardHealth card can pay for? Be confused no more! Come to this session to learn how to use Medicaid, what it pays for, and how to navigate roadblocks that might come your way.

#### A3 • Deciding Together

Bureau of Children’s Services / Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Learn about Deciding Together, a collaborative decision-making process used in the Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver program to develop individualized service plans for children and their families. This session will provide an introduction to the 5-Step Deciding Together process.

#### A4 • Sunny Side Up: The Importance of Tending to the Self

Laura Spoerl

No two bodies are the same, regardless of challenges and limitations. With all of the demand and attention disability asks of individuals, families, and professionals, exploring the depths, understanding the importance of, and caring for our body, mind, and spirit becomes crucial. Come in with a desire to better the personal lives of our self and loved ones and walk away with a refreshed outlook and tools for change.

#### A5 • The IEP Checklist: A New Resource for Families

Matthew Zellmer and Bonnie Vander Meulen

This session is a walk-through of the IEP process using the IEP checklist, a new resource developed by WI FACETS for families. We will present information on timelines, rights, preparation, and more.

#### A6 • EmploymentFirst in Action: Community Based Employment Experiences

Megan Rindal

Hear stories directly from EmploymentFirst Ambassadors who have achieved community-based employment and learn about their journeys. This session is designed to share strategies, supports and provide hope to families and young people with disabilities on how they can reach their employment goals.

### Session B: Thursday, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

#### B7 • Family Conversations about Supported Decision Making

Beth Swedeen and Lisa Pugh

The process of guardianship is one that should be considered as a last resort, yet often it is the first option presented to families or is what families have always thought they must do. This session will discuss the common myths about what guardianship does (or doesn’t) accomplish and share creative ways to spark the necessary conversations with families and caregivers. Leave with a better set of tools to help families better understand alternatives to guardianship, including ways to support their loved ones to retain essential rights that promote independence and improve quality of life.



**B8 • Session will be presented in Spanish**  
**A Tale of Two Conversations:  
Communication Skills for Parents  
Who are New to the Special Education  
Process**

Nelsinia Ramo

Parents: While your knowledge, skill, and confidence will naturally increase throughout time, there are some specific communication skills that can help you be most successful in developing and maintaining a strong partnership with your child's school. Learn about barriers to communication and personal conflict styles to develop and maintain partnerships with schools and other systems.

**B8 • Un Cuento de Dos Conversaciones:  
Habilidades Comunicativas Para  
Padres Que son Nuevos en el Proceso  
de Educación Especial**

Nelsinia Ramo

Padres: Mientras su nivel de sabiduría, maestría, y confianza incrementaran con el paso del tiempo, hay tipos de habilidades comunicativas que lo pueden ayudar a ser exitoso en aprender y mantener una buena relación con la escuela de su hijo. Aprenda acerca de los bloqueos comunicativos y estilos de conflictos personales para desarrollar y mantener una asociación con escuelas y otros sistemas.

**B9 • Requesting a Shared Plan of Care and  
Exploring Care Mapping**

Allison Lourash and Harrison Anderson

A Shared Plan of Care is a summary of your child's medical and non-medical information and may be used as a tool for communication. Learn more about the benefits of having one and how to work with your provider to develop one. A Care Map is a visual way to show all the people and services involved in caring for and supporting your child. Each family's care map may look different; you decide how many details to include.

**B10 • Building a Community for Your Child**

Bonnie Eldred

Join us for an interactive panel discussion with several parents that have worked to build a school community for their child. Learn first-hand from their experiences and suggestions. Parents will share their creative suggestions on how to improve school and community interactions for your child.

**B11 • Understanding Special Education**

Caroline Rossing and Tiffany Lisk

This session will help families understand the resources and information available from WI DPI to help families more fully engage in their child's IEP process.

**Session C: Thursday, 3:00 – 4:00 pm**

**C12 • Does this Treatment Work?**

Pamela Terrell

This presentation will inform attendees about the importance of being an informed consumer of treatment. Guidance for identifying "red flags," instruction in understanding simple research, and suggestions for questions to ask will be provided.





### **C13 • Developing Employment Preparedness – It’s Never Too Early**

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Bob Meyer

What factors play most heavily into an individual’s employment success? For children with disabilities, the most powerful predictors of employment include high expectations, early work experiences, pre-employment training and collaboration among team members. This session will discuss current research, best practices, and training. Learn to create a path to employment resulting in greater inclusion.

### **C14 • Autism - Seeing the World from a Different Perspective**

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Dakota and Peggy Maynard

Learn first-hand about autism from Dakota Maynard. Growing up on the autism spectrum, Dakota shares stories from his life. Through his lifetime of experiences, he hopes to educate others about this developmental disorder.

### **C15 • How to Forgive in an Unforgiving World**

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Tim Markle

What is forgiveness? Why is it so hard? We have all had the chance to be hurt by someone. Sometimes those hurts turn into anger, stress, and depression. We try different ways to put it behind us, to forget about it, to get even, to dull the pain, but what if it doesn’t work? We will learn how forgiveness should be considered an option. Come learn the basics of forgiveness and how it fits into maintaining a healthy life.

### **C16 • Helping Coordinate Your Wishes for Their Future**

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Bob Johnston

What will happen to your child when you are no longer around to care for them? How does the ABLE Act of 2014 impact their life? This session will help families plan for the financial future of their child with special needs. It will cover estate planning, guardianship, wills and trusts, and letter of intent. Not your typical discussion of financial planning products and services. Presenter draws from personal experiences as both parent and patient.

### **C17 • Creating Accessible Theater**

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Katie Cummings and Mary Stone

For over seven years, Mary Stone and Katie Cummings have combined special education and theater arts to create theater that is accessible for all. Theater innately teaches us social awareness, decision making, and empathy. This collaborative art form encourages empathy, critical thinking, and use of imagination. We will give you tools to take back to engage individuals who identify with a disability through theater arts. Join us for this interactive workshop.

## **Session D: Friday, 9:00 - 10:00 am**

### **D18 • Birth to Three Listening Session**

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Kate Johnson, Laura Grulke-Rueter, Regena Floyd-Sambou

Members of the Birth to 3 Program Interagency Coordinating Council would like to hear from you about your stories and experiences with the Birth to 3 Program in your community. Please join this session to engage in conversation about how we serve infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in Wisconsin.



### **D19 • Dating, Sex, and Autonomy**

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Ellen Merker and Jordann Mason

Teens with disabilities are like all other teens in their desire to explore dating and their sexuality. These conversations are often difficult for parents and caregivers to navigate. We will discuss common concerns we hear from parents, as well as how initial instincts to exert more control can actually make teens less safe.

### **D20 • Goals for Children: Helping Families and Children Create Goals Using the New “Goal Cards”**

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Becky Burns

Everywhere parents turn, they are asked about goals for their child. We created 39 goal cards intended to help with this challenge. During this workshop we will share the process of creating these goal cards and how they are now part of an interactive website for parents.

### **D21 • Why Don't I have Friends to Play With?**

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April Doebert-Fischer

The presentation discusses the role and purpose of social skills for children with and without disabilities.

### **D22 • Identity Theft - How to Protect Your Loved Ones (of Any Age)**

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Chastity Hartl

Every two seconds another person's identity is being stolen and those with disabilities (children included) are extremely vulnerable. During this session we will talk why its so important that we take the time to protect them (and yourself) and the best way to do that.

## **Session E: Friday, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

### **E23 • Build Your Bridge: Transitioning from Pediatric to Adult Healthcare**

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Tim Markle

This is a conversation to help guide families through the transition from child-centered to adult health care systems. Youth and families are often overwhelmed and under-prepared for the transition to adult health care. This presentation will introduce and discuss when to start thinking about health care transition as well as provide helpful tools and resources.

### **E24 • Session will be presented in Spanish Effective Practices when Respite is Provided to Latino Families**

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Hector Portillo

Positive relationships with families in need of respite start with a safe, trusting, culturally responsive environment in which all are empowered to have open conversation, share personal information and create authentic connections. Participants will understand the dynamics of communication including environment, non-verbal communication, message and culture to effectively partner with families of Latino heritage.

### **E24 • Practicas Efectivas cuando Respite (Respiro Familiar) es proveído para Familias Latinas**

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Hector Portillo

Relaciones positivas con familias que necesitan Respite empiezan con un ambiente de confianza, cultural, y sano en el cual todos son incentivados a tener conversaciones abiertas, compartir información personal, y crear conexiones autenticas. Participantes comprenderán la dinámica de la comunicación, incluyendo el ambiente, comunicación no verbal, mensajes, y cultura para juntarse con familias Latinas.



## Session E

### **E25 • How to Deal with Negative People and Keep from Becoming Negative Yourself**

Michael R. Weber

Negative people are tremendous energy drainers for children, other adults, and themselves. Learn how to deal effectively with negativism and increase your own positive approach to people and everyday life challenges.

### **E26 • A Tale of Two Conversations: Communication Skills for Parents Who are New to the Special Education Process**

Nelsinia Ramo

Parents: While your knowledge, skill, and confidence will naturally increase throughout time, there are some specific communication skills that can help you be most successful in developing and maintaining a strong partnership with your child's school. Learn about barriers to communication and personal conflict styles to develop and maintain partnerships with schools and other systems.

### **E27 • Life Care Planning for Special Needs**

Brett Bauch

In this presentation we will discuss ten steps to life care planning for individuals with special needs.

### **E28 • Therapeutic Foods for Special Needs**

Sandy Durand

This session will be a family-friendly, science-based discussion of therapeutic food choices for optimizing nutrition, moods, and overall wellness. Learn the positive and negative effects of common ingredients. Boost the benefits of your dietary choices.



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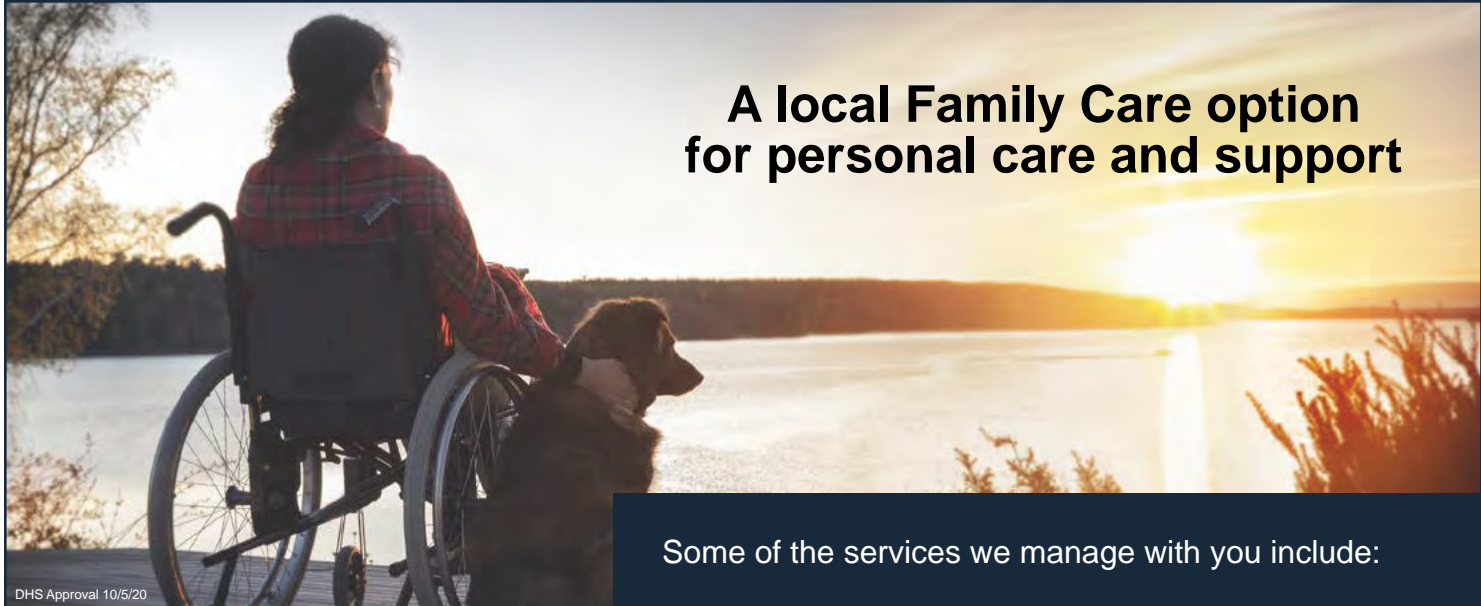
**Did you visit the 2021 Exhibitors on Zoom?  
Did you get your Passport "stamp" (code)?**

**Thursday, May 6**

**11:30 am - 12:30 pm and 2:00 - 3:00 pm**

**Friday, May 7**

**10:00 - 11:00 am**



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DHS Approval 10/5/20



The Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) mission supports the full inclusion and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Contact Us! 800-532-3321  [ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu](http://ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu)



The Southern Regional Center is one of five centers in Wisconsin dedicated to supporting families and the providers who serve them.

★ Do you have questions? Need help? Call us!

- Southern: 800-532-3321
- Northeast: 877-568-5205
- Southeast: 800-234-5437
- Northern: 866-640-4106
- Western: 800-400-3678

[cysn.waisman.wisc.edu](http://cysn.waisman.wisc.edu)



# Wisconsin Resource Organizations for Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

## Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Wisconsin has five Regional Centers dedicated to supporting families with children and youth with special health care needs and the providers who serve them. Free and confidential services include information, referral, and problem solving, parent support, help understanding insurance coverage and applications, transition planning and connections to community resources.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm)

- Northern Regional Center: 866-640-4106
- Northeast Regional Center: 877-568-5205
- Southern Regional Center: 800-532-3321
- Southeast Regional Center: 800-234-5437
- Western Regional Center: 800-400-3678

**Advocacy & Benefits Counseling for Health, Inc. (ABC for Health)** is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special needs, to health care benefits and services. Experienced staff can help families who have received a Medicaid or private insurance denial, lost coverage or need help finding health coverage. [safetyweb.org](https://safetyweb.org) 608-261-6939

**Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones (ALAS)** promotes the independence of people with disabilities by providing information and support to them, their families and their service providers in areas related to education and health. In English or Spanish, parents and families are supported with information and connections to community resources. [alianzalatinawi.org/ALAS.htm](https://alianzalatinawi.org/ALAS.htm), 414-643-0022

**The Arc Wisconsin** develops programs and advocates for public policy to give people with disabilities the opportunity to learn, live, and work inclusively in their communities. Through locally affiliated chapters ([arcwi.org/about/affiliate-chapters](https://arcwi.org/about/affiliate-chapters)), the Arc provides social, recreational and educational programs to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. [arcwi.org](https://arcwi.org), 608-422-4250

**Birth to Three Program** is part of the Bureau of Children's Services at the Department of Health Services and is a federally mandated program providing early intervention services to support families of children with delays or disabilities under the age of three. [dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/birthto3/index.htm), 800-642-7837

**Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)** is a private non-profit organization designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and systems change. DRW helps people across Wisconsin gain access to services and opportunities through its advocacy and legal expertise. [disabilityrightswi.org](https://disabilityrightswi.org)  
Madison 608-267-0214, Milwaukee 414-773-4646, Rice Lake 715-736-1232

**Family Voices of Wisconsin** helps families navigate health care and community supports and services by providing training, in-person and online, information and education. As a family-run organization, we support families in their own leadership and advocacy journey, and we promote family-centered care and family/professional partnerships. Website resources include fact sheets, newsletters, and online trainings. [familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org), 608-220-9598

**Independent Living Centers (ILCs)** are regional, non-profit organizations that provide information and referral, peer support, independent living skills training, transition services and advocacy. There are eight ILCs around the state and some provide additional services, like community education, training, personal care, and service coordination. ILCs are also device loan centers as part of the WisTech Assistive Technology Program.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ilcs-contact.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/physical/ilcs-contact.htm)

**Mental Health America of Wisconsin** is a community-based network dedicated to helping all Americans live mentally healthier lives through advocacy, education, and the delivery of urgently needed programs and services.

[mhawisconsin.org](http://mhawisconsin.org), 866-948-6483

**NAMI Wisconsin** works to improve the quality of life of people affected by mental illness and promotes recovery by providing education, advocacy, and support. [namiwisconsin.org](http://namiwisconsin.org), 800-236-2988

**Parent 2 Parent of Wisconsin** provides support to parents of children with special needs through a one-to-one connection with another parent who has similar experience and who knows firsthand about the feelings and realities that come with having a child with special needs. [p2pwi.org](http://p2pwi.org), 833-361-6300

**Supporting Families Together Association (SFTA)** is Wisconsin's statewide member association for organizations and individuals committed to making every early childhood a great one. SFTA has 10 Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies that assists families in finding child care that meets the needs of each family. [supportingfamiliesaltogether.org](http://supportingfamiliesaltogether.org), 888-713-KIDS

**Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities** supports the full inclusion and self-determination of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The Waisman Center promotes and strengthens the participation of families with disabilities in partnerships with professionals and providers, community members and elected officials. [ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu](http://ucedd.waisman.wisc.edu), 800-532-3321

**Well Badger Resource Center** is a statewide information and referral hotline and online database to assist Wisconsin families and providers working with children and youth with special needs. [wellbadger.org](http://wellbadger.org) 800-642-7837

**WI FACETS (Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support)** has a mission to provide and broaden opportunities that enhance the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities and their families, with an emphasis on educational support for underserved families in the community. [wifacets.org](http://wifacets.org), 877-374-0511

**Wisconsin Board for People with Development Disabilities** advocates on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities to foster welcoming and inclusive communities and improve the disability service system. The Board's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive and included in all facets of community life. [wi-bpdd.org](http://wi-bpdd.org), 608-266-7826

**Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices** provides support of and advocacy for families who have children who are deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind. Their mission is to create a comprehensive system of parents and professionals who are committed to the unbiased support of families to provide deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind children with an education designed to support each child to reach their highest potential. [handsandvoiceswi.org](http://handsandvoiceswi.org)

**Wisconsin Family Ties** is a statewide not-for-profit run by families for families that include children with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders. Parent-peer specialists provide support, education, advocacy and information, as well as referrals for families. Parent representatives are also involved to build awareness of family needs on the local, state and national level. [wifamilyties.org](http://wifamilyties.org), 800-422-7145

**Wisconsin Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Inc.** is a peer and volunteer-based organization that supports and advocates for foster and adoptive parents by offering training, support programs and helps to create and support different legislative measures with our fellow representatives in Madison. [wfapa.org](http://wfapa.org)

**Wisconsin Head Start** is a Federal program for preschool children from low-income families. Non-profit organizations, schools, community action commissions or other local grantees operate the Head Start program. Head Start supports Parent Affiliates to help guide the work of Wisconsin Head Start. [whsaonline.org](http://whsaonline.org), 608-442-6879

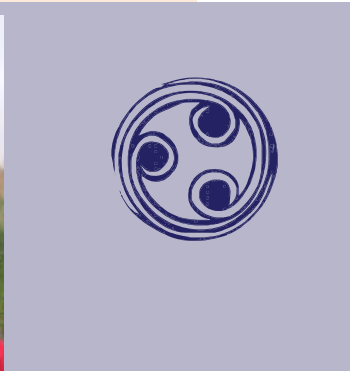
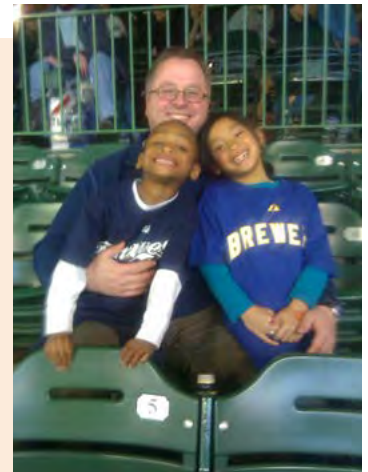
**Wisconsin Medical Home Initiative** promotes the concepts of medical home for primary care clinicians, families, and service providers throughout Wisconsin. Training, technical assistance and resources are provided to support medical home implementation with a focus in the areas of early identification of and timely referrals for children with developmental concerns, and behavioral health integration into pediatric primary care. [chawisconsin.org/initiatives/medical-home](http://chawisconsin.org/initiatives/medical-home)

**Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program** is part of the Maternal and Child Health Program at the Department of Health Services and promotes and supports universal newborn hearing screening and follow-up services statewide. Sound Beginnings also helps connect families to Parent Guides through the Wisconsin "Guide-By-Your-Side" program. [dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm)

**Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI)** experienced CESA-based family liaisons work with families, educators and school districts to promote positive partnerships and provide technical assistance and information to parents in their CESA area. [wspei.org](http://wspei.org), 833-879-7734

*This listing was made available by Family Voices of Wisconsin - [familyvoiceswi.org](http://familyvoiceswi.org)*

# Memories





## Family Voices Online Trainings

Around the state, or in the comfort of your home, we have trainings to help you advocate for and navigate the many services available to your child and your family. Materials are available in English and Spanish. Check them out at [familyvoiceswi.org/learn](https://familyvoiceswi.org/learn).



### Did You Know? Now You Know!

Learn about all the resources and services for children with disabilities and special health care needs from birth through young adulthood. Topics include private health insurance, Medicaid, long-term supports, how to coordinate services and so much more.



### What's After High School?

Learn about the transition to adult life for youth with disabilities and special health care needs. Topics include: envisioning a youth's future in the community, the role of schools, long-term supports and public benefits, transitioning to adult health care, supported decision making options and other legal options, advocacy, employment, housing and living, and the fundamentals of self-determination.



### Coordinating Your Child's Health Care

This training was created to help you partner with your child's care team. It explains the concepts of care coordination, a medical home and integrated health care for every child. You'll learn about tools, like Care Mapping and Shared Plans of Care, to help you keep up with all of the changes in your child's world. This training has family-centered ideas, and includes videos, tools and resources.



### Medicaid Made Easy

Our newest online training is ready for you! It gives you a solid understanding of Medicaid programs for children and how they're funded. Most importantly, it's focused on how these programs work for Wisconsin families.

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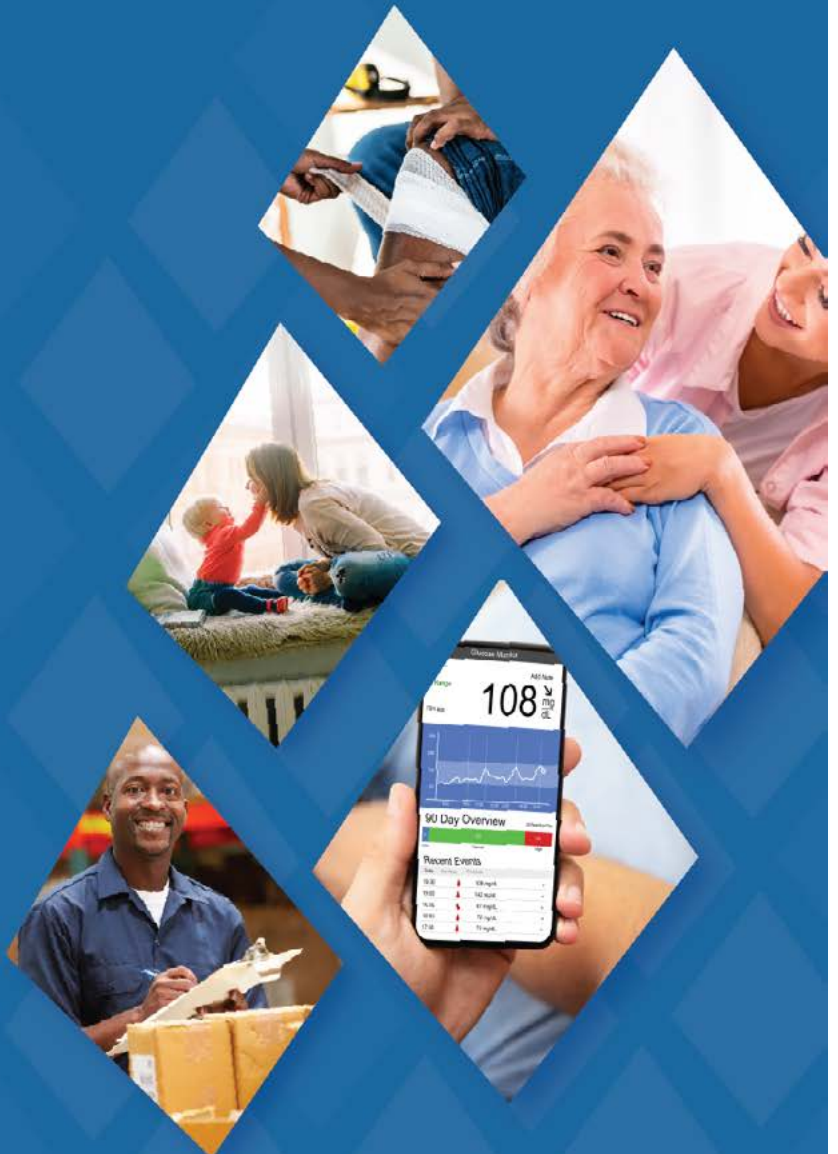
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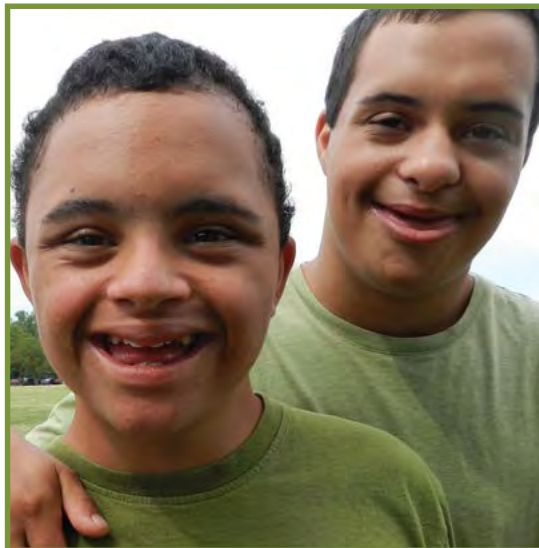
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is charged under the Developmental Disabilities Act to improve self-determination, independence, and inclusion in community life for people with developmental disabilities.



Here are some Board opportunities that you and your family can participate in:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Updates
- Partners in Policymaking
- Self Determination Conference
- SPARKS mini grants
- Supported Decision-Making
- Partners with Business
- Take Your Legislator to Work
- Youth Leadership Forum
- Employment First
- Living Well

To learn more about The Board visit our website at [wi-bpdd.org](http://wi-bpdd.org) or give us a call at 608-266-7826.





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