

People First Wisconsin Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

Disability Advocacy Day



Disability Advocacy Day was online this year on March 16th. Ashley Mathy lead the cheers to get the advocates fired up! Some of the cheers were: “Nothing about us without us!”, “Hey hey, ho, ho! COMMUNITY FIRST IS THE WAY TO GO!” And, “What do we want? OUR CARE! Where do we want it? AT HOME! When do we want it? NOW!” Then we broke into small groups to figure what we wanted to say. We had some great discussions and learned a lot from each other!

Summary of the issues

There are three main issues that came up a lot when advocates talked with their legislators: Voting, Direct Care, Family Caregivers. Voting becomes harder when people with disabilities face barriers to vote. These include polling place accessibility issues, limited access to transportation, lack of photo ID and health or disability related concerns that may limit their ability to vote. Some new bills could create even more barriers and make it harder to vote. As for Direct Care Force, the current workforce shortage means people don't have the supports to stay safe and healthy in their homes. And Family Caregivers, Wisconsin Family Caregivers need help!

Suggestions from Advocates

Advocates talked with legislators about these issues, and had ideas to make life better for people with disabilities! To remove barriers for voters with disabilities, we asked them to require poll workers to complete training on disability rights and accommodations. Add ADA compliant screen readers to assure accessible absentee ballots, and say no to bills that make it harder for people with disabilities to vote. As for Direct Care Force, allow low-wage care workers to work and earn more pay without losing health care or childcare help. Direct the Dept. of Workforce Development (DWD) to include the community-based direct care workforce in its Fast Forward grants, and provide emergency funding for community-based supports to keep people in their homes. And for Family Caregivers, increase respite funding throughout Wisconsin. Find out how many hours of care are being provided by family members (or are unfulfilled due to lack of paid service providers). And educate WI employers on how to provide help to employees who are providing care to a family member

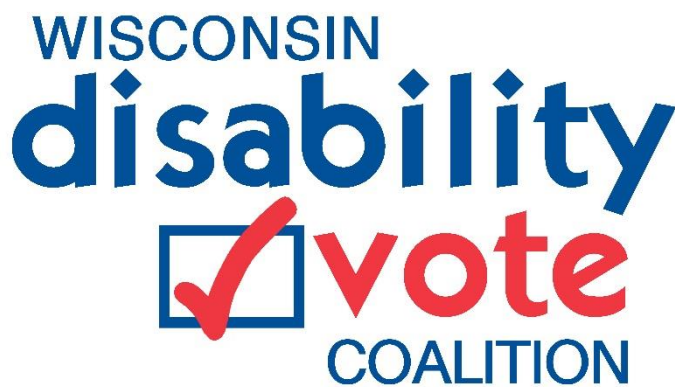
Did you know?

You can call your legislator all-year round! Find your legislator at <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

People First Wisconsin: Voting

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

April 5th is Election Day! Voting is one of our most important rights—and local elections matter! They affect your everyday life! Here's what you need to know!



Important Dates:

- March 31 - The last day to request an absentee ballot.
- April 1 - Last day to register to vote in the clerk's office before Election Day.
- April 5 - Election Day: Polls are open 7am-8pm. Voters can register in person on Election Day. Return your absentee ballot by 8pm.

"Know Your Rights.

The Disability Vote Coalition also reminds us that People with disabilities have the right to have an equal opportunity to vote. And to access disability-related accommodations, if needed. Some of the most widely used accommodations are curbside voting, receiving assistance with marking a ballot, and use of accessible voting machines. If you need assistance, ask for a disability related accommodation. If you have a question about your voting rights, contact the **DRW Voter Hotline at 844-347-8683.**"

You can also find information here: [Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition](#)

Questions?

If you have questions about how to return your absentee ballot or how to use curbside voting or receive other disability related accommodations, call your local municipal clerk.

People First Wisconsin Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

Upcoming Events

Every Monday at 4:30pm-5:30pm Afternoon Meet-Ups

(Same link every time each week)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88519997543>

Meeting ID: 885 1999 7543

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

Every Tuesday at 11:00am Speaker Series

(Same link every time each week)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84304905635>

Meeting ID: 843 0490 5635

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

Every Thursday at 6:00pm-7:00pm Evening Meet-Ups

(Same link every time each week)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86245994772>

Meeting ID: 862 4599 4772

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

The 2nd Tuesday of every month is Movie Night

6:00pm-8:00pm (Same link every time each month)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87663589857>

Meeting ID: 876 6358 9857

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

The next Movie Night is on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 6:00pm-8:00pm

The 4th Wednesday of every month is Chapter Connections

5:00pm-6:00pm (Same link every time each month)

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83951060110>

Meeting ID: 839 5106 0110

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

The next Chapter Connections is on Wednesday, April 22, 2022

5:00pm- 6:00pm.

The next Quarterly Board Meeting is on Saturday, May 7, 2022

9:30am-noon. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9087143392>

Meeting ID: 9087143392

Dial by phone: 1 312 626 6799

People First Wisconsin Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

Covid Updates:



General Updates

- Mask mandates have mostly ended but, you may continue to wear masks when you feel it is safer to do so. **You may still be required to wear masks at some doctor's offices, hospitals, and on transportation like buses, cabs, and airplanes. Call ahead if you're not sure.** People First Staff encourage you to continue to make decisions that keep you and those around you safe.
- Need your Covid 19 vaccine or need a booster? It's not too late. Ask your doctor!
- Looking for updates about Covid 19? Check out the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) meetings. **They host a meeting every Thursday at Noon. The first Thursday always shares Covid updates.** They have a lot of cool topics about self-advocacy and resources.

Always same link <https://zoom.us/j/324815633>

Or call 1-929-436-2866 and the Meeting ID: 324 815 633

Self-Determination Channel: Tune in!

People First and the BPDD received a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) mini-grant through Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE.) The purpose of the grant is to provide information to people with disabilities in our state about COVID 19 vaccinations. Check out a new video on the YouTube Self-Determination Channel that we made as part of the grant project!

Today on the Self-Determination Channel: Shining a Light on Covid-19 News

<https://youtu.be/fxgvwqJyUCQ>

Resources:

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities at www.wi-bpdd.org

Wisconsin Department of Health Services at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov

Center for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov

People First Wisconsin Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

Speaker Series

The People First Wisconsin Speaker Series is **every Tuesday at 11:00am over Zoom**. Outreach Advocate, Nathaniel Lentz, schedules and hosts the series. There have been some really great guests in 2022 so far! Some of the speakers have talked about the agencies or businesses that they work for that provide services and support to people with disabilities. Others have shared their advocacy stories and some have provided training. PFW thanks the following guests for speaking to our members:

- Stacey Wargowsky from Inclusa for sharing information about how different technology can help people with disabilities be more independent.
- Emily Savage for sharing her advocacy story.
- Michelle Roach from Promote Local for training on how to use Google Calendar.
- Jim Pritzkow from the Eagle Country Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for presenting about the different services available from ADRCs.
- Lilly Vogt, Program Manager from Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin (DSAW), for providing an overview of their projects and services.
- Ashley Mathy for sharing videos from her work with the Self-determination YouTube Channel. Shout out to Cindy Bentley, PFW Director, for teaming with Ashley on this!
- Ginger Beuk, PFW Board President, for sharing her advocacy story. Nathaniel is looking for speakers. If you have ideas for speakers, please email him at wiscoadvocate@gmail.com. Please join us for **the Speaker Series on Tuesdays at 11:00am**. The Zoom link is always the same.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84304905635>

Meeting ID: 843 0490 5635

By phone: 1 312 626 6799

People First Wisconsin Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.peoplefirstwisconsin.org
PeopleFirstWi@gmail.com
414-483-2546

Get published in the People First Newsletter!



Want to tell your story? Does your chapter have something you're proud of? Or an event to publicize? We'd love to hear from you! If you'd like something included in the next issue, give us a call at **414-483-2546** or email People1st.advocate@gmail.com

The deadline for stories is **May 15 2022**.



This Newsletter was produced using federal funds given to the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities under PL 106-402 from a grant by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities.