

## **2019 VOR - Wisconsin State Report**

Tom Spellman here, VOR's Wisconsin State Coordinator

I am 75 and my wife and I have a daughter who is Intellectually Disabled and also has Cystic Fibrous. She works at a VIP Services a Sheltered Workshop in Elkhorn WI. The services are great but they have not included me in any of their long-range plans discussions. No interest in VOR or allowing me to make a presentation to the Board etc. What I hear is not hearten to say the least.

We have a few active A-Teams in Wisconsin but they are also localized and do not reach out through e-mails etc.

The state service providers reorganized themselves by joining forces the housing folks and the sheltered workshop folk are not called the Disability Service Providers Network. They are strong advocated for My Work My Choice etc. Again, not much outreach to parents or so it seems to me. I could be wrong.

As of January 2019, we have a Democrat for Governor and Lt Governor and Attorney General and Treasurer and Secretary of State. They are working on the biannual budget now and so it will be a fight between the Governor and the Republican Assemble and Senate. Wisconsin did not take the Medicaid Expansion money so that will be big as that was part of what the Governor ran on. His new Secretary of Human Services has not made any moves that I am aware of or have been in the press.

While these activities have taken place the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) is busy holding conferences that exclude any mention of pre-vocational services. Disability Rights Wisconsin the State's Protection and Advocacy Agency is upholding the National effort of not representing any individual who would benefit from "sheltered work". Also not representing any individuals wish to live in a CFR

The State, now many years ago, set the housing standard as 8 people per facility and closed all but two of the State's housing options for IDD. A State facility for the medically fragile and a State facility for the behavioral challenged are still operated by the State. As of two years ago DRW as part of their annual plan still had closing both facilities as a goal. They have backs off because I challenged them but made it clear that anytime they want to push for closing them in the future they will.

Not many VOR members in Wisconsin

On a personal note I applied to make a presentation to the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). The focus of the presentation was on working Together for change that benefits ALL disabled individuals. Not likely to be approved.