



Employment First

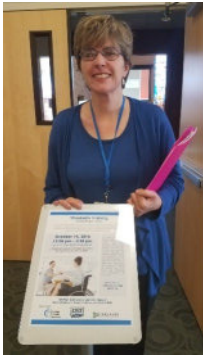


In Erie County

Nov/Dec 2016

Volume 2, Issue 6

In My Own Words - **Allyson Shares her Employment Story**



My name is Allyson Lindquist. I live in Sandusky with my parents and my golden retriever Bentley.

I enjoy many activities including singing in two choirs, cooking class, attending self-advocacy meetings, being involved with my church, and of course, working at Firelands Regional Medical Center. I would like to share with you my life journey from high school graduation to working in the community.

I graduated from Sandusky High School in 1998, also attending EHOVE's early childhood education program, where I earned very high grades and many awards. Upon graduation, I hoped to find a job in a child care center. I worked that summer as a busgirl on Tuesday and Thursday late at night. Not an ideal schedule, but better than no job.

By fall, it was apparent that I was not going to find a

job in a day care in spite of my 3 years of training. So with limited options at that time, I started working at a sheltered workshop, Double S Industries. There was ever enough work to keep us busy; I was bored and stressed.

During the week I volunteered as a storyteller at Kiddie Korral. Hopeful that might lead into employment, I used what I learned to school to plan story themes; using puppets & finger plays to songs and poems.

After a year of volunteering and searching, I still didn't have a job.

In July 1999, I went to Judevine Center in St. Louis for a vocational evaluation. Experts helped me analyze my strengths and potentials to determine my vocational direction. I was observed at four job sites and was provided a detailed report of my work performance and ability, as well as, ideas and accommodations that would benefit me.

Most importantly I came away knowing that "I COULD work."

At the suggestion of a friend I began volunteering at the hospital filing skilled care documents two days a week for 4 hours. Because of my detailed and meticulous nature, I was one of their best filers. I did my stack and corrected the miss-files of other people.

News of my efficiency was getting around. This is when Sue Kimball, Head of Registration, approached me with a job offer. The hospital, along with the job carver and job coach, collaborated to create my new paid position. I continued filing, but the setting was adjusted to my needs. I would have a job coach to help me learn new responsibilities. This was essential for my long-term success; I could become efficient and independent in my new job.

I am very proud to have worked for Firelands Regional Medical Center for 15 years. I love my job and appreciate the people I work with. I believe we

benefit from one another! My advice to those with a disability who are doubtful about their ability to enter the work force and make a difference is:

*If I can do it,
so can you!*

Thank you for letting me share. **Allyson Lindquist**



Note from editor: For the past year Allyson has been a very active member of the Self-Advocates of Erie County. She sat on the Art and Advocacy Committee as a planner and presenter, she was in Synergy Club and attended the conference for the first time this year, and was a featured speaker at the October Windmills Training. She served as a local STIR leader and her ambition is to become a statewide STIR trainer. Great work!

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

Transitioning Success - Our First Transition Weekend



November 5th and 6th was the first ECBDD Transition Weekend. Different from other “transition fairs” the transition weekend was developed to be a conference like event with separate learning tracks for adults and youth.

Transition topics of the weekend included IEP 101, backwards planning, benefits and social security, guardianship, independent living, employment planning and services, and human sexuality/puberty. Parents attending found great value in the information. One parent wrote, “*I thought it was great being about to access a lot of information in one setting*” Another wrote the event was, “*very informative, and I learned a lot of things that I was never aware of before*”.

While parents learned the youth were hard at work. Every youth in attendance was provided a “Lifebook” to work on as a part of the weekend.

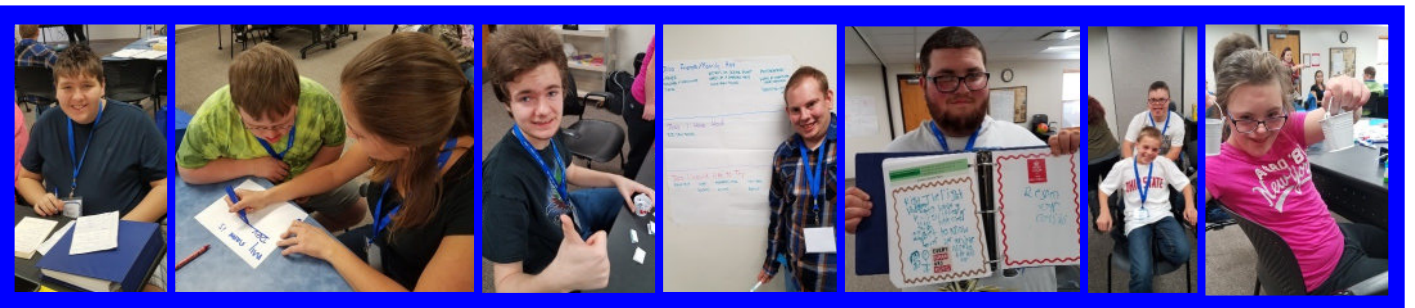
Part scrapbook, part journal, part activities, the “Lifebook” is a youth friendly tool that asks questions and provides a space for the child to think about their life as an adult.

The hope is attendees will continue to work on their “Lifebook” at home or school. In turn the youth can use this book in their IEP, ISP, or other meetings to share their voice in their plans!

The youth track was full of new learning opportunities. Kids completed activities such as the “bucket list” and “right on, no way”. Marissa Merk, from Life Out Loud, joined the fun on day

one. Together kids learned about dreams and goals and did an employment activity. The Self-Advocates of Erie County made an appearance. Kids learned about self-advocacy and self-determination from people who really know what it is all about! Another highlight of the weekend was an advocate panel. Two adults, who themselves have disabilities, spoke about their own experience with transition and becoming an adult. One parent was overheard saying, “*that is what I want for my child,*” as the speakers described their experience with living on their own, paving a career path, and getting married.

A huge thank you to all who attended and made this event possible!



Family Corner - Family Information Network (FIN)

There is no FIN meeting scheduled in December due to the holiday hustle and bustle. See you in the New Year! Contact Megan at metzel@eriecbdd.org to be added to the FIN reminder list or to share a topic.

Lifebook - You Try It!

Below you will find one of the many activities in the Lifebook. This featured activity is from Chapter 1 *Knowing Myself*. Take a few minutes and complete the activity for yourself. Fill in the boxes to make your own Positive Person Profile Enjoy!

What people like/admire about me.

Add picture of yourself here!

What makes me happy!

My dreams:

Important in my life (people or things):

Upcoming Events and Training Opportunity

Self-Advocates of Erie County Meeting 01/09/17 4pm-5:30pm ECBDD

A new year and a few new officers. Join us for the monthly advocacy meeting held at the ECBDD. This meeting is a great way to learn about and become involved with area advocacy efforts. Come, learn, and meet some new people.

EHOVE Hot Topics - Behavior Support & Interventions. 02/28/17 6-7:30pm. Building A

Mary Sentelle from Dynamic Pathways will provide tips at providing positive intervention to help understand and avoid inappropriate behaviors in many environments. This free event is held at EHOVE. Snacks & prizes provided.

Family Information Meeting - Remote Monitoring. 01/11/17 6 - 7:30pm. ECBDD

FIN meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. This is a great chance to families to get together, talk, and hear about the month's topics!

Upcoming EVENTS

Employment First In Erie County

Erie County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
4405 Galloway Road
Sandusky, Ohio
44870

Phone: 419-626-0208

Employment First Advisor
Jennifer Yingling
E-mail: jyingling@eriecbdd.org



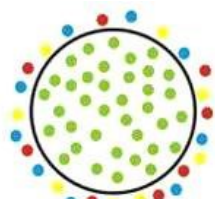
Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome

Employment First in Erie County

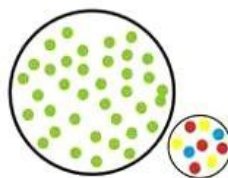


From the Superintendent Carrie Beier

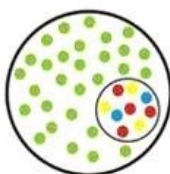
Our agency strives to empower people and their families while living, learning, working, and being a part of the community. We are committed to partnering to provide opportunities for employment and community integration for all individuals through person centered planning and supports. People will recognize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



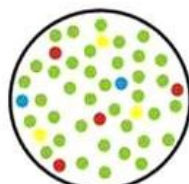
Exclusion



Segregation



Integration



Inclusion