

Employment First



In Erie County

Sept/Oct 2016

Volume 2, Issue 5

Recognizing Outstanding Advocacy in Erie County

Synergy 2016 was a wonderful success. Ten members of the Self-Advocates of Erie County attended after raising over \$3,000 to cover their cost of attendance.

Thursday October 6th was especially exciting as Erie County collected three separate ESDY Awards!

Chris C was honored for his example of advocacy. His nomination highlighted his many accomplishments

including working two jobs and moving into his own place!



James M was honored for his many advocacy efforts that include coordinating Special Olympic bowling events, Aktion Club, and leading the Self-Advocates of Erie County as group president.

Carly S received the highest honor of the day with the Steve Cooley Award, which is personally picked by the OSDA president. Carly was honored for her work at treasurer of the Self-Advocates of Erie County, state & local STIR trainer, and her long term participation with OSDA.



Have a story you want to share? Contact Jennifer Yingling via email at Jyingling@ecbdd.org to share your own story this year.



Windmills - Employer Opportunity

On Friday October 14th, the Erie County Board of DD partnered with Family Health Services and Firelands Regional Medical Center to host a regional Windmills training for healthcare professionals. Windmills is a disability



awareness training specially designed for employers and HR professionals. During this event, information specific to healthcare professionals was

shared. Attendees had the opportunity to examine personal attitudes towards people with disabilities, enhance their cultural awareness and learn about the ADA.

Self-Advocate member Allyson was featured as she spoke about her journey to work at

Firelands Regional Medical Center and her experience working there for the past 15 years.

Allyson is a compelling and passionate public speaker. Her story to employment provides a personal look into how individuals of all ability bring their many talents and skills to an employer.

Road to Work - Taking the Drivers Seat

Over the summer local group the Self-Advocates of Erie County partnered with area providers Ability Works and Goodwill as a part of their summer youth work experience. Group members were invited into the agencies to talk with youth who were taking their first steps to learn about community employment.

Six different members of the advocate group shared their own personal work stories with the teens, many of whom have never

worked before. This presentation was especially unique because the teens were able to hear from adults that also have different disabilities. The presenters shared work stories and tips with the youth.



Julie, who works at a local restaurant told the kids, “Anyone can work. Even if you have a disability you can work. Right now my work is hiring, I’ll get you an application. I mean you have to start sometime, why not start now.”

Others spoke about the importance of having money to pay bills and buy the things they want. All presenters work in the community. In total close to 40 youth combined had the chance to hear the Road to Work stories.

Community Transportation - Advocating to Get Around

The Erie Regional Planning Commission (and Metropolitan Planning Organization) needs to heard from you! They are currently working with local individuals and agencies to write a transportation plan that looks at the community transportation needs of the elderly, disability, and low income residents in Erie County. With this completed transportation plan community

agencies and companies will be able to apply for federal and state funds that they would not otherwise be able to access.

Confirmation (that people with disabilities can lead the way) is a big part of Self-Determination. By sharing you experience with local transportation (such as taxi providers, STS, SPARC, and others) you will have a voice in this plan

and that can lead to real change in our community. You may have heard the phrase “nothing about us without us”, well you are being asked to the table. Please contact Nicole Grohe at 419-627-7793 or email her at NGrohe@eriecounty.oh.gov with your transportation stories, concerns or ideas. Share your thoughts on how transportation needs can be met for those with disabilities in our community!

Upcoming EVENTS

Upcoming Events and

STABLE Accounts. Wednesday, Nov 9th 6:00-7:30pm at ECBDD

Join us and hear from Benefits Expert Dawn McDiffit as she provides important information about Ohio’s new STABLE Accounts. This is a great opportunity for families and individuals of any age! More information can be found at www.stableaccount.com.

Hot Topics: Independent Living Resources. Nov 10th 6-7pm EHOVE Building A Room 101

A panel of people will discuss the various living options within our community and how to prepare individuals to live independently. Hear what one family learned along the way to independent living!

Save the Date! ECBDD Santa’s Workshop. Dec 3rd 9am-12pm

Join us at the ECBDD for this fun and free annual event! This family event features crafts, a visit with Santa and a pancake breakfast (fundraiser for Lions). Self-Advocates of Erie County will be hosting their yearly poinsettia sale and new raffle!

ECBDD Employer of the Year

The ECBDD Award Banquette 'Opening Doors' was held on Thursday October 13th. This event is a wonderful opportunity to thank and recognize the many community partners that work with us and the individuals we serve. One of the awards received at this event is the Employer of the Year. Nominees of this award should demonstrate a positive

hiring practice and demonstrate a workplace whose culture promotes inclusion and teamwork.

This year's Employer of the Year Award went to Sawmill Creek Resort - Scott Lilli and Diana Beaver. Scott and Diana focus on inclusion and recognize the talents and skills of employees making sure they are placed in the right position. As supervisors they

treat all employees with respect, working hard to match positions to learning style and employee needs. They are solution oriented and work to partner with individuals on scheduling and other needs. Congrats to Sawmill Creek Resort and Scott and Diana!



OOD Works

OOD stands for Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. OOD recently announced the approaching launch of their new online resource called "OOD Works". Designed to increase awareness about the vocational rehabilitation process this online portal is utilizing technology to

break down barriers. One advantage to the online portal is accessibility for those who may have limited transportation. Here is more from the release "Visitors to this new website will be able to learn what vocational rehabilitation (VR) is, how it works, and take an online assessment to

determine if VR services are the right choice for them. If so, visitors can begin the application process without having to visit an office. When they do arrange to meet with a counselor, they can use that valuable time to begin the career planning process". Stay tuned for more!

Family Corner - Family Information Network (FIN)

FIN group is a chance for families and guardians to get together, learn something new and support each other. In July we learned about Essential Oils and heard from the Clearwater COG. In August we hosted Ohio SIBS and learned about their upcoming SIBS conference November 11th-12th.

The October meeting featured the Assurance Network.

Join us in November and hear from Dawn McDiffit to learn about STABLE accounts.



FIN meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month from 6-7:30pm at the ECBDD.

Contact Megan at metzel@eriecbdd.org for more information or to be added to the FIN reminder list.

Transition Weekend - For Families and Youth

If you are a transition age youth you should have received a save the date/info packet for the first Transition Weekend being held at the ECBDD. This two day event promises to be an exciting and informative time for individuals and their families. If you are in transition (ages 14 through graduation) but you did not receive information about this event please contact event coordinator Jennifer Yingling at JYingling@eriecbdd.org or talk with your SSA.



Employment First In Erie County

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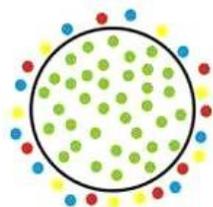


Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome

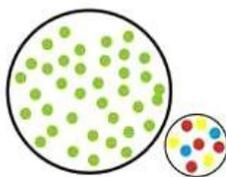
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From the Superintendent Carrie Beier

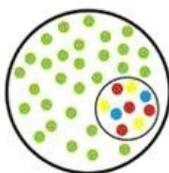
Our agency strives to empower people and their families while living, learning, working, and being a part of the community. We are committed to partnering to provide opportunities for employment and community integration for all individuals through person centered planning and supports. People will recognize possibilities, pursue opportunities, and achieve personal success as valued members within the community.



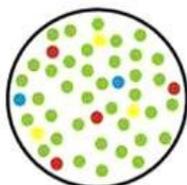
Exclusion



Segregation



Integration



Inclusion

Different Realities, Different Possibilities.
Every person has a story. What's yours?