



# 2023 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference

Sponsored by The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

## Be Curious: Explore the Possibilities

October 16-18, 2023

Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI and Virtually

For more information visit:

[www.WI-SDC.com](http://www.WI-SDC.com)



People First Wisconsin



See Our ~~dis~~Ability



Sponsor



WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# GET INVOLVED!

## Apply for a Board project!

**Partners with Business:** The Partners with Business model helps you support workers with disabilities to be successful, and helps you attain greater flexibility to meet your business needs, improve your bottom line, and achieve your workplace diversity goals. **Apply by Aug 1**



**PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING** is a six-session advocacy and systems change leadership program to develop future leaders across the state who are able to work with legislators and communities on policies and initiatives that will support the full participation and inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life. **Apply by Sept. 1**



**SPARKS GRANTS** help local grassroots groups identify and make changes in their communities that result in a positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities. SPARKS Grants are available to people with developmental disabilities and family members in Wisconsin.

**Apply by Aug. 1**



**TAKE YOUR LEGISLATOR TO WORK:** Individuals with disabilities working in their community invite their legislator to visit them at work. Legislators visit their constituents with disabilities at their jobs and meet their supervisors and co-workers **Year-round**



**Self-Determination YouTube Channel:** We are a group of self-advocates with developmental or intellectual disabilities who believe self-determination is essential to living our best life—the life we all deserve. This channel is dedicated to sharing our voices about using choice and control in our lives. We will celebrate successes and show that, through perseverance, anything is possible. **Contact [Fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov)**

**VOTING:** The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (WDVC) is a non-partisan effort to increase voting turnout and participation in the electoral process among members of Wisconsin's disability community. The WDVC is funded by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights Wisconsin. **Year-round**



**WISCONSIN YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM** is a week-long leadership training and career awareness program for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with disabilities. Being selected to attend the YLF is a distinct honor that you can be very proud of and include on your resume. **Apply by May 1**



**Resource Order Form:**

All of our resources are free of charge but delivery time will depend on the amount that we have in stock so order today.



To find out more and get announcements about these programs, sign up for Board emails at [wi-bpdd.org](http://wi-bpdd.org) or call 608-266-7826.





# There are two ways to experience the 2023 Self-Determination Conference:

## In person at the Kalahari!

If you are joining us in person:

- Check in at the registration desk by Africa West.
- You will have access to all conference offerings, including online access to all materials and videos.
- Stop by the help desk if you have questions. It is next to the registration desk.

## Join us virtually!

If you are attending virtually:

- You will get an email on how to access the conference after you register.

If you are not familiar with Zoom or virtual conferences, you can watch a series of information videos to help you participate in the conference.

You can find these videos at [www.wi-sdc.com](http://www.wi-sdc.com).



## Things you need to know about a virtual conference:

- Technology Needs: You will need a computer, tablet or smartphone, and internet access.
- You will need to use Zoom.
- There will be some activities you will not be able to access virtually.

Technology support is available before and during the conference. Call (312) 626-6799 or visit the zoom support lounge and speak to a live person:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9628639154>



**Do you want to receive text message reminders during the conference?** If yes, send us a text with your questions and we will respond within an hour!

## Zoom Support Lounge Hours:

- Monday, October 16 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 17 from 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m., 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 18 from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

# FIVE ways to make your in-person conference experience better.



- 1. Plan ahead!** Look at the program and choose the sessions you want to go to ahead of time. (Tip: Drop by a Conference 101 on Monday, October 16 from 3-5 pm in the Maji Lounge, across from the registration desk)
- 2. Explore the conference center.** Explore the conference area so you can find the session rooms. (Tip: See conference center map on page 48 and follow our signs)
- 3. Take notes.** The sessions will have a lot of stories and information that you won't want to forget. Use the Notes section of the program to jot down things you want to remember. You can also visit [www.wi-sdc.com](http://www.wi-sdc.com) after the conference to find session videos and presentation materials.
- 4. Visit Microbusinesses and Exhibitors.** Plan time to do some shopping and learn about programs and services that might help you or someone you know.
- 5. Plan time with friends!** For a lot of us, this is the only time we see some of our friends who live outside of our community. Make sure you find those friends and plan time to visit with them outside of the conference activities.

## How to Get CEU Credits During the Conference

**Please read BEFORE you attend any sessions!**

CRC/CEU credits are available in-person and in the virtual conference format and are provided by UW-Stevens Point.



University of Wisconsin  
Stevens Point



**In-Person:** In the back of each breakout room and in the general session room you will find a QR Code. Use your phone to scan the QR code which will prompt a survey. After the session is over, complete the survey. If you need help finding the QR code, ask the room attendant. The survey will ask you a couple questions for proof of attendance as well as your name and email address. Your responses are compiled after the conference and the requested forms will be emailed to you.

**Virtually:** You will find a link to a survey in the Chat in each session. The survey will ask you a couple questions for proof of attendance as well as your name and email address. Your responses are compiled after the conference and the requested forms will be emailed to you.





# Be Curious: Explore the Possibilities



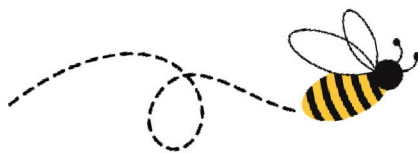
## cu · ri · os · i · ty

a strong desire to know or learn something.

When we are curious, we look for new ways to challenge ourselves. Being curious helps us learn new things.

We are excited to create new and unique opportunities for all of us to explore! The Self-Determination Conference is a place to be with others, learn and support each other, and grow together.

What are you curious about?



## Check out our Curiosity Corner - available during Network Breaks!

Located across from the registration desk, you will have the opportunity to experience and learn about some exciting new programs, learn about Native American culture, try new things, and more.

### Tuesday

**10-10:45 am** - Experience the beauty of the Ho-Chunk Culture. Enjoy some Native American dance, drumming, and the art of basketry and beading.

**1:00-1:30 pm** - Meditative Walk: There are many health benefits to meditating. Join us across from registration for a guided walking/rolling meditation. Walking meditation brings body and mind together. If you don't like to sit and close your eyes to meditate, this is a great alternative.

**2:00-2:45 pm** - Certified Direct Care Professionals and WisCaregiver Connections. Sign up for training, register to see direct care job postings and more.

### Wednesday

**10:00 - 10:45 am** -Tech Bytes- Want to learn some fun and useful tips to use on your smart phone?

**1:00-1:30 pm** – Photo Session! Smile! You could be in next year's program! Stop by for a quick photo session. Individual and group photos taken.

# Monday, October 16, 2023



## Pre-conference Workshops - 1-4 pm

### Session 1 – What’s the Buzz about Plain Language? How to communicate clearly: [Africa 30](#)

Sometimes less is more. Learn how to create documents that people can understand. In this interactive, pre-conference session we'll explain plain language and easy read strategies. We'll also explore accessibility of documents and social media. You will leave this session with strategies you can use right away!

**Presenters: Sydney Badeau, Cindy Bentley, Molly Cooney, and Nancy Gapinski**

### Session 2 – Do it now: Taking your Advocacy to the Next Level! [Africa 40](#)

Are issues like caregiving, special education, and transportation important to you? This session will prepare you to make the case on disability issues that affect you or a loved one. You'll meet other advocates and practice talking in small groups about disability issues that matter to you. You will leave the session better prepared to share your lived experiences with your legislators and policy makers.

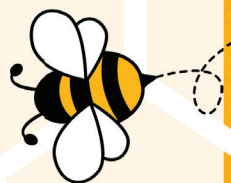
**Presenters: Tami Jackson, Jenny Neugart, and Partners in Policymaking Graduates**

**Drop in!**

### Self-Determination Conference 101 - 3-5 p.m. [Maji Lounge \(across from registration desk\) / Virtual Link](#)

Do you have questions about the conference? Want help deciding what sessions to go to? We can help you out!

Or Stop by the Zoom Lounge to get one-to-one help.



### KICK-OFF - 5-8 p.m. (African West Ballroom)

#### What’s All the Buzz About?

Explore new opportunities to build a more Self-Determined life. Check out this fun and interactive way to explore self-direction and satisfy your curiosity! You could earn a \$5 Gift certificate to use with our Micro business vendors!

A light meal is available in Africa 10.

**Virtual:** Go to the Kick-off link to view all the exhibits and activities for this event. You will find materials online. This portion will be prerecorded.





# Things you should know:

- Conference sessions will be recorded and available after the conference.
- Pictures will be taken and recordings will be used for publicity and/or other media for future events. If you do not want to be photographed or recorded, please let someone know at the help desk.

## Networking Breaks - What to do between sessions?

- Visit Wisconsin Microbusinesses in-person! Stop by, say hello and support their business! Or visit the All Abilities Market online for more amazing art! [www.allamarket.org](http://www.allamarket.org)
- Visit Exhibitors – All exhibitors will be available in-person in the conference area. Some exhibitors will also be available online during the network breaks. They will be happy to answer questions and share information with you.
- Don't miss the Curiosity Corner during the network breaks! Check the Agenda for planned demonstrations and activities.



**Roaming Reporters:** Keep an eye out for our YouTube Channel Hosts. They will be around during the breaks to do some on the spot interviews.

**Interviews will be live streamed on the Self-Determination YouTube Channel.**

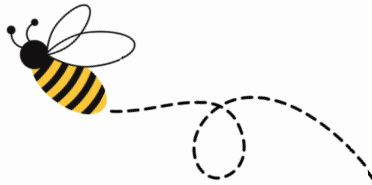
# A People First Wisconsin's Silent Auction!

**What:** Bid on baskets and other fun items donated by People First local chapters and self-advocates. Funds raised will support activities at our local chapters.

**Where:** In Africa West by the People First Wisconsin's table.

**When:** Bidding- Monday, October 16 from 5-8pm and Tuesday, October 17 from 8-3pm. Bidding closes at 3pm on Tuesday.

\*\*Winning bidders will be announced during dinner on Tuesday. Please pay for and pick up your items by 10:00am on Wednesday, October 18.



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**“Freedom. Plain and Simple.”**

– Inclusa Member

Inclusa supports and empowers a Self-Determined life through Family Care.



Learn more at your local ADRC  
inclusa.org

# What is People First Wisconsin?



It is a statewide advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities. We help people learn to speak up for themselves and work on advocacy issues.



**Get involved!  
Virtually or In Person**

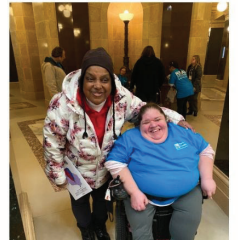
- Speaker Series
- Chapter Meetings
- Meet Ups
- Training
- Advocacy
- Movie nights

For more information:

<http://www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org>

Call us at 414-483-2546

Like us on Facebook



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iCare is honored to support the Self-Determination Conference.

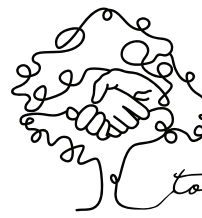
We applaud the commitment of the Wisconsin BPDD to empower Self-Advocacy and Self-Direction.

Great communities are made stronger by the unique individuals and organizations that call them home.



Connecting and caring with our communities.  
[www.iCareHealthPlan.org](http://www.iCareHealthPlan.org)

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#SDCBeCurious



PLEASE RATE THIS SESSION  
POR FAVOR CALIFICA ESTA SESIÓN

Tear along the arrow or circle the number that best describes how good you thought the presentation was.

5 is very good and 1 is not good.

5 es bueno y 1 es no bueno.

←	5	Very Good Muy Bueno
←	4	
←	3	
←	2	
←	1	Not Good No bueno

You may write  
comments on the back.

Puede escribir  
comentarios al otro lado.

# Don't forget to complete your session surveys!

**Step 1:** Choose your rating, 1 to 5 on how good you thought the session was.

**Step 2:** Find that number on the sheet and tear the paper on the line OR circle your number with a pen, pencil, or marker.

**Step 3:** Turn your survey into the room monitor.

# Agenda at a Glance

## Day 1: Tuesday, October 17

7:30 am	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 and Curiosity Corner
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
12:15 - 1:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch, Networking Break and Curiosity Corner (1:00 p.m.)</b>
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Really Good Learning Sessions
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.	Networking Break, Exhibitors and Curiosity Corner
2:45 - 4:30 p.m.	<b>Challenge Lab and Interactive Exhibits</b>
4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	Break and Hotel Check-in
5:30 p.m.	Dinner & Diehard Awards (6:30 p.m.)
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Dance Celebration with People First Wisconsin and DJ Buffet!

Join an interactive experience, meant to **challenge** your thinking. This hands-on session will include a variety of interactive activities to build your curiosity and self-esteem. Open your mind to think more positively about yourself and your future.



## Land Acknowledgement by Kenneth Funmaker Jr



"I want to acknowledge the Ho-Chunk people who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We gather here today at village by the water. The Ho-Chunk Nation had 10 million acres that were recognized by treaty. The Ho-Chunk people were repeatedly removed from Wisconsin from 1832-1874 but we kept coming back to our homeland and we are still here.

I'd like to say in closing that we are all here for a purpose: to help our loved ones and include the many communities represented here at this conference."

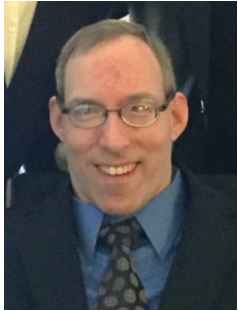
- **Kenneth Funmaker Junior, Ho-Chunk and Meskwaki Nations**



## DIEHARD Awards (Presented during Dinner at 6 p.m.)

Diehard Awards are presented to people who have made a significant contribution to advocacy work here in Wisconsin. A diehard is someone with a commitment to self-determination who goes above and beyond what's expected to help others along the way.

### 2022 Diehard Award Winners



**Ramsey  
Lee**



**Emily  
Savage**



**Lisa  
Schneider**



**Lisa  
Sobczyk**



**Jenny  
Felty**

## Dance Celebration with People First Wisconsin and DJ Buffet! 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Meet DJ Buffet! Andrew Patterson, also known as DJ Buffet is 28 yrs old with Down Syndrome. Andrew is highly driven and does not let anything slow him down. Andrew has a love of music, sports and spending time with his girlfriend. Andrew enjoys DJing for events, working at his two jobs, walking his two dogs and spending time with his friends.

**A fun night of music, dancing, and friendship...and maybe a few prizes!**



## Day 2: Wednesday, October 18

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

# Tuesday, October 17, 2023

## Keynote: Building Curiosity, Courage, and Mindfulness

Learning to find healthy connections can have a direct impact on your self-esteem and increase positive and meaningful experiences. All people need support to stretch their curiosity, be more courageous and think more positively about their future. Challenge yourself in this interactive keynote and learn valuable ways to enhance your skills and build your capacity to grow as advocates.

Alex Olsen will share his self-advocacy journey that includes bright moments of curiosity, courage, and mindfulness. Alex has a passion for life and supportive people in his life. He will inspire you to think very closely about what it truly means to be Self-Determined and to develop strong self-advocacy skills.



**Brian Kenney** has a master's degree in education from UW Stevens Point and owns his own team building business called Team Extreme LLC, where he specializes in working with businesses to assist them in improving their leadership and develop team building skills. He is very focused on improving human connections. Brian has been facilitating team building workshops for 25 plus years.



**Alex Olsen** is a 2012 graduate of Edgerton Senior High School. He is an adult with an identified intellectual disability and autism as well as a speech and language impairment. Alex received special education services throughout his education and was able to grow in his skills and through his transition program was able to get a job at Culver's in Newville, WI. He has been working there since April of 2013. Alex is a valued and respected member of the Culver's family. He rarely, if ever, misses a day of work, is extremely meticulous about his job responsibilities, and sees himself as a productive member of the community. When Alex is not working, he is exercising!



Be Curious, not judgmental.

– **Walt Wittman**

# Wednesday, October 18, 2023

## Opportunities have changed my life!

### Building Self-Advocacy leadership skills.

What does it take to be a strong self-advocate leader? What kind of training and support do you need? Hear from four self-advocates who have expanded their leadership skills. They will share some of the opportunities that have changed their lives.



**Moderator, Felicia Clayborne** is from Milwaukee, WI. She is visually and intellectually impaired. She is a statewide advocate for people with disabilities and seniors. She has been a podcast host of Kingdom Hope Connections and Disability Cafe for 9 years and has influenced a lot of her guests to start podcasts of their own.

### Panelists:



**Jordan Anderson** co-leads the Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice project on Supported Decision-Making for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WI-BPDD). He works full-time at Marshfield Clinic Health System as a Patient Care Assistant. He enjoys sports, hunting, and politics.

**Sydney Badeau** is a self-advocate. She works for People First Wisconsin as an Outreach Self-Advocate. She also works at The Arc Wisconsin and is a member of the BPDD board.



**Cindy Bentley** is the Executive Director of People First Wisconsin and one of Wisconsin's most inspirational leaders and activists. Born with an intellectual disability as the result of fetal alcohol syndrome. No one expected her to learn the skills necessary to live on her own, but she did and then accomplished so much more. Cindy co-authored her book as part of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Badger Biography Series and is active in Special Olympics.



**Kristi Scheunemann** is a Self-Advocate Leader, Consultant for People First Wisconsin, and teaches Safe & Free and Rights classes. She has participated in several videos, presentations and webinar panels for the Self-Determination YouTube channel, Board for People with Developmental Disabilities and Department of Health Services and is a graduate of the Partners in Policymaking course.





# Agenda: Tuesday, October 17

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Registration, Networking and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - General Session 1, Welcome and Keynote

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Networking Break, Exhibitors and Curiosity Corner

## Tuesday Sessions 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

<p><b>SESSION 1</b> Building Community Connections to Create a Positive Future</p> <p>Brian Kenny and Alex Olson</p> <p><b>Africa 10</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 2</b> Self-Determination for Teens and Young Adults</p> <p>Daniela C. Freitas and Erika Portillo</p> <p><b>Africa 20</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 3</b> What's Working in your Self-Directed Life? Real-Life Stories</p> <p>Katie Erickson, Delores Sallis, and Megan Walch</p> <p><b>Africa 30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 4</b> Self-Directing within a Managed Care Organization (MCO)</p> <p>Carlen Dupler, Stephanie Lally and Shannon McKinley</p> <p><b>Africa 40</b></p>
<p><b>SESSION 5</b> Self-Advocates Explore New Employment Possibilities</p> <p>Allison Caudill, Marquis Garner, and Edward Kastern</p> <p><b>Africa 50</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 6</b> Finding and Training Caregivers</p> <p>Casey Beilke and Kevin Coughlin</p> <p><b>Africa 60</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 7</b> The LGBTQ+ Perspective on Healthcare and Relationships Beyond High School</p> <p>Christie Carter, James H, Brook S, and Blue T</p> <p><b>Africa 70</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 8</b> Including Technology in Your Plan</p> <p>Stacy Ellingen, Chris Patterson, Julie Strenn, and Stacy Wargowsky</p> <p><b>Africa 80</b></p>

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch Break (1:00 p.m. Curiosity Corner)

## Self-Advocate Sessions 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

<p><b>SESSION 9</b> Managing Feelings: Knowing your Body and Mind</p> <p>Erin Miller</p> <p><b>Africa 10</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 10</b> Self Determination Channel YouTube</p> <p><b>Africa 20</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 11</b> Disability and Tribal Nations: The Power of Storytelling</p> <p>Kody Funmaker</p> <p><b>Africa 30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 12</b> Follow your Passion</p> <p>Andrew Patterson (DJ Buffet)</p> <p><b>Africa 40</b></p>
<p><b>SESSION 13</b> Be Curious about Getting Involved in Advocacy</p> <p>Sydney Badeau</p> <p><b>Africa 50</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 14</b> Rosie's Journey and How Self-Direction Helps Her Survive</p> <p>Rosie Bartel</p> <p><b>Africa 60</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 15</b> Be Your Own Best Advocate</p> <p>Matt Purfuerst</p> <p><b>Africa 70</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 16</b> Lexi is Creating Change!</p> <p>Lexi Galarowicz</p> <p><b>Africa 80</b></p>

# Agenda: Tuesday, October 17

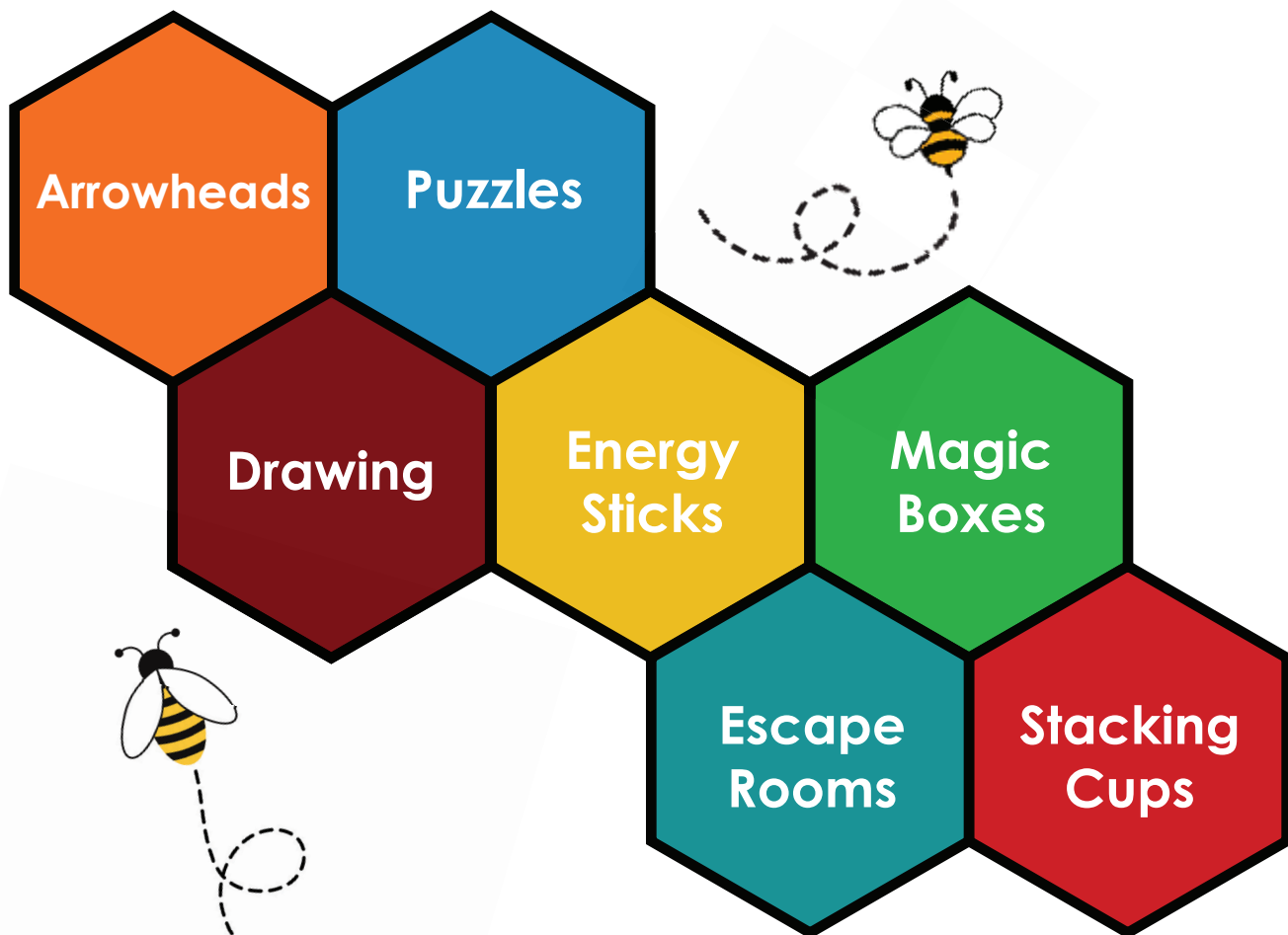
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. - Networking Break, Exhibitors and Curiosity Corner

**2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Curiosity Lab and Interactive Exhibits! How Curious are You?**

Join us for this hands-on session! There will be a variety of interactive game and puzzles to help you increase your curiosity and enhance your creative side. Build more confidence, be courageous, and think more positively.

Hosted by The Holmen Project Search Students

## What do all these have in common?



**Are you Curious?**

*Join us at the Curiosity Lab in Africa West*

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner and Diehard Awards

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Dance Celebration with People First and DJ Buffet!

# Agenda: Wednesday, October 18

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Networking and Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - General Session 2, Keynote

10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. - Networking Break, Exhibitors and Curiosity Corner

## Wednesday Sessions 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

<p><b>SESSION 17</b> Community Connections: Sharing Your Gifts</p> <p>Ginger Beuk and Katie Calmes</p> <p><b>Africa 10</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 18</b> Be in Charge of Your Own Life with Supported Decision-Making</p> <p>Jordan Anderson, Will Becker, and Junior Sotelo Ramos</p> <p><b>Africa 20</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 19</b> The Ripple Effect: Groups and Unexpected Benefits</p> <p>Virginia Harrison and Kevin Thayer</p> <p><b>Africa 30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 20</b> Does a "No" Always Have to be the Final Answer?</p> <p>Mary McKeown and Kayla Smith</p> <p><b>Africa 40</b></p>
<p><b>SESSION 21</b> Navigating the Long-Term Care System and Self-Direction</p> <p>Ana Canela and Andrea Elsmo</p> <p><b>Africa 50</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 22</b> Take Charge: Explore Family-Initiated Models</p> <p>Julie Burish, Kathryn Burish, and Deborah Carter</p> <p><b>Africa 60</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 23</b> Building Social Capital - the Possibilities are Endless!</p> <p>Sydney Badeau and Heidi Lehman</p> <p><b>Africa 70</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 24</b> Growing Family Support and Self-Advocacy through Culturally Responsive Practices</p> <p>Cheryl Funmaker, Kody Funmaker, and Stefanie Primm</p> <p><b>Africa 80</b></p>

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Lunch Break (1:00 p.m. Curiosity Corner)

## Wednesday Sessions 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

<p><b>SESSION 25</b> Curious about Podcasting?</p> <p>Felicia Clayborne</p> <p><b>Africa 10</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 26</b> Be Creative in Finding Your Support Team!</p> <p>Tyler Engel, Lisa Schneider and Leslie Thede</p> <p><b>Africa 20</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 27</b> Building a Bridge from Youth to the Adult Healthcare.</p> <p>Brian Felix, Aracely Portollo, and Jasmin Rojas Spanish w/English translation</p> <p><b>Africa 30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 28</b> Explore Self-Employment Possibilities</p> <p>Katie Hart, Kate Norby, and Julie Strenn</p> <p><b>Africa 40</b></p>
<p><b>SESSION 29</b> Empowering Your Workplace: Unleashing the Power of Self-Determination</p> <p>Kimberly Eschenbauch and Todd Moely</p> <p><b>Africa 50</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 30</b> Community Integrated Living: Thriving on My Own</p> <p>Kathryne Auerback, Tony Freiberg, and Stefanie Primm</p> <p><b>Africa 60</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 31</b> Curious Minds, Expanding Horizons: Discovering the Potential of Medicaid</p> <p>Kyle Novak and TBD</p> <p><b>Africa 70</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 32</b> Forming Natural Connections in Community Settings</p> <p>Desi Kluth and Zach Lillo</p> <p><b>Africa 80</b></p>

3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Wrap up Video and Door Prizes



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TMG, Wisconsin's 1st IRIS Consultant Agency, is proud to help make the Self-Determination Conference accessible to all.

TMG, la 1a agencia consultora IRIS en Wisconsin, se enorgullece de ayudar a que la Conferencia de Autodeterminación sea accesible para todos.



**Local. Experienced. Resourceful.**

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Ask your Aging and Disability Resource Center about your long-term care options.

Pregunte en su Centro de Recursos para el Envejecimiento y la Discapacidad acerca de sus opciones de cuidados a largo plazo.

# Session Descriptions - Session 1-4

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

## Session 1: Building Community Connections to Create a Positive Future

**Presenters: Brian Kenney and Alex Olsen**

**Room: Africa 10**

Alex's journey includes bright moments of curiosity, courage, and mindfulness. Hear how his community connections helped him build independence, get a job, and shape the life he wants.

## Session 2: Self-Determination for Teens and Young Adults

**Presenters: Daniela C. Freitas and Erika Portillo**

**Room: Africa 20**

Goals can help young people have a meaningful life. Join us to try out tools to teach responsibility, self-determination, and gain confidence to make decisions about your life.

## Session 3: What's Working in your Self-Directed Life? Real-Life Stories

**Presenters: Katie Erickson, Delores Sallis, and Megan Walch**

**Room: Africa 30**

Explore resources that can help you better self-direct your life. Understand the role of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and hear from people who are experiencing long-term care programs.

## Session 4: Self-Directing within a Managed Care Organization (MCO)

**Presenters: Carlen Dupler, Stephanie Lally, and Shannon McKinley**

**Room: Africa 40**

Discover the possibilities of self-direction in your own care plan. MCO staff and self-advocates will share examples of how they worked together to self-direct their care plan.



# Session Descriptions - Session 5-8

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

## Session 5: Self-Advocates Explore New Employment Possibilities

Room: Africa 50

Presenters: Allison Caudill, Marquis Garner, and Edward Kastern

Research is a new area of employment available to people with disabilities. Hear from two self-advocates on the research project they worked on around the effects of COVID-19 on people with disabilities.

## Session 6: Finding and Training Caregivers

Room: Africa 60

Presenters: Casey Beilke, Kevin Coughlin, and IRIS Participant

Be curious and join this interactive session to learn how you can get your caregiver certified as Certified Direct Care Professionals (CDCP) for free, qualify them for bonuses and hire new caregivers through WisCaregiver Connections. The Department of Health Services (DHS), in partnership with University of Wisconsin Green Bay has launched the CDCP program and WisCaregiver Connections. Hear the early success of the program and learn how you can be part of this exciting initiative.

## Session 7: The LGBTQ+ Perspective on Healthcare and Relationships Beyond High School

Room: Africa 70

Presenters: Christie Carter, James H., Brook S., and Blue T.

Learn what it is like to be an LGBTQ+ adult from a panel of people who live it. You will learn tips on how to start conversations about someone's identity, how to advocate for your needs to healthcare professionals and build meaningful relationships beyond high school. The session will include a panel discussion with Q&A.

## Session 8: Including Technology in Your Plan

Room: Africa 80

Presenters: Stacy Ellingen, Chris Patterson, Julie Strenn, and Stacey Wargowsky

Think technology first! Interested in how technology can help you meet your goals? Technology can be used to increase independence at work, home, and in the community. This session will discuss safeguards around technology and share funding strategies to get the technology paid for on your service plan. A self-advocate will also share their story on how technology has benefited their life in numerous ways.



# Session Descriptions - Session 9-12

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Session 9: Managing Feelings: Knowing Your Body and Mind

**Presenter: Erin Miller**

**Room: Africa 10**

Erin will share useful information on how she takes care of her emotional health and how you can use similar tools to help yourself. Let's talk about how to get our body and mind to work together. This session empowers people to take charge of their actions and be happy with the choices they made.

## Session 10: A Journey of Storytelling through Ventriloquism

**Presenter: Meara Holmberg**

**Room: Africa 20**

A ventriloquist is a person who can make sounds and words seem like they are coming from a puppet. Learn how Meara has used puppets to help her reduce stress and feel less isolated. You will have a chance to learn some basic skills of using puppets and try some out yourself.

## Session 11: Disability and Tribal Nations: The Power of Storytelling

**Presenter: Kody Funmaker**

**Room: Africa 30**

Kody will share his experiences growing up as a person with disabilities and a Ho-Chunk tribal member. He will share what his native heritage has taught him about feeling accepted. Kody is an Edgewood College student and he's participated in Project Search at the Kalahari Hotel.

## Session 12: Follow Your Passions

**Presenter: Andrew Patterson (DJ Buffet)**

**Room: Africa 40**

Andrew is a highly driven person. He finds his passion and follows it. He became a DJ from his love of music. It all started when he turned the local YMCA Adaptive Recreation dances which consisted of playing music from a Bluetooth speaker to more of a dance club party atmosphere. Today DJ Buffet appears at various non-profit events around the state.

# Session Descriptions - Session 13-16

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Session 13: Be Curious about Getting Involved in Advocacy

**Presenter: Sydney Badeau**

**Room: Africa 50**

Sydney will share how she got involved in advocacy and how advocacy has helped her grow her career. She'll share tips to help others get started in their advocacy work.

## Session 14: Rosie's Journey and How Self-Direction Helps Her Survive

**Presenter: Rosie Bartel**

**Room: Africa 60**

Rosie's advocacy has benefited people of all ages and abilities. Throughout her journey, Rosie has used the principles of self-determination and self-direction to share her story, advocate for herself and others, and teach others how to be their own best advocate.

## Session 15: Be Your Own Best Advocate

**Presenter: Matt Purfuerst**

**Room: Africa 70**

Learn how Matt used his strengths to overcome obstacles and be better prepared to advocate for himself. He will help you learn how to better prepare, plan, and practice to be your own best advocate. Try mindful meditation techniques to boost your self-confidence.

## Session 16: Lexi is Creating Change!

**Presenter: Lexi Galarowicz**

**Room: Africa 80**

Lexi will share what it's like to be a Special Olympics Wisconsin athlete and staff person. She will share the experience and training she has received to help her be a strong advocate. Learn how your voice matters and how you can make change in your life.

# Session Descriptions - Session 17-20

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

## Session 17: Community Connections: Sharing Your Gifts

Room: Africa 10

Presenters: Ginger Beuk and Katie Calmes

Do you want to be more connected to your community? This session will help you understand how you are currently involved in your community, how to identify what stands in the way to being more connected, and what gifts you can share with your community.

## Session 18: Be in Charge of Your Own Life with Supported Decision-Making

Room: Africa 20

Presenters: Jordan Anderson, Will Becker, and Junior Sotelo Ramos

Are you curious about how Supported Decision-Making works in real life? Join our Youth Voice, Youth Choice (CYVYC) ambassadors for a peek into how they use Supported Decision-Making in their everyday lives. The panel will share their experiences and answer your questions on Supported Decision-Making.

## Session 19: The Ripple Effect: Groups and Unexpected Benefits

Room: Africa 30

Presenters: Virginia Harrison and Kevin Thayer

We'll look at the many ways involvement in a small group can lead to unexpected but wonderful consequences such as friendships, social and leadership skills, community connections, higher self-esteem, and even home improvements!

## Session 20: Does a "No" Always Have to be the Final Answer?

Presenters: Mary McKeown and Kayla Smith

Room: Africa 40

Be curious about Ombudsman Advocacy in IRIS & Family Care during the grievance, appeal, and State Fair Hearing Process.



# Session Descriptions - Session 21-24

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

## Session 21: Navigating the Long-Term Care System/Self-Direction

Room: Africa 50

Presenters: Ana Canela and Andrea Elsmo

Dane County, Wisconsin has a long history of excellent employment outcomes for young people with disabilities graduating high school. Learn tools and strategies to help you through the transition process from high school to adult long-term care.

## Session 22: Take Charge: Explore Family-Initiated Models

Presenters: Julie Burish, Kathryn Burish, and Deborah Carter Room: Africa 60

Explore two family-initiated models of support: Microboards and Family Governed Groups. A Microboard™ is a legal entity run by a volunteer board of directors, with the purpose of supporting one person to live a self-directed life in Wisconsin's long-term care system. A Family Governed Group is a group of families who come together to share resources and support for their family members to live self-directed lives in community with one another. We'll help you draw a map of all the people you know (you know more people than you think).

## Session 23: Building Social Capital – the Possibilities are Endless!

Room: Africa 70

Presenters: Sydney Badeau and Heidi Lehman

Social capital is the value from positive connections between people. This workshop will allow you to determine what your support system currently looks like, who might be missing, and how to increase those connections.

## Session 24: Growing Family Support and Self-Advocacy through Culturally Responsive Practices

Room: Africa 80

Presenters: Cheryl Funmaker, Kody Funmaker, and Stefanie Primm

Learn about culturally responsive practices and how to build a family group to support individuals with disabilities. Learn how members of the Ho-Chunk Nation relate to and experience disability services. Cultural responsiveness means responding respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures, languages, races, ethnic backgrounds, disabilities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and other diversity factors in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values their worth.

# Session Descriptions - Session 25-28

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Session 25: Curious About Podcasting?

**Presenters:** Felicia Clayborne

**Room:** Africa 10

Want to learn about how to start a podcast? Do you have a message to share with the world? This session will touch on how to start your own podcast, what equipment you need, and how to get your podcast out into the world.

## Session 26: Be Creative in Finding Your Support Team!

**Presenters:** Tyler Engel, Lisa Schneider and Leslie Thede

**Room:** Africa 20

Do you struggle to find good care workers? Learn tips to help you attract workers that will help you meet your daily living and personal care needs. Hear directly from self-directed consumers on what they have done, what worked best, and what didn't, to build their care support team. Learn about opportunities Respite Care Association of Wisconsin can provide through its newly created program, Respite Connections. This FREE resource allows family caregivers and self-directed consumers to submit job posts. Care providers can find meaningful jobs providing care.

## Session 27: Building a Bridge from Youth to the Adult Healthcare

**Presenters:** Brian Felix, Aracely Portillo, and Jasmin Rojas

**Room:** Africa 30

Youth and families often feel overwhelmed and unprepared as they transition from children's health care to adult life. Hear from one young man and woman about their experience and how they worked with their parents and providers to prepare for the transition to adult health care. Each family will receive a workbook to complete in small groups. If they feel comfortable, participants can share their ideas with the rest of the group.

**This presentation will be in Spanish with English interpreters.**

## Session 28: Explore Self-Employment Possibilities

**Presenters:** Katie Hart, Kate Norby, and Julie Strenn

**Room:** Africa 40

Have you ever wondered if self-employment is for you? We will explore how to identify your gift, how to determine if you have a good business idea, what support you will need and how to get it. You also hear from a micro business owner on her experience.



# Session Descriptions - Session 29-32

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Session 29: Empowering Your Workplace: Unleashing the Power of Self-Determination

Room: Africa 50

**Presenters: Kimberly Eschenbauch and Todd Moely**

Join us for a game-changing presentation on the transformative power of self-determination at work. Learn the Prepare, Engage, and Positively Impact (PEP) model and unlock your potential for a more inclusive and empowering work environment.

## Session 30: Community Integrated Living: Thriving on your Own

Room: Africa 60

**Presenters: Kathryne Auerback, Tony Freiberg, and Stefanie Primm**

LOV Inc. and Movin' Out will share tips for seeking out accessible and affordable housing in your community. Participants will start the process of searching for housing in their community on their tablets or smartphones.

## Session 31: Curious Minds, Expanding Horizons: Discovering the Potential of Medicaid

Room: Africa 70

**Presenters: Kyle Novak, and TBD**

Have you ever wondered “what is Medicaid?” Or “what do my IRIS program services have to do with my ForwardHealth card?” During this session, we will provide a basic understanding of what Medicaid is and how long-term care services (like those in IRIS or Family Care) fits into it all. We will also discuss how the many areas of Medicaid interact and how different service delivery models (like self-direction) offer unique access and choice to Medicaid recipients. There will also be an interactive game to guess if and how a specific service is covered under Medicaid.

## Session 32: Forming Natural Connections in Community Settings

Room: Africa 83

**Presenters: Desi Kluth and Zach Lillo**

Attendees will learn about supporting individuals to strengthen natural connections and supports in your community. Learn about person-centered planning and strength-based decision-making.



# About Our Presenters

**Kathryne Auerback** is the CEO at Movin' Out, Inc. [kathryne@movin-out.org](mailto:kathryne@movin-out.org)

**Rosie Bartel** is a widow, mother, grandmother, educator, and advocate. Rosie holds degrees in Elementary Education, K-12 Special Education, and School Leadership and Theology. She serves on numerous national and local advisory councils and collaborates with medical professionals and researchers on projects to improve patient safety. [bartel1949@gmail.com](mailto:bartel1949@gmail.com)

**Will Becker** is a self-advocate and high school graduate. He has a black belt in Karate and is a Youth Ambassador for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities' Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice project helping to spread the word on supported decision-making and alternatives to guardianship.

**Casey Beilke** has spent time as both an educator, state ombudsman and benefit specialist. Currently Ms. Beilke is a Program Specialist, with UW Green Bay, Division of Continuing Education and Community Engagement. [beilkec@uwgb.edu](mailto:beilkec@uwgb.edu)

**Ginger Beuk** is a self-advocate. Ginger has had a lifetime involvement with advocacy and community organizations such as the United Cerebral Palsy and People First Wisconsin, where she is currently serving as the President. Ginger is a true leader in her community and has helped numerous community projects including the Inclusive Park Project which created a safe and accessible outdoor recreational environment for all individuals of all abilities and ages.

**Julie Burish** is a founding member of a Family Governed group that was created 10 years ago to support her daughter, Kathryn, and 7 other adult self-advocates. The group was formed to build great lives that are sustainable after parents are no longer able to provide the primary supports. [jaburish29@gmail.com](mailto:jaburish29@gmail.com)

**Kathryn Burish** is a 27-year-old woman who has been living independently in her own apartment for the past 5 years. She has been a part of her Family Governed group for 10 years and has benefited greatly from the close relationships with the other member families.

**Katie Calmes** is the Quality Director of Lakeland Care, Inc. a Managed Care Organization. Katie has been with Lakeland for over 16 years in various roles that focused on member rights, restrictive measures, care management, and quality management. Her experiences include family training, sexual assault victims, at risk youth, as well as advocating for those with disabilities. Katie upholds the Lakeland Values of Kindness, Inclusion, and Trust in her everyday work.

[katie.calmes@lakelandcareinc.com](mailto:katie.calmes@lakelandcareinc.com)

# About Our Presenters

**Ana Canela** is a self-advocate and has a variety of personal experiences related to gaining and maintaining competitive integrated employment in her community. Ana's lived experiences tell a story of how someone with I/DD successfully transitioned out of a high school program and into long term supports with key transition stakeholders.

**Christie Carter** is the Aging & Disability Program Coordinator at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. She has a Master of Education with a focus on instructional design and is part of both the LGBT and disability communities. She uses her personal experiences in both groups to educate policymakers and advocate for the people she works with every day. [ccarter@mkelgbt.org](mailto:ccarter@mkelgbt.org)

**Deborah Carter** organized a Microboard around her friend Betty, after Betty's parents died, and helped Betty live an amazing life surrounded by friends. Deborah now supports people across North America to establish Microboards and Circles of Support around their friends and family. [deborahmhcarter@gmail.com](mailto:deborahmhcarter@gmail.com)

**Allison Caudill** is a PhD student and researcher at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. She is interested in inclusive research for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is also interested in learning more about health disparities for people with disabilities. [acaudill@wisc.edu](mailto:acaudill@wisc.edu)

**Molly Cooney** works for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. She oversees the Families Supporting Families grants and Partners with Business employment grants. Molly loves to spread the word about plain language. [molly.cooney@tisconsin.gov](mailto:molly.cooney@tisconsin.gov)

**Kevin Coughlin** has spent the last 26 years in public service for both the Division of Medicaid Service and Division of Quality Assurance. Mr. Coughlin has been a speaker at numerous state and national conferences presenting on the subjects of workforce, assisted living regulatory reform and long-term care quality improvement. [kevin.coughlin@wi.gov](mailto:kevin.coughlin@wi.gov)

**Carlen Dupler** is 59 years old and has Multiple Sclerosis. He is a member of Incusa/Family Care. He lives a full life, enjoys live music and art shows. He also enjoys watercolor painting. His service Dog (Mimi) goes everywhere with him. Mimi and Carlen are involved with outreach to provide therapy for residents in nursing homes, hospitals and at children's programs. Carlen is happy directing his own team of helpers and able to schedule his personal time and the time he needs assistance.

# About Our Presenters

**Stacy Ellingen** is a college graduate and business owner. Stacy's advocacy and self-determination have gotten her where she is today. Through her perseverance and resiliency, she has yet to meet a challenge she can't overcome! Her motto is: never ever give up! [sellengen@incontrolwisconsin.org](mailto:sellingen@incontrolwisconsin.org)

**Andrea Elsmo** has worked in a variety of roles related to transition, education, planning and self-direction. With a master's degree in Rehabilitation Psychology and undergraduate degree in Special Education, her specialty includes blending the two areas and taking a thoughtful approach to supporting families and individuals with their post-secondary goals. [elsmo.andrea@countyofdane.com](mailto:elsmo.andrea@countyofdane.com)

**Tyler Engel** holds a Bachelor of Science degree and works to improve the respite care system globally at Marquette University. He has been an advocate for people with disabilities his whole life by being a peer mentor, leading various advocacy groups, promoting adapted sports, and making sporting events and new construction more inclusive. [tyler.engel@marquette.edu](mailto:tyler.engel@marquette.edu)

**Katie Erickson** has been an Information and Assistance Specialist with the ADRC of Brown County for almost 13 years. Katie has worked in the aging and disability field for her entire career and has always recognized the importance of lifting up the lives of others. She found her passion in working with transition age youth and their families which was further fueled when her oldest child was diagnosed autistic. Katie lives in Green Bay, is married, and a mom of two boys on the spectrum.

**Kimberly Eschenbauch** is a Certified Coach and Mindfulness Practitioner. In her role as an Organizational Impact Coach at Lakeland Care, Kimberly helps organizations build the skills and confidence they need to achieve their goals. With a deep understanding of how to harness the power of mindfulness and positive psychology, Kimberly is an expert at helping people overcome challenges and create meaningful, lasting change in their lives, and in turn, generating a positive impact in the organizations in which they work.

[kim.eschenbauch@lakelandcareinc.com](mailto:kim.eschenbauch@lakelandcareinc.com)

**Brian Felix** is an 18-year-old on the autism spectrum who will attend UW Milwaukee to study animation in fall 2023.

**Daniela C. Freitas** is a 29-year-old visual communicator who has been a wheelchair user since the age of 5. She is constantly seeking knowledge and learning new skills as a Community Engagement Specialist for Padres e Hijos en Acción. Daniela is passionate about using her creativity and communication skills to make a positive impact on the world. She loves spending time with family and friends, reading, and traveling.



# About Our Presenters

**Tony Freiberg** lives independently at a Movin' Out Apartment. In addition to running his own business, Freiberg's Hardscaping, Tony works in a restaurant and serves on the Movin' Out Board of Directors. [freibergshardscaping@gmail.com](mailto:freibergshardscaping@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Funmaker, Ph.D., J'apresanacat'iga**, completed her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin in December 2015. She is the first person in the history of the Josephine P. White Eagle Fellowship to complete a Ph.D. Since her graduation, Dr. Funmaker returned to serve her people as the Disabilities Director for the Ho-Chunk Nation Education Department.

**Kody Funmaker** is an Edgewood college student seeking a degree. He is also a member of the Ho-Chunk tribe and a person with developmental disabilities. After graduating high school in 2019, Kody signed up for Project Search and was the first person to work in the bakery at the Kalahari in WI Dells.

**Lexi Galarowicz** is an athlete with Special Olympics Wisconsin and a staff member. She has been an athlete for 6 years. Lexi was part of Team Wisconsin for the Special Olympics USA Games in 2022. Lexi has gone through WI Youth Leadership Forum as well as Partners in Policymaking. [mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org](mailto:mgalarowicz@specialolympicswisconsin.org)

**Nancy Gapinski** is the Office Manager and Consultant for People First Wisconsin. In the past she has been a participant hired care worker, a Program Support Specialist for Our Place Day Services and a founding member of Save IRIS. [admpfw@gmail.com](mailto:admpfw@gmail.com)

**Marquis Garner** is currently a co-researcher with the Ausderau Lab. His current project is working to help better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted life for people with IDD in Wisconsin. Marquis is also on the Special Olympics Wisconsin Board of Directors, a public speaker, and published book author.

**James H** (he/him) is a college senior with experience leading a national student organization and advocating for youth mental health. He loves to share his insights on navigating post-secondary education as a person with disabilities, including understanding learning pathways and social communities. Over time, he has found his voice as a champion of LGBTQ+ rights and systems change.

**Virginia Harrison** is the Bridge Builder Project Manager for LOV Inc. Bridge Builder staff support participants to establish and work toward personal goals (including skill building for increased independence in home, work, and community) and develop community connections in inclusive settings. [virginia@lovinc.org](mailto:virginia@lovinc.org)

# About Our Presenters

**Katie Hart** is owner of Katie's Korner. Katie makes necklaces, bracelets, earrings, hair accessories and sells them through the Milkweed Market in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Her jewelry is so popular that it's difficult to keep up with sales. Katie is currently in the process of developing and launching her small business, Katie's Korner, and is a partner in Opportunity Development Center's (ODC) self-employment grant. She recently earned her first black stripe in Taekwondo and is a gifted singer.

**Meara Holmberg** is a graduate of Waukesha South High School and Project SEARCH. She does data entry for People First. In her spare time, she is a ventriloquist.

**Tami Jackson** is the legislative liaison and public policy strategist for the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. Tami has led and worked with diverse coalitions to advance and pass many pieces of legislation, state budget initiatives, and advocates for new or improved state agency policies.

**[tamara.jackson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tamara.jackson@wisconsin.gov)**

**Edward Kastern** is currently a co-researcher with the Ausderau Lab. His current project is working to help better understand how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted life for people with IDD in Wisconsin. Edward is also a Special Olympics Wisconsin athlete, a co-author on research articles, talk show host, and most importantly, a dad.

**Desi Kluth** is a self-advocate from the Waukesha area and a board member of Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WI-BPDD). She says, "I have helped teach local police how to work with folks with disabilities and how to help with mental health needs." Desi also loves animals and really enjoys her time volunteering with the humane society.

**Stephanie Lally** is a Self-Determination Manager with Inclusa. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders from UW-Stevens Point and a Master of Science degree in Vocation Rehabilitation from UW-Stout. She was a DVR counselor for 8 years prior to joining the Inclusa team. She and her husband have three children, ages 8, 5 and 3 who keep them very busy and active in their community.

**[stephanie.lally@inclusa.org](mailto:stephanie.lally@inclusa.org)**

**Heidi Lehman** is the parent of 4 children with Autism residing in northern Wisconsin. She is a Family Engagement Coordinator with the WSPEI grant and sits on the board of directors for WI Family Ties and the Autism Society of Central Wisconsin. She can be reached at **[hlehman@cesa9.org](mailto:hlehman@cesa9.org)**

# About Our Presenters

**Zach Lillo** is a Bridge Builder at LOV Inc. where he works with individuals to form community connections and increase their independence. He has been involved in the disability community his whole life, having grown up with a brother with a disability. [zach@lovinc.org](mailto:zach@lovinc.org)

**Mary McKeown** is the Managed Care Ombudsman for Dane, Jefferson, Rock, and Walworth counties, providing advocacy to members of Family Care and Partnership programs. Mary started with the Board on Aging and Long Term Care in 2016, initially working as a Regional Ombudsman. Mary's previous work experience includes advocacy for survivors of domestic violence as well as students in alternative education programs. Mary also holds a master's degree in community counseling. [mary.mckeown@wisconsin.gov](mailto:mary.mckeown@wisconsin.gov)

**Shannon McKinley** has been actively supporting self-advocates and families within the Portage County area for 26 years. She is employed by Includa as a Member Support Manager and by the Stevens Point YMCA as a Fitness Instructor. She enjoys being active, spending time with her large family and supporting her kids in their chosen activities. [shannon.mckinley@includa.org](mailto:shannon.mckinley@includa.org)

**Erin Miller** lives in the Milwaukee area with a small sassy cat. She works as an Advocate Specialist for People First Wisconsin and has a passion for mental health advocacy. Erin enjoys nature walks, writing and Broadway musicals.

**Todd Moely** is a recipient of the Governors Committee for People with Disabilities award. He was uniquely involved in creating self-directed supports in Fond du Lac County. Todd is a dedicated employee at Target, where he has been able to build a rewarding career while also staying connected to his community. Todd was part of the original crew that opened the Target store in Fond du Lac. Todd's dedication and hard work were recognized by Target, where he received a 30 years of service award.

**Jenny Neugart** is Co-Lead of the WI Disability Vote Coalition and the Grassroots Community Organizer for the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. She has worked with youth with disabilities for the past 20 years to be stronger self-advocates. [jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov](mailto:jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov)



# About Our Presenters

**Kate Norby** is the Director of Development at the Opportunity Development Center (ODC), Inc. Kate is committed to advancing person-centered practice and systems of support that honor full citizenship and inclusion for all. A firm believer in the principles of self-determination, Kate encourages individuals and organizations to actively build welcoming and diverse communities. Kate has worked in human services, business and education for more than two decades and holds undergraduate degrees in education, sociology, and human and community development. [knorby@odcinc.com](mailto:knorby@odcinc.com)

**Kyle Novak** is a Program and Policy Analyst for the IRIS Program at the Department of Health Services. Prior to coming to the Department, Kyle held many roles supporting individuals with disabilities receiving long-term care, including providing residential services, behavioral supports, and direct caregiving.

[kyle.novak@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:kyle.novak@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

**Andrew Patterson** is 28 years old with Down Syndrome. Andrew is highly driven and does not let anything slow him down. Andrew has a love of music, sports and spending time with his girlfriend. Andrew enjoys DJing for events, working at his two jobs, walking his two dogs and spending time with his friends.

**Chris Patterson** grew up with a sister that has a developmental disability and brings a wealth of experience to our Night Owl Support Systems team. Chris has volunteered his time to serve on the Access to Community, Avenues to Community, Oregon Youth Basketball, and Wisconsin Badger Camp's Board of Directors. He resides in Stoughton, WI with his wife and two sons. He enjoys playing basketball, music, golf, and spending time with his family. [chris@nosslc.com](mailto:chris@nosslc.com)

**Aracely Portillo** is a Bilingual Family Support Specialist at the Waisman Center. She is a mother of a 22 year old nonverbal young man with autism and co-founder of Padre e Hijos en Acción, which serves parents of children with special needs.

[aracely.portillo@wisc.edu](mailto:aracely.portillo@wisc.edu)

**Erika Portillo** is currently studying at Madison College in the Liberal Arts Transfer Program: Pre-Professional Health Pathway. She has a brother with Autism. Because of her brother, she is interested in supporting other youth with autism/special needs. Erika is the new Youth Coordinator for the non-profit organization Padres E Hijos En Acción.

**Stefanie Primm** is the Executive Director at LOV Inc., Living Our Visions Inclusively, which unites people with developmental disabilities to engage and build their best lives. [stefanie@lovinc.org](mailto:stefanie@lovinc.org)

# About Our Presenters

**Matt Purfuerst** has been involved in Best Buddies since high school. He was a Best Buddies leader and keynote speaker at their Champion of the Year event. Matt works at Kessler's Diamonds and Inclusion Coffee. Matt made his television debut alongside Inclusion Coffee on Project Pitch It this year.

**Jasmin Rojas** is 18 years old and has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). She loves animals and will follow her passion to work with them. This fall Jasmin started at Madison College to study to be a veterinarian. In her spare time, she loves to go shopping, listen to music, and draw.

**Brook S** (they/them) is a PhD candidate at Marquette University studying the experiences and needs of autistic adults. As a self-advocate, clinician, and researcher, they have used their experience and training to improve autism services in the Milwaukee area through their work with the Next Step Clinic and the On Your Marq college support program. Brook has also interned in LGBTQ+ services at Ripon College and Marquette University to provide resources and support for students. They have conducted educational workshops on disability, neurodiversity, and LGBTQ+ topics.

**Delores Sallis** is the mother of five children, her youngest son, Albert, had multiple disabilities and passed away in January 2021. Delores is the founder of Parent University, which serves as a resource center to help families in the Milwaukee area navigate systems to help their loved ones with disabilities. She helps families ask for what they need but don't know how to ask. [deloressallis@gmail.com](mailto:deloressallis@gmail.com)

**Lisa Schneider** became the Executive Director of the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) in 2017. She works collaboratively to create new programs to better meet the needs of family caregivers throughout the State of Wisconsin. Being a caregiver herself, Lisa brings a unique perspective to her role with RCWA.

[lschneider@respitewarewi.org](mailto:lschneider@respitewarewi.org)

**Kayla Smith** is a graduate from Marian University with a bachelor's degree in social work and a specialty in psychology, with fourteen years of experience within the IRIS LTC program. Kayla is an IRIS Ombudsman Specialist with the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and advocates for IRIS participants 60 years and older, statewide. Kayla strives to assist individuals in living their best lives. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and being outdoors. [kaylaj.smith@wisconsin.gov](mailto:kaylaj.smith@wisconsin.gov)

# About Our Presenters

**Julie Strenn** has more than 25 years of experience in long-term care, having worked for provider agencies, managed care organizations, and state and local government agencies including the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. She has consulted with service providers, funders, and multiple state governments in transforming the long-term care system to focus on community employment and community living for people with disabilities. Julie is currently the President/CEO (Chief Executive Officer) at ODC. [jstrenn@odcinc.com](mailto:jstrenn@odcinc.com)

**Junior Sotelo Ramos** is a recent high school graduate and a member of the National Honor Society. He is on Special Olympics, is a manager for the boy's b-ball team, and a Supported Decision-Making Youth Ambassador.

**Blue T** (they/them) has been an active part of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Disability Support Group for 2 years. They mix advocacy, inclusion, and adaptation with their interests as they connect with digital communities. They live with their family in rural Southeastern Wisconsin.

**Leslie Thede's** passion for helping people led her to hold various roles in the care industry working with people across the lifespan. She is a fierce advocate for those in need of supportive care, a strong believer in mental health, and an avid champion about promoting the benefits of respite care. [lthede@respitewi.org](mailto:lthede@respitewi.org)

**Kevin Thayer** is a young adult on the autism spectrum who is interested in attending Madison College and currently works at Hy-Vee. He enjoys participating in various events and activities through LOV's Bridge Builder Project. His personal interests include music, game shows, and reading.

**Megan Walch** has always had a love for animals. Especially dogs and horses. At a younger age, Megan belonged to a 4-H Club and participated in showing her horse Goose. Due to her own health issues, she is no longer riding, however, she still sits with and watches the horses. Megan lives in her own apartment. While appreciating her independence, Megan has some support to be successful. Megan is employed with the YMCA, working 20-24 hours per week in the child watch and kid zone areas. Megan has been told she has a "calming disposition with the elderly."

**Stacey Wargowsky** has 22 years of experience in the health and human services field. Stacey has spent a significant amount of time over the last few years exploring innovative approaches to support individuals in their communities with a focus on technology through her work at Includa. Additionally, Stacey has supported the development of the Technology First Coalition of Wisconsin and is on the training and education committee. [stacey.wargowsky@includa.org](mailto:stacey.wargowsky@includa.org)



# Microbusiness Directory

Visit our **Micro Bees!**



## Austin's Crafty Shop

Wood crafts and  
homemade signs

Austin Kallas-Zak

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



## Heart for Art

Towles, toe bags, T-shirts,  
small painting titles.

Kelly Weyer

[facebook.com/heartforartkw](https://facebook.com/heartforartkw)



## Heidi Creative Creations

Tie blankets

Heidi Johnson

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



## James Williams

Author, Self-Advocacy,  
Musician

James Matthew Williams

[jamesmw.com](http://jamesmw.com)

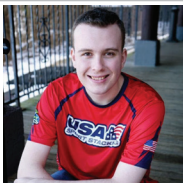


## Jenny's Diamond Crafts

Diamond painting crafts  
(pictures, notebooks,  
bookmarks, coasters)

Jenny Neugart

[Jennifer.neugart@yahoo.com](mailto:Jennifer.neugart@yahoo.com)



## Jesse L Horn

Book and the presentation:  
"Growing up with Autism"

Jesse L Horn

[jesselhorn.com](http://jesselhorn.com)



## J&J Handmade Crafts

String Art, Gift Card Holders,  
Dish Cloths and Scrubbies,  
Hanging Dish Towels,  
Trinket Boxes

Jason and Julie Endres

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



## The Lilac Room

Soaps and Apparel

Ashley Mathy

[etsy.com/shop/  
TheLilacRoomShop](https://etsy.com/shop/TheLilacRoomShop)



## Made by Melinda & Created by Christa

Cards, Friendship bracelets,  
jewelry, bookmarks, etc.

Melinda & Christa

[mjbeloin1990@gmail.com](mailto:mjbeloin1990@gmail.com)

[ckbeloin@gmail.com](mailto:ckbeloin@gmail.com)



### Nicks Dog Treats & Coffee Brew

Jennifer Hinze

Homemade Dog Treats and Coffee

nicksdogtreats.com



### Obviously Kelsey

Kelsey McNamara

Greeting cards and prints/merchandise created from my original watercolor art

facebook.com/kelseymcart



### Paintings and Paws by Caleb, LLC

Caleb Griswold

Dog portrait paintings

facebook.com/paintingsandpaws



### Sensational Designz

Saphronia Purnell

Handmade Jewelry, Key Rings, Jeweled Eyeglass Holders

emergingabilities@gmail.com



### Swedee's Jewelry

Cara Swedeen

Lanyards, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings.

facebook.com/swedees



### Turners Ridge Wood Workz

David Pehl

Hand crafted wood products

turnersridgewoodworkz.com

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- ENCOURAGE FUTURE PURSUITS
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www.mychoicewi.org

# Exhibitor Directory



**Access**

(414) 524-9823

[allaboutaccess.com](http://allaboutaccess.com)

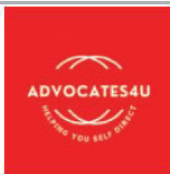


**Acumen Fiscal Agent**

(262) 395-0865

[acumenfiscalagent.com](http://acumenfiscalagent.com)

Sponsor



**Advocates4U**

(414) 755-2020

[irisadvocates4u.org](http://irisadvocates4u.org)



**AssuranceSD**

[info@assurancesd.com](mailto:info@assurancesd.com)

[assurancesd.com](http://assurancesd.com)



**Ausderau Lab, University of Wisconsin - Madison**

[karlaausderau.labs.wisc.edu](http://karlaausderau.labs.wisc.edu)



**BoundaryCare**

[boundarycare.com](http://boundarycare.com)



**The Arc Wisconsin**

(480) 236-9722

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



**Caregiver Certificate Program by Department of Health Services (DHS)**

[wisccaregivercdcp.com](http://wisccaregivercdcp.com)



**Community Horizons**

(715) 281-8990

[communityhorizonsllc.com](http://communityhorizonsllc.com)



**Community Living Alliance**

(608) 240-8541

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



**Consumer Direct Care Network of WI**

(715) 338-1915

[consumerdirectwi.com](http://consumerdirectwi.com)





COUNCIL ON  
PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

**Council on Physical  
Disabilities**

(608) 266-5364  
dhs.wisconsin.gov



**CROSSWAYS**  
CAMPING MINISTRIES

**Crossways Camping  
Ministries - Pine Lake**

(715) 258-3813  
CrosswaysCamps.org



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

**Department of Public  
Instruction (DPI)**

dpi.wi.gov



**Dose Health**

dosehealth.com



**Down Syndrome Association  
of Wisconsin, Inc.**

(414) 327-3729  
dsaw.org



**Employment Resources Inc**

eri-wi.org



**Family Voices of Wisconsin**

info@fvofwi.org  
familyvoiceswi.org



**Family Services Wisconsin  
Lifeline**

(920) 522-3426  
familyservicesnew.org



**First Person Care  
Consultants**

(414) 3122654  
firstperson.org



**Fiscal Assistance, Inc.**

(855) 201-4230  
fiscalassistance.org



**Game-U Enterprises**

(908) 500-2311  
game-u.com



**GT Independence**

customerservice  
@gtindependence.com  
gtindependence.com



**iCare/Humana**

(800) 777-4376  
icarehealthplan.org



**iLife**

(888) 800-5599  
ilife.org

Sponsor Sponsor Sponsor



**Inclusa**

877-622-6700  
inclusa.org



**InControl Wisconsin**

(920) 376-4154  
incontrolwi.org



**Independent Living Council  
of Wisconsin (ILCW) / Wisconsin  
Independent Living Network (WILN)**

(608) 575-9293  
il-wis.net



**Lakeland Care, Inc.**

(920) 393-7778  
LakelandCareInc.com



**Life Navigators**

414-774-6255  
lifenavigators.org



**Lakeland University**

(920) 565-1000  
lakeland.edu



**Logan's Hearts and Smiles**

(608) 604-2165  
logansheartandsmiles.org



**LSS/Connections**

(414) 238-3752  
Connectionswis.org



**Michelle's Action Angels  
Community Outreach Inc.**

(414) 881-6618  
michellesactionangels.org



**Midstate Independent  
Living Choices Inc.**

(715) 344-4210  
milc-inc.org



**MyChoice Family Care.**

(800) 963-0035  
mychoicewi.org



**Night Owl Support Systems,  
LLC**

(608) 906-4001  
nossllc.com

People First Wisconsin



See Our Ability

**People First Wisconsin**

(414) 483-2546

peoplefirstwisconsin.org

**Quantum Group Special  
Needs Planning**

(608) 790-1354

quantumplanners.com

**Respite Care Association  
of Wisconsin**

(608) 222-2033

respitecarewi.org

**SafeinHome**

(612) 715-4064

safeinhome.com

**Special Olympics Wisconsin**

(262) 483-7588

specialolympicswisconsin.org

**TMG**

(844) 864-8987

tmgwisconsin.com

**WAISMAN CENTER**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities**Waisman Center UCEDD**

(608) 265-2063

waisman.wisc.edu

**WI FACETS**  
WISCONSIN FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING & SUPPORT**WI FACETS**

(414) 374-4645

wifacets.org

Sisters & Brothers of People with Disabilities**Wisconsibs**

(920) 968-1742

wisconsibs.com

**Wisconsin Board for People  
with Developmental  
Disabilities**

(608) 266-7826

wi-bpdd.org





**BPDD Public Health Project:  
Lead Poisoning Information**

(414) 430-7063  
shyquetta.mcelroy  
@wisconsin.gov



**Wisconsin Disability  
Vote Coalition**

(608) 308-2635  
disabilityvote.org



**Wisconsin Microboard  
Association**

(262) 818-9332  
wisconsinmicroboards.com



**Wispect**

(608) 268-6006  
wispect.org



**Geritom Medical**

(952) 854-1190  
geritommedical.com



**Community Care**

1-866-992-6600  
communitycareinc.org

## An additional Micro Bee



**Author**

**Author of Autism: A Family Lives  
Beyond the Label, Little Lindsey  
is a Picky Eater, Little Lindsey's  
Haircut**

**Lindsey Moreland**



# Glossary of Words and Terms

We use a lot of acronyms or shortened words during the conference and in the service system. Here is a guide to help you understand what they mean:

## **ADRC: Aging and Disability Resource Center**

The ADRC is a place to go for information and assistance on issues affecting people with disabilities and older adults. There is one in each county.

## **BA: Budget Amendment**

IRIS participants can use a Budget Amendment form to request additional services and supports beyond what can be purchased through their existing budget. You can request an amendment through your IRIS consultant.

## **CLTS: Children's Long-Term Care Support**

The CLTS program provides children and young adults under the age of 22 with disabilities services and supports to remain in their home or community.

## **DHS: Department of Health Services**

DHS is a state agency whose mission is to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Wisconsin so that everyone can live their best life.

## **DRW: Disability Rights Wisconsin**

DRW is a private non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities statewide. Their mission is to advance the dignity, equality, and self-determination of people with disabilities. DRW is completely independent of the government and the disability service system.

## **DVR: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

DVR is a federal/state program. They obtain, maintain, and improve employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR consumers, employers, and other partners.

## **EVV: Electronic Visit Verification**

EVV is a tracking system that requires electronic verification of when a person receives Medicaid-funded personal care or home health services. EVV uses technology to make sure that members and participants receive the in-home services they need. Workers check in at the beginning and check out at the end of each visit, using a mobile phone or tablet, small digital device, or landline telephone.



### **What's an Acronym?**

An acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words.

# Glossary of Words and Terms

## **FC: Family Care**

Family Care is a Medicaid long-term care program for older adults and adults with disabilities. The goal is to get members the services they need to live in a home setting when possible.

## **FEA: Fiscal Employer Agent**

Used in the IRIS Program, a FEA is an agency that allows funds to follow the individual instead of the provider. This agent allows individuals and their representatives a high level of choice and control over the use of their funds, managing their support services, and assisting with payroll for participant hired workers.

## **LTC: Long-Term Care**

Long-Term Care is a variety of services that help people with disabilities and others who need both medical and non-medical care.

## **ICA (IC): IRIS Consultant Agency or IRIS Consultant**

In IRIS, an ICA is an agency that helps participants manage their own care. Participants work with an IRIS Consultant (IC) regularly to review their service plan and ensure their long-term care needs are being met.

## **IRIS: Include, Respect, I Self-Direct**

IRIS is a program for adults with disabilities and elderly people in Wisconsin. It is a self-directed program. That means that you will have the freedom to decide how you want to live your life.

## **MCO: Managed Care Organization**

MCOs are private organizations that contract with DHS to deliver the Family Care program including Family Care Partnership (PACE). Members can choose the MCO they want to use.

## **SD: Self-Determination**

Self-Determination means you have the right to make choices about how you want to live your life.

## **SDS: Self-Directed Supports**

Self-directed supports means that a person directs the supports and services being provided to them. People who self-direct can hire, supervise, and dismiss their own direct care workers. SDS also involves control of your own budget to choose services and supports, and to have decision-making authority.



# Resources List

**211** - Dial 2-1-1 for information and referral services to health and social service organizations. [www.211.org](http://www.211.org)

## **988: Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**

Dial 9-8-8 for support for anyone experiencing a suicidal, mental health, and/or substance use crisis. They provide free and private support for people who are struggling. [www.988lifeline.org](http://www.988lifeline.org)

## **Children's Long-Term Care Supports (CLTS)**

State teams help provide information and support to families, county programs, and community partners Find the DHS staff member assigned to your county. Use the Children and Family Program Specialist Assignment Map

(<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00996.pdf> )

Additional information can be found on the Department of Health Services Website at [www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/clts/family.htm)


**Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)** is a private nonprofit organization that works to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change. [www.drwi.org](http://www.drwi.org); Toll Free Number: **800-928-8778**; Email: [info@drwi.org](mailto:info@drwi.org)

**Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)** Customer Care Center can answer general questions about using EVV: **1-833-931-2035**; open Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. CT

**Ombudsman Program:** An ombudsman provides advocacy services to people who are using adult long-term care services like IRIS and Family Care. They respond to issues and complaints.

**If you are experiencing problems you can contact:**

 **DRW-Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program**  
for 18-59 year olds: **800-928-8778**; [www.drwi.org](http://www.drwi.org)

 **BOALTC (Board on Aging and Long-Term Care)**  
Program for people over 60 years of age:  
**800-815-0015**; [BOALTC@wisconsin.gov](mailto:BOALTC@wisconsin.gov)

**The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition (WDVC)** helps ensure full participation in the voting process of people with disabilities, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places. WDVC is a non-partisan effort, which means they are not associated with any political party.

[www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org); DRW Voter Hotline: **844-347-8683**

# Adult Long-Term Care Program Contact Information

Organization Name	Phone	Website
<b>Family Care Agencies</b>		
Community Care, Inc	866- 992-6600	<a href="http://www.communitycareinc.org">www.communitycareinc.org</a>
iCare	800-777-4376	<a href="http://www.icarehealthplan.org">www.icarehealthplan.org</a>
Inclusa, Inc	877- 622-6700	<a href="http://www.inclusa.org">www.inclusa.org</a>
Lakeland Care, Inc	877- 227-3335	<a href="http://www.lakelandcareinc.com">www.lakelandcareinc.com</a>
My Choice Wisconsin	800-963-0035	<a href="http://www.mychoicewi.org">www.mychoicewi.org</a>
<b>IRIS Consultant Agencies</b>		
Advocates4U	877-739-2203	<a href="http://www.irisadvocates4u.org">www.irisadvocates4u.org</a>
First Person Care Consultants	414-336-2448	<a href="http://www.firstperson.org">www.firstperson.org</a>
Lutheran Social Services Connections- IRIS Consultants	844-520-1712	<a href="http://www.lsswis.org">www.lsswis.org</a>
Midstate Independent Living Choices	715-344-4210	<a href="http://www.milc-inc.org">www.milc-inc.org</a>
TMG	844-864-8987	<a href="http://www.tmgwisconsin.com">www.tmgwisconsin.com</a>
Progressive Community Services Inc	608-848-8305	<a href="http://www.pscdane.org">www.pscdane.org</a>
<b>IRIS Fiscal Employer Agents</b>		
GT Independence	877-659-4500	<a href="http://www.gtindependence.com">www.gtindependence.com</a>
Outreach Health Services	877-901-5826	<a href="http://www.acumentfiscalagent.com/state/wisconsin">www.acumentfiscalagent.com/state/wisconsin</a>
iLife Financial Management Services	715-344-4210	<a href="http://www.iLife.org">www.iLife.org</a>
Premier Financial Management Services	855-244-5810	<a href="http://www.premier-fms.com">www.premier-fms.com</a>

# Thank You!

**Conference Planning Committee:** Patti Becker, Cindy Bentley, Felicia Clayborne, Cathy Derezinski, Elsa Diaz-Bautista, Carrie J. Gartzke, Vicky Gunderson, Stephanie Lally, Ashley Mathy, Shannon McKinley, Kathi Miller, Steph Stringer, Rebecca Wetter, and Promote Local.

**Videography** provided by Dan Poh, Tapioca Creations.

**Department of Health Services technology team** for assisting in setting up all the Zoom Rooms. Recorded sessions will be available online after the conference at [www.wi-sdc.com](http://www.wi-sdc.com).

**Interpreters and translators** from Interpreters Coop and Interpreters Solutions Inc.

## Save The Date!

for the 2024 Self-Determination Conference!

**October 21 - October 23, 2024**

Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells and Virtually

### Dates to remember:

Call for Presenters Opens: **February 2024**

Call for Exhibitors Opens: **April 2024**

Registration Opens: **July 2024**

**Want to be a 2024 Sponsor?  
It's not too early to start planning!**



Contact Fil Clissa at  
[fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov](mailto:fil.clissa@wisconsin.gov)



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**iLIFE.org**

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VISIT [LAKELANDCAREINC.COM](http://LAKELANDCAREINC.COM)



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Part of the AssuranceSD family

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# gt

## You deserve support that's frustration free



Ready to discover self-determination?  
Ready for support that matches your life?

### Get in Touch

Vicky Gunderson

[✉ vgunderson@gtstd.org](mailto:vgunderson@gtstd.org)

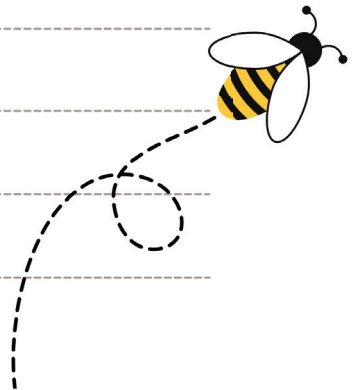
[📞 608.769.0813](tel:608.769.0813)

[🌐 gtstd.org](http://gtstd.org)

Contact your Aging & Disability Resource Center for your long-term care options.

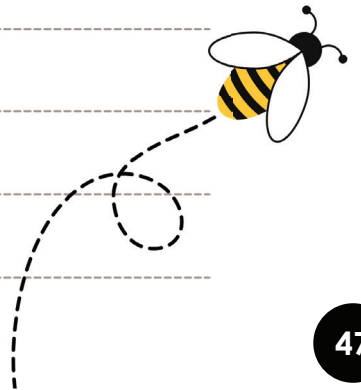
# Notes

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# Notes

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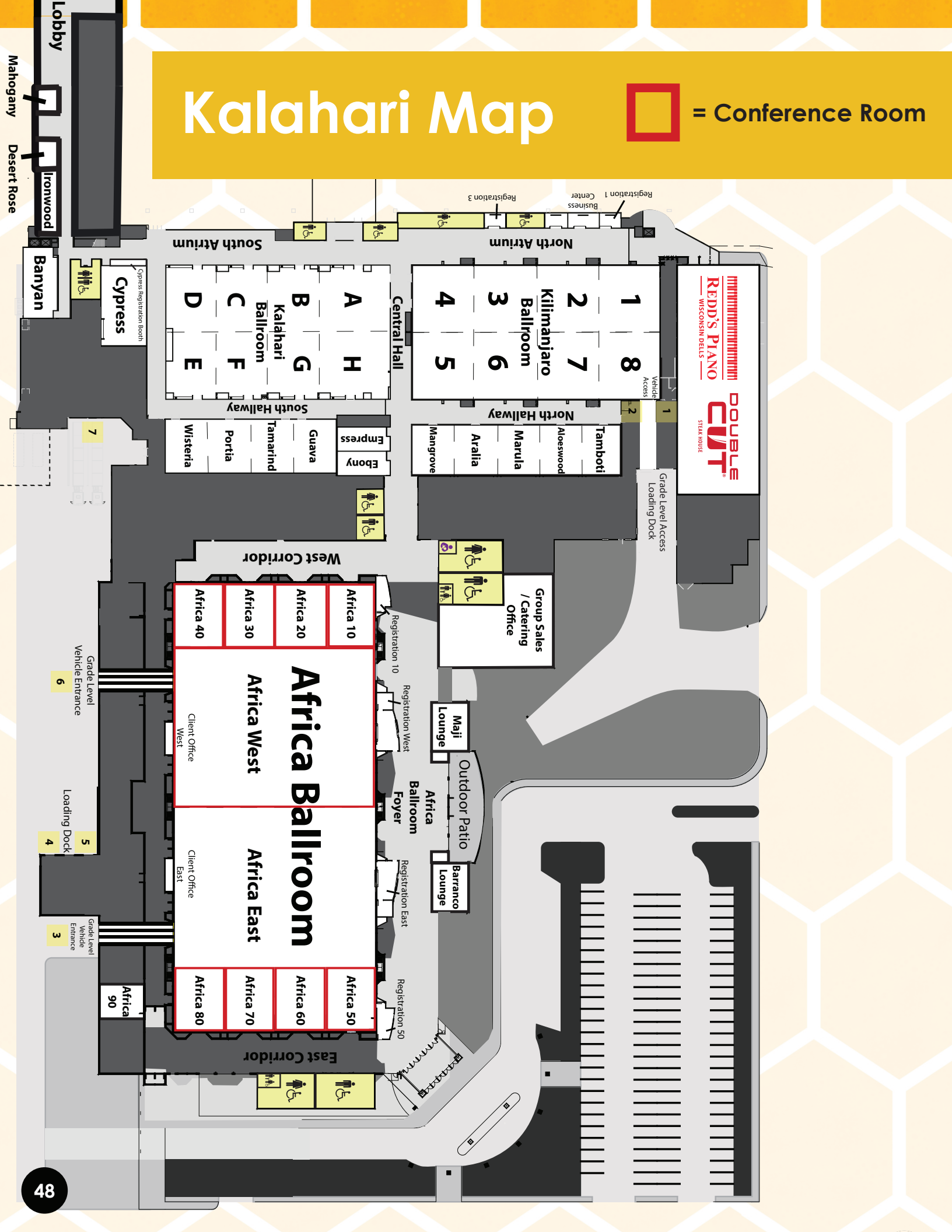




# Kalahari Map



= Conference Room





# Celebrate Democracy – Vote in the 2024 Elections

## 2024 Election Dates

Spring Primary: Feb 20  
Spring Election: Apr 2

Fall Primary: Aug 13  
General Election: Nov 15

**Register to vote online or request your absentee ballot at [MyVote.wi.gov](https://MyVote.wi.gov)**



“Persons with disabilities need to show our elected officials that we are a powerful voting bloc, but our voices won’t be heard until there is an increase in voter turnout. Our vote matters!”

**Neelam Dhadankar, Madison, WI.**



“Being politically engaged is important to me, especially when it comes to deaf related issues. Voting is one way I stay politically engaged.”

**KATY SCHMIDT OAK CREEK, WI**



For help with disability-related voting issues, call the Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline:

**844-DIS-VOTE / 844-347-8683**



“It is important for me to take every opportunity I can to exercise my right to vote. I vote because it is vital for me to participate in a process that will allow my voice to be heard. My vote can influence policies, services and laws that affect my community. My vote will also allow me to pick legislators who will represent my interests. I am a Blind voter and I choose to be part of the solution by voting.”

**Danita Jackson, Milwaukee, WI**



“It’s so important for people with disabilities to be able to vote. I have such pride in participating in democracy, and the accessible voting machine allows me to continue this. Voting is the most powerful way to express your opinion.”

**Chris Woods, Eau Claire, WI**



## Follow Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition:

[www.disabilityvote.org](http://www.disabilityvote.org)

[www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition/](https://www.facebook.com/wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition/) • [info@disabilityvote.org](mailto:info@disabilityvote.org)



disabilityrights | WISCONSIN

Protection and advocacy for people with disabilities.

The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.





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
- 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.







# 2023 Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference

Sponsored by The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



Thank you for attending!



The **Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities**, **People First Wisconsin**, and **InControl Wisconsin** would like to thank you for attending this year's conference. See you next year!



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