

**Self-Advocacy in**  
**WISCONSIN**  
*Badger Pride*



**Envisioning the Future:  
Allies in Self-Advocacy Summit  
Columbus, Ohio  
April 2011**

# Accomplishments

## Legislative:

People First Wisconsin led an advocacy campaign that led to the closure of one of the three state institutions

# **Accomplishments**

## **Leadership Development:**

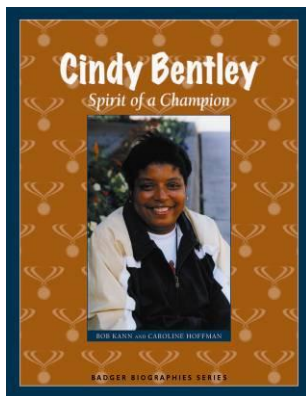
Annual Gathering of Youth at the Circles of Life Conference sponsored by BPDD



# Accomplishments

## Disability Awareness:

- The Cindy Bentley's biography and school presentations
- GSA for Safe Schools campaign



# **Accomplishments**

## **Community Building:**

LOV-Dane (Living Our Visions)

# **Accomplishments**

## **Accessibility & Transportation:**

People First of the Fox Cities – Menasha advocacy efforts that led to community extending sidewalks and lengthening crossing walk times.

## Accomplishments

### Community Employment:

Self advocates from Autism Society of Wisconsin created their own micro enterprise business.



## Successful Tools

- Community organizing
- Mini grants
- Statewide conferences
- Self-directed services





# Successful Tools

- Youth leadership initiatives



- Story collection & dissemination



At the 2009 Wisconsin Statewide Self-Determination Conference, many people generously shared their stories with us. Their stories show the impact self-determination has in their lives. Their stories are powerful and full of hope. They show how it is possible to break down barriers, be included in the community, and of course, be self-determined.

To watch the Self-Determination Stories, visit the WI-BPDD's YouTube Channel.



# Successful Tools

- Local groups on local issues
- Building social relationships
- Self-advocacy groups & advisors



# Successful Tools

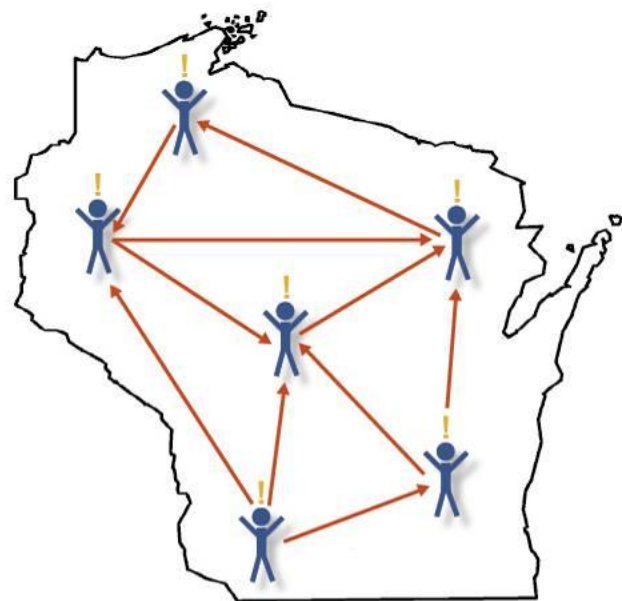
Coalition building:

- Family and youth together
- Community organizations



# Challenges

- Rural vs. urban issues
- Transportation – geography/location



# Challenges

- Funding
- Fighting between groups for funding



# Challenges

- How to bring together people with different disabilities
- Missing younger people



# “Forward” is our state motto

- Teach or train youth with disabilities while they are still in school
- Redefining “self-advocacy”
- Increase support of coalitions of family & youth, advocacy groups and community organizations
- Thinking out of the box around funding
- Nothing About Us Without Us
- Focus on strengths & similarities rather than limitations & differences
- Focus on what’s working: community organizing, youth initiatives, etc.

# Our Group

- **Gary Arms** – People First
- **Amanda Bell** – Community organizer, LOV-Dane (UCEDD)
- **Mary Clare Carlson** – People First Wisconsin
- **Lynn Carus** – People First
- **Andrew Klimek** –
- **Denise Konicki** – Brain Injury Association of Wisconsin
- **Barry Kress** – People First Wisconsin
- **Hope Lloyd** – Disability Rights Wisconsin (P&A)
- **Roxanne Price** – WI Board for People with DD (Board member)
- **Joshua Ryf** – WI Board for People with DD (Staff member)
- **Zach Shariff** – Autism Society of Wisconsin
- **Jeremiah Swisher** – Youth Leadership



# GO Badgers!



**THANK YOU!**