

Employment First

In Erie County

March/April

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Self-Advocacy Awareness Week! New this year!

March is Developmental Disability Awareness Month in Ohio!

In honor of this month Ohio hosts a large legislative day at the Statehouse. In years past group members have met with Representative Steve Arndt and Senator Randy Gardner. This year ten (10) group members will attend advocacy day once again. They will hear from Ohio Advocacy Leaders and meet with government officials. The group will share their thoughts and concerns with officials while representing our community.



New this year to Ohio is Self-Advocacy Awareness Week! This information filled week kicked off on Monday, March 6th and runs through Friday, March 10th.

Self-Advocacy is about having a voice in your life, knowing who you are, and working to achieve your goals. Celebrating Self-Advocacy Awareness Week group members held a local tour where they had the chance

to meet with Erie County Commissioners Pat Shenigo and Matt Old. They also presented to Goodwill and toured the Sandusky Register.

On Wednesday March 8th the group traveled to Columbus to the Ohio Statehouse for DD Awareness and Advocacy Day.

Then wrapping up the week the group hosted Dance to Awareness, a hugely successful event! Great job to everyone who participated in our first Self-Advocacy Awareness Week!



Speak Up. Stay Safe - Community Safety Training

More and more those served by the ECBDD are working, volunteering, learning, and participating in the community. People are getting jobs, making new friends, and giving back more than ever before! With an increase to community there may also come an increase to new risks and challenges.

DODD* and partners

have developed a peer training called "Speak. Stay Safe". There are two types of training being offered. Option 1 for families, professionals, caregivers explains the purpose and content of the peer-to-peer training and highlights the training materials. Option 2 is a peer-to-peer training for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Training topics include:

- ◆ Healthy relationships and boundaries
- ◆ Sexuality and dating
- ◆ Abuse, bullying and harassment
- ◆ Human trafficking
- ◆ Alcohol, drugs and weapons
- ◆ Online safety.

Some of the material is

blunt, graphic and honest.

A mental health professional will be available to provide support at each peer-to-peer session. "Speak Up. Stay Safe" is occurring across Ohio.

Go to www.planetreg.com/speakup-staysafe to find a training near you.

These trainings are free to attend and are expected to fill very quickly

Lifebook Pilot - Working with Schools

Several schools in Erie County have been testing out the new "Lifebooks". The "Lifebooks" first made an appearance at the 2016 ECBDD Transition Weekend. Part scrapbook, part journal, part activity, the "Lifebook" is a space for individuals to think about show what they want in their life, both now and in the future.

Transition age students (those ages 14-graduation) are especially pressed to think about and plan for life after high school. As a part

of the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) students and their teams need to plan for and work towards transition goals, including employment, post secondary education, and living/housing goals.

Together, teachers and transition educators have teamed up with the ECBDD to try out the new "Lifebook". The team will go chapter by chapter to complete the activities and pages in a classroom setting. The completed

pages can then be used as a part of the IEP at the school level and the ISP (Individualized Service Plan) at the county board level.

In the end, the hope is the "Lifebook" will empower individuals (youth or adults) to bring their voice to their plans.



Sizzling Summer of Advocacy - Fun, Friends, Food at Quaker Steak & Lube

Looking for something to do this summer? Well there is a new self-advocacy program in Erie County! This special summer group will have a fun new take on self-advocacy. No agenda, no reports, no planning but a great time!

Brought to you by the Self-Advocates of Erie County, this summer advocacy group will meet monthly at the local favorite Quaker Steak & Lube (YUM!).

Every month will feature a great advocacy game and a guest speaker from our community. Topics will include Project STIR, basic budgeting, public speaking and a whole lot more!

This summer group will also feature an advocate of the month along with the chance to win some neat prizes!



Summer dates are Thursday: April 13th, May 11th, June 15th, July 13th, August 17th, and September 21st.

Doors will open as early at 5:30pm. Meeting is held from 6-8pm

Spaces are limited so please register if you want to join!

Email or call Jennifer Yingling for more information.

Upcoming Events and Training Opportunities

Upcoming EVENTS

Hot Topics: Being a Rep Payee
03/16/2017 6-7:30pm EHOVE Building A Room 101

Dawn McDiffitt, Benefits Coordinator from Clearwater Council of Government (COG), will provide information around being a rep payee for an individual through Social Security. She will discuss responsibilities.

Speak Up, Stay Safe: Community Health and Safety Training

Free training for family and individuals.

Family Training - 04/04/17. 1:00-4:30 at 1154 Larc Lane Toledo

Individual Training - 04/25/17. 9:30-4:30pm (same location).

More info online at:

www.disabilityempowerment.net

Family Information Network.
04/12/17 6-7:30pm. ECBDD

The Family Information Network (FIN) is a chance for families and caregivers to meet and share resources. In April we will host the Erie County Planners Office as they seek feedback on their "Coordinated Transportation Plan". Please attend to share you opinion on their plan.

Lifebook - You Try It!

The Lifebook has been a feature of the Employment First newsletter. This month's activity is in honor of Self-Advocacy Awareness Week! From Project STIR its "Right on! Or No Way! Take a few minutes and complete the activity for yourself. Feel free to share you finished work and it may be posted on Facebook.

Directions:

Look over the activities below. Some are "right on" meaning you like these activities. Some are "no way" meaning you don't like these activities. Put a ✓ next to the "right on" activities and a ✗ next to the "no way" activities.

Camping



Jogging



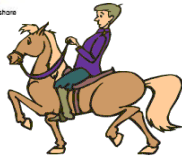
Hiking



Riding bikes



Horseback Riding



Golfing



Swimming



Walking



Celebrating - Self-Advocacy Awareness

Self-Advocacy (put simply) is about having a say in your life. It is about speaking up for yourself, finding your voice, and making your own decisions about your life. Self-Advocacy is a skill that can be learned! Programs such as Project STIR (Steps Towards Independence and Responsibility) are a great way for people to learn self-advocacy skills. Self-Advocacy is important, especially when it comes to employment!

Calling STIR Graduates!

If you are a STIR graduate and want to be involved with STIR and self-advocacy locally you may want to join the Local Project STIR Trainers Group. This group meets the first Monday of the month at the Erie County Board of DD from 2:30-3:30. Meetings resume in April. Call Jennifer Yingling at 419-502-4124 for more information.

Employment First In Erie County

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Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome



Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Supporting People To: Live • Learn • Earn

www.eriecbdd.org

