



2026 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference

Sponsored by The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



THE POWER OF **SELF-DETERMINATION** Technology, Community and **YOU!**



For more information, visit:

sdc.wi-bpdd.org

Registration Opens: July 1, 2026

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI



People First Wisconsin



See Our d&Ability



Registration Information

To register, go to: SDC.WI-BPDD.org

Join us in person at the Kalahari!

Whether it's your first time or you're an old friend, we would love to see you in person at the conference. You will have access to all conference offerings, including online access to all materials and videos, after the conference.

If you have questions or need help:

Email: selfdetermined@incontrolwisconsin.org
or call (608) 622-7273

Scan for
Conference
Registration!



Registration Type

In Person

Person with a Disability	\$100 (Early Bird \$85)
Direct Provider	\$150 (Early Bird \$125)
Family Member	\$125 (Early Bird \$100)
Professional/Other	\$390 (Early Bird \$350)
Pre-Conference Workshop (you must register)	\$50

**EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION** deadline
is August 29, 2026.

Payments must be received
by August 29, 2026.

Registration closes on
September 29, 2026.



University of Wisconsin Stevens Point CEU & CRC Credits will be available at the conference.

Provided by: University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Hotel Lodging: For reservations, call (877) 253-5466 and ask for the **2026 Self-Determination Conference room block** or reserve online at www.KalahariResort.com. The Kalahari Resort is holding a block of guest rooms for October 19 and 20, 2026. Room rates are \$149 (plus taxes) for single, double, triple, or quad rooms.

* If you need an accessible room, let us know on the registration or by phone. Visit www.KalahariResort.com for driving instructions and hotel information.

Reserve your room soon! The room block is available until by September 19, 2026, or until the block has been filled. Rooms fill up fast!

THE POWER OF **SELF-DETERMINATION** Technology, Community and **-YOU!-**

The Invitation:

In our nineteenth year of the Self-Determination Conference, we are reminded that one of the most challenging barriers people with disabilities face is social isolation, exclusion, and lack of connection to their community.

Community is a beautiful thing. It provides you with a sense of belonging and acceptance. It helps you grow as a person, and it creates opportunities. Planning and designing a life in the community requires focus, commitment and support from others. This year's conference will help you plan for your future.

We will share strategies on how technology can keep us connected to people and resources that make our lives easier and better.

The conference is a safe place to share your dreams for the life you choose.



Monday, October 19, 2026

Pre-Conference Information

\$50
pre-registration
is required!

Pre-conference Workshop 1: 1-4 p.m.

The Power of grassroots community organizing: Ready, Set, Go!

Want to strengthen collective action in the disability community? Join this action-packed workshop and come together around common issues. The target audiences for this training are grassroots activists, home care workers, and people with disabilities who are interested in joining together around shared concerns. This training will give you the connections and skills to have greater impact on public policy. Learning the basics of power, control, and how to motivate others.



Jason Glozier is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, and a lifelong disability rights activist.

Jason will be joined by several grassroots advocates.

Preconference Workshop 2: 1-4 p.m.

Let's talk about Healthy Relationships and Sexuality - No Way!

In this interactive Community Conversation-style session, participants will explore the importance of discussing and teaching healthy relationships and sexuality with people with disabilities while openly addressing the discomfort that can sometimes accompany these conversations. Together, we will challenge common myths, examine barriers that impact relationships and connection, and discuss why access to relationships and sexuality education matters for everyone. Together we will discover we all want the same thing from a healthy relationship: to love and be loved.

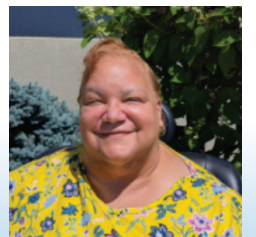
This session is presented by sexuality educator-trainers and facilitated alongside self-advocates, ensuring conversations remain grounded in lived experience, accessibility, and respect. Participants will leave with increased confidence, practical tools, and meaningful takeaways for supporting themselves and others in navigating healthy relationships and sexuality.



Priscilla Battle,
Peer Mentor



Sara Schueller,
Assistant Director of
Employment with
Opportunity Development
Centers, Inc. (ODC)



Tina Wiley,
Peer Mentor

Monday Night Kick off: You Belong Here. 5-8 p.m.

Join us for a night of information, technology and community. Learn new skills, meet new friends and have fun.

This event is free, but registration is required.

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Keynote: Sydney Unplugged: Tools to Empower Disabled Professionals



Sydney will share her knowledge of plain language, clear communication, and technology to support people with disabilities. Drawing from lived experience, humor, and practical tools, Sydney helps audiences rethink how to write, collaborate, and support neurodivergent people. Sydney invites the audience to imagine workplaces where support is the norm, not the exception and where every person has the tools to lead their own path.



Sydney Badeau is a statewide and national speaker. She works for advocacy organizations and is the current chair of the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD).

Sydney's work has had a positive and life-changing impact on many. Her advocacy has helped increase understanding and support for individuals in the disability community. She works for The Arc Wisconsin and People First Wisconsin and is on a leadership team for a grant at UW-Madison.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Keynote: You Belong Here: Creating Communities Where Everyone Matters



Many people across Wisconsin feel lonely. Some people have barriers that make it hard for them to connect with others. How can we support each other to feel connected? We'll hear from leaders of community-based organizations that are working to do just that. They'll share strategies they use to support people with disabilities and families to build community. Through their activities, people find friendship, support, and a sense of belonging.

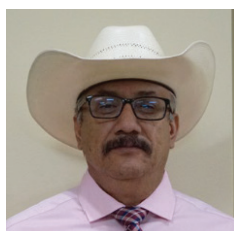
Presenters include leaders from community-based organizations around the state, including:



Elsa Diaz Bautista,
ALAS



Shanice Baquet,
Mommy's Beautiful
Sunrise



Hector Portillo,
Padres E Hijos en
Accion



Delores Sallis,
Parent University



Lang Xiong,
Hmong American
Friendship Association

Things to Note!

Conference Scholarships: We have a limited number of conference scholarships available for people with disabilities, whose plans cannot cover the cost of registration and for first-time conference attendees. You **MUST** be a Wisconsin resident.

Scholarship applications will be accepted until **August 28, 2026**, or until funds have run out.

- **Adult with a Disability Registration Scholarship: \$25 | Lodging: \$25**
- **Student Plus One Registration Scholarship: \$75 | Lodging: \$50**

Everyone attending must register, including support staff and additional family members.
On-site registration is not available.

To find out how to include the conference on your long-term care service plan go to:
SDC.WI-BPDD.org or scan the QR Code



Who Should Attend?

Self-Advocates

Educators

Transition-age Students

Family Members

Advocates

Providers

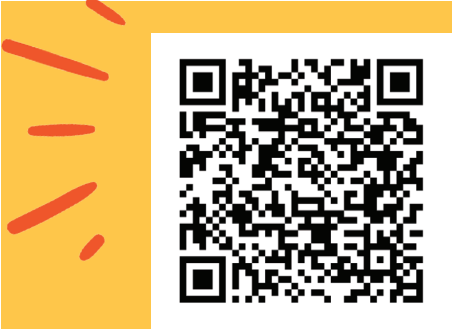
Session Topics:

Community Connections - Technology - Employment
Storytelling - Relationship Building
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Advocacy
Emotional Health - Transition to Adulthood

Agenda at a Glance

Day 1: Tuesday, October 20

7:30 a.m.	Registration Opens
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	General Session 1, Welcome and Keynote
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Networking Break, Exhibitors
10:45 - 12:00 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Networking Break
1:00 - 2:15 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
2:15 - 3:00 p.m.	Networking Break, Exhibitors
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Really Good Self-Advocacy Sessions
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Break and Hotel Check-in
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Dinner & Diehard Awards (5:30 p.m.)
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Community Block Party! Welcome to the Night Life: disco, trivia and lots of fun! Don't miss your chance to win great prizes! Something for everyone!



Diehard Awards are presented to people who have made a significant contribution as advocates here in Wisconsin. A diehard is someone with a strong commitment to the principles of self-determination and who goes above and beyond what's expected. Do you know a diehard you would like to nominate? [Use our QR Code to find the nomination form!]



Day 2: Wednesday, October 21

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	General Session 2, Keynote
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Networking Break, Exhibitors
10:45 - 12:00 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.	Lunch and Networking Break, Exhibitors
1:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Closing & Wrap up Video & Really Good Door Prizes!



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Want to be a Sponsor at the Conference?

We need your help to build our conference capacity! Visit our website for more information on sponsorship opportunities: **SDC.WI-BPDD.org** or contact Fil Clissa at fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov or call (608) 266-5395 for more information.



Want to Exhibit at the Conference?

Are you an organization supporting Self-Determination in Wisconsin? Are you a Microbusiness owner interested in selling your arts and crafts?



Check out the **Self-Determination YouTube Channel** for helpful hints to improve your conference experience. Check out over 100 fabulous videos hosted by Wisconsin Self-Advocates. Don't forget to subscribe!

