



For Immediate Release

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## **Today Governor Evers signs bi-partisan Guardian Training bill into law**

(Madison) – The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) applauds the legislature and Governor for passing and signing a new law that will provide free accessible web-based training to help prospective guardians understand the roles and responsibilities of a guardian before they are appointed.

“These trainings will be an important resource for people with disabilities, older adults, and their family members as they consider what options best fit them and plan for their futures,” said Beth Swedeen, BPDD Executive Director.

Training topics will include alternatives to guardianship, the roles and responsibilities of guardians, what Wisconsin law requires guardians to do, the rights of people under guardianship, and where to go if you need help.

“We hear from parents, siblings, friends, and extended family throughout Wisconsin about the need for easy to understand information as they consider what support their loved ones want or need with decisions, or find themselves stepping into a new role,” said Swedeen.

These trainings will be developed in plain language and will be available to everyone to access at any time and as often as they want.

“This law is needed, especially as caregivers, existing guardians, and our state’s population age and more of us find ourselves in the position of providing decision-making support to a loved one or needing help ourselves,” said Swedeen.

BPDD was pleased to work with people with disabilities, family members, and other disability and aging advocacy organizations on this strongly bi-partisan piece of legislation led by Sen. Jacque and Rep. Zimmerman and co-sponsored by thirty-eight legislators.

*BPDD is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities More about BPDD [https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Legislative\\_Overview\\_BPDD\\_Final\\_01042020.pdf](https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Legislative_Overview_BPDD_Final_01042020.pdf) .*