

WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



***Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 2019
(July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019)***

The Council envisions a world where all people with physical disabilities have access to the same opportunities and life choices as any other Wisconsin resident.

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (Council) was created by the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1989 to address the needs of people with physical disabilities. The combined efforts of consumers, advocates, and legislators led to Wisconsin State Statute §46.29, establishing a 14-member council, and assigning the Council the following responsibilities:

- Develop, approve, and continue modification of a state plan for people with physical disabilities.
- Advise and make recommendations to state agencies on funding, programs, policies, and legislation that impact people with physical disabilities.
- Promote public awareness about the abilities of and barriers to people with physical disabilities.
- Encourage the development of programs and policies that prevent physical disabilities.
- Submit recommendations in an annual report to the state legislature on imposed ordinances related to accessible parking and motor vehicle use by people with disabilities (Wis. Stat. § 346.50 (3m)).
- Consider all questions and matters concerning people with physical disabilities arising within the Council or brought to the Council for review.
- Form committees for consideration of policies or programs for people with physical disabilities.
- Meet at least four times annually.

The Council members are unpaid volunteers who are appointed by the Governor of Wisconsin for staggered three-year terms, with one position reserved for the Governor's representative. Members are people with physical disabilities; parents, guardians, or relatives of a person with a physical disability; and service providers. The remainder of the Council includes the following organizational liaisons:

- State superintendent of public instruction
- Secretary of transportation
- Secretary of workforce development
- Director of the office of state employment relations
- Secretary of commerce
- Commissioner of insurance
- President of the University of Wisconsin system
- President of the Wisconsin technical college system board
- Executive director of the board on aging and long-term care

The Council envisions a world where all people with physical disabilities have access to the same opportunities and life choices as all Wisconsin residents. To achieve this vision, the Council promotes programs and policies that enable people with physical disabilities to:

- Be included and integrated in their communities.
- Make their own life choices.
- Enter, re-enter, or remain in the workforce to the maximum of their capacity.
- Participate in improving and evaluating services.
- Utilize beneficial assistive technology.
- Access transportation and parking.
- Access affordable housing that is visitable.

The Council has established the following committees to carry out the work of the Council in between its regularly scheduled quarterly meetings: Executive Committee (comprised of Council Officers and Council Committee Chairs); Housing Committee; Transportation Committee; Emergency Preparedness Committee; and the Employment and Health Committee.

The Council is administratively attached to the Department of Health Services.

To learn more about the Council, please visit our [website](http://cpd.wisconsin.gov) (cpd.wisconsin.gov).

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Wisconsin-Council-on-Physical-Disabilities-1890634407878497>

In order for the Council to accomplish its goals and achieve its vision, it is necessary to hear from people with physical disabilities and other concerned individuals. The Council values and relies on input from the public on programs and policies that impact people with physical disabilities. Write, email, or call with your concerns, opinions, or suggestions to the Council. Individuals are also encouraged to attend Council meetings, as all meetings are open to members of the public. Additionally, a portion of every meeting agenda is set aside to receive public comment. Contact the Council for details.

The Council will carefully consider the problems people cite, the laws people feel need to be changed, and suggestions people have to make state programs more effective for people with physical disabilities.

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COUNCIL YEAR-END SUMMARY

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities worked on the following major initiatives during State Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019).



POLICY: ELECTRONIC VISIT VERIFICATION

The [21st Century Cures Act](#) mandates that states implement electronic visit verification (EVV) for all Medicaid-funded personal care services (dressing, bathing, bathroom assistance, etc.) and home health services by the fall of 2020. Home care services (cleaning, laundry, transportation, etc.) will begin in 2022. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) established the EVV forum and workgroup to determine a timeline for the implementation of the program.

EVV ensures that necessary services are being performed by using a cell phone application or landline to ensure that the caregiver is at a client's location to perform the assigned tasks. A location is logged at the point in time when the application is used, but not the entire visit to ensure privacy. The caregiver will access the application or call when the visit is completed.

Concerned that the program could have privacy issues for people with disabilities, a member of the Physical Disabilities Council was appointed to the EVV forum and workgroup. Meetings have been held once a month and public forums have been scheduled quarterly to update stakeholders on the progress of EVV implementation.

The goals of the forum are to:

- Maintain services provided, including community integration.
- Support provider selection.
- Keep an individual's choice worker.
- Ensure needed care is delivered.
- Ensure data is secure and compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

A hard launch date of EVV has not yet been determined by DHS at this time. The Council will continue to monitor EVV, its implementation, and any barriers this may create for people with disabilities in accessing personal care services and home health services.

PROJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT REVISION, COLLABORATION, AND OUTREACH

After witnessing what happened to people with physical disabilities in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, the Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities knew more work needed to be done in Wisconsin to ensure the safety and protect the lives of people with physical disabilities before, during, and after emergencies and natural disasters.

The Council believes that it is important to involve people with disabilities in all levels of government when preparing for emergencies and natural disasters to ensure that the diverse needs of the communities served are taken into consideration. It is equally important for people to have their own individual emergency preparedness plans identified and ready for different types of emergencies. In June 2017, the Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities, in collaboration with the Department of Health Services (DHS), published a toolkit entitled, "Be Prepared, Have a Plan: Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for People with Disabilities." The toolkit was a culmination of thirteen years of work by the Council related to emergency preparedness for

people with physical disabilities. This toolkit serves as a resource for people with disabilities to plan and prepare for emergencies and natural disasters. The toolkit includes tips, checklists, forms, medical emergency wallet card, visual communications tool, and other resources. Funding for production of the original toolkit and materials was provided by Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Program, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) PHEP Grant.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TOOLKIT OUTREACH STATISTICS

- Trained over 800 people statewide on the toolkit.
- Distributed 1,295 toolkits and Go Bags statewide.
- Distributed 1,174 copies of the toolkit's Visual Communications Card.
- Distributed 500 informational postcards on the toolkit.
- Converted toolkit into multiple formats including Spanish, braille, and audio versions.

In 2018, the Council received a grant in the amount of \$35,921 from the DHS Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care (OPEHC). The grant allowed the Council to print and distribute additional toolkits statewide and continue outreach efforts through educational presentations and booth displays featuring the toolkit. The Council also used funds to revise and develop new toolkit materials, including a toolkit postcard and a new emergency preparedness form entitled, "Medical Information and Emergency Health Care Plan."

In addition, grant funds allowed the Council to expand the accessibility of the toolkit to include an audio recording and printed copies in braille. The toolkit and other materials developed by the Council are available on the [Council's website](http://cpd.wisconsin.gov/toolkit.htm) (cpd.wisconsin.gov/toolkit.htm).

Over the past three years, the Council disseminated 1,295 emergency preparedness toolkits and conducted 22 toolkit presentations to a total of 874 individuals throughout Wisconsin. Other states have shown interest in using the checklists and forms as templates to develop their own

state-specific emergency preparedness toolkits. The Council's toolkit serves as a model example of unique considerations or situations that might arise for people with disabilities and offers a variety of forms designed to help individuals personalize a plan for unexpected emergencies or disasters.

PROJECT: DAN JOHNSON ADVOCACY AWARD

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) is pleased and honored to announce in January 2019, it assumed responsibility for the Dan Johnson Advocacy Award.

One of Dan Johnson's many accomplishments was establishing CPD, a Governor appointed Council, established in state statute, solely focused on issues for people with physical disabilities. It is the only physical disabilities council in the country.

Dan was one of many individuals who have had their lives turned upside down by an injury, his as a 15-year-old practicing with the wrestling team. Dan Johnson was much more than an advocate who possessed courage and unwavering persistence; he was generous, kind, compassionate, wise, funny, and gentle. His life was full of colleagues, friends, and family. He always had his work cell phone on, because someone might need his mentoring skills. Among his many accomplishments he treasured the family he had created as a foster parent and adoptive dad. In his wife Kathy, he found someone who shared his passion for family and adventure. Doug Nelson wrote, "I have never known a finer human being or a friend I was prouder to have than Dan Johnson."

During Dan's 36 years of service at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, he was an influential advocate for people with physical disabilities. This award is in memory of Dan and his many accomplishments and was created to recognize people with physical disabilities who are outstanding advocates.

The Dan Johnson Advocacy Award is aimed at recognizing excellence in advocacy, and public policy change for people with physical disabilities, rather than disability advocacy. Individuals nominated should be people with physical disabilities who advocate for people with physical disabilities and have had a positive impact on federal or state legislation, public policy, or programs that affect people with disabilities in Wisconsin. The advocacy work conducted should exceed normal expectations of regular advocacy practice, and should be inclusive and respectful of the values and independence of those who are affected by it.

To learn more about Dan and the award please visit the [Council's website](https://cpd.wisconsin.gov/dj-award.htm) (https://cpd.wisconsin.gov/dj-award.htm).

AWARD ACTIVITIES

Members of the Council, together with Dan's family, recognized that because it is the embodiment of Dan's proudest moment as an advocate, they had a responsibility to acknowledge his contribution to Wisconsin's citizens with physical disabilities by creating this award.

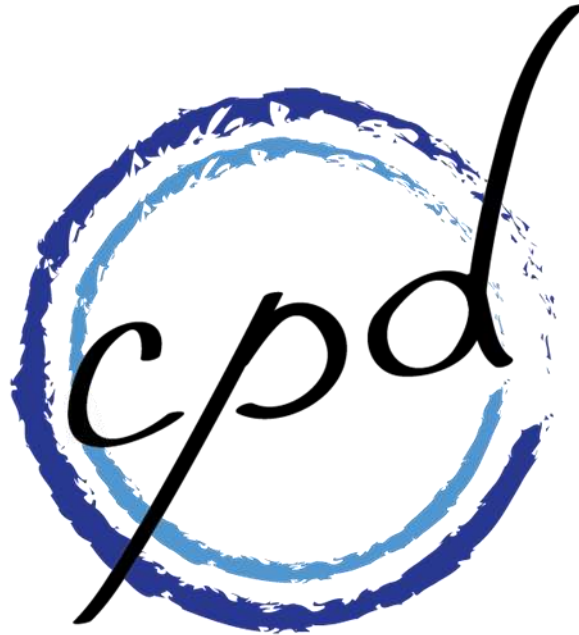
The Council worked with Dan's family to create the award criteria, application process, design the award, and plan the inaugural award ceremony. The Council will report on the award and the award recipient in its State Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report.

Project: Council Logo Redesign

The Council on Physical Disabilities had been using the State Seal and information relating to the Department of Health Services for official communication since 1990. During the discussion related to the Dan Johnson Advocacy Award, it became clear that this also afforded the Council the opportunity to introduce not only the Award but a unique logo for the Council. The idea had been discussed over the years, as there was often

confusion between signature lines on official communication and the relationship to the State Seal and the role of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

The award workgroup took on the task of designing a logo for the Council, as suggested at the Council's spring 2019 quarterly meeting. Dan Johnson's daughter Nicole came up with a dozen or so designs, based on suggestions from the award workgroup. The Council chose the best inclusive design in June of 2019. The circles represent tires on a wheelchair. The stem of the letter d is meant to represent the backrest of a wheelchair, and the stem of the letter p is meant to represent the footrest of a wheelchair.



Looking Forward

The Council is hopeful the initiatives addressed in State Fiscal Year 2019 will result in increased quality of life and opportunities for people with physical disabilities in Wisconsin. The Council completed the State Plan for People with Physical Disabilities for the 2019-2021 biennium and looks forward to continuing to address issues that will allow people with disabilities to have the same opportunities and life choices as every Wisconsin resident. If you would like to work with the Council on projects, policies, or legislation, please contact us.

COUNCIL MEMBERS AND LIASIONS – STATE FISCAL YEAR 2019

Council Member* Name	Location/County	Council Role
Ben Barrett	Trego, WI/Washburn County	Council Chairperson/Person with a Physical Disability
Jason Ostrowski	Waukesha, WI/Waukesha County	Council Vice-Chairperson/Person with a Physical Disability
Roberto Escamilla II	Hayward, WI/Sawyer County	Employment and Health Committee Chair/Person with a Physical Disability
Gabriel Schlieve	Eau Claire, WI/Eau Claire County	Person with a Physical Disability
Dr. Noah Hershkowitz	Madison, WI/Dane County	Person with a Physical Disability
Karen Secor	Montreal, WI/Iron County	Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair/Public Member
Charles Vandenplas	Shawano, WI/Shawano County	Person with a Physical Disability
Nicole Herda	Two Rivers, WI/Manitowoc County	Parent of a Person with a Physical Disability
Jackie Gordon	New Richmond, WI/St. Croix County	Council Secretary/Relative of a Person with a Physical Disability
Kathy Johnson	Madison, WI/Dane County	Relative of a Person with a Physical Disability

Liaison Member Name	Agency	Council Role
Jody Ullman	Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Liaison Member
Heather Bruemmer	Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long-Term Care	Liaison Member
Eva Kubinski	Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction	Liaison Member
Taqwanya Smith	Wisconsin Department of Transportation	Liaison Member
Sarah Lincoln	Division of Vocation Rehabilitation, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development	Liaison Member
Nicholas Zouski	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource	Liaison Member
Eric Cormany	Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance	Liaison Member

*The Council on Physical Disabilities had three member vacancies during State Fiscal Year 2019, which were in the process of being appointed.