



State of Wisconsin
Council on Physical Disabilities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE
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Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities Announces the Dan Johnson Advocacy Award

MADISON, WI — The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) is pleased and honored to announce, as of January 2019, it will assume responsibility for the Dan Johnson Advocacy Award.

One of Dan'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 (DHS), he was an influential advocate for people with physical disabilities. Dan served as the staff liaison to both the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities (GCPD) and the Council on Physical Disabilities. The GCPD established the Dan C. Johnson Award for Advocacy Excellence in his memory in 2018, but after further consideration a joint decision was made that the award should be placed with the Council on Physical Disabilities. CPD wants to extend a thank you for their efforts.

CPD will be releasing award criteria and application materials on March 15, 2019, and will host the inaugural ceremony for the award in October 2019. For more information on the award and the ceremony, please visit: cpd.wisconsin.gov.

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cpd.wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities (CPD) 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, which established the 14 member council and assigned the CPD with 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 (s. 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.

CPD 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, CPD promotes programs and policies that enable people with physical disabilities.

To learn more about the CPD, please visit: cpd.wisconsin.gov.