

Employment First

In Erie County

March/April 2015

Can Do Like You - DD Awareness Month in Ohio!

Volume 1, Issue 2

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness month. The 2015 theme - *Can Do Like You* - encourages all of us to focus on the talents and abilities of people and how they make a difference in our community.

Individuals across Erie County demonstrate the *Can Do Like You* attitude everyday.

Can Do Like You means—volunteering, driving a car, joining a bowling league and having a pitcher of beer, perusing post secondary education,

spending money, going on dates and getting married! Everyday people with developmental disabilities show they “can do” and are an important part of this community.



Within the heart of each community everyone belongs. ECBDD March DD Awareness month logo

Three members of the Self Advocates of Erie County will be attending DD Awareness and Advocacy Day on March 3rd at the Ohio Statehouse. They will have the opportunity to speak with state legislators and hear about policy and legislative changes across Ohio that could impact them.

This same day, March 3rd, the Erie County Board of DD will be hosting our annual open house. This is a wonderful chance for

the community to see the great services offered. We will be hosting guest speaker Kristen Helling from DODD to talk about Employment First and the Path to Employment. Check out ErieCBDD.org for all event details (or to RSVP for DODD presentation).

Send in your *Can Do Like You* story to be featured on our website and employment first [Facebook page!](https://www.facebook.com/Employment1stofErieCounty) [Facebook.com/Employment1stofErieCounty](https://www.facebook.com/Employment1stofErieCounty)



[The Path to Employment](#) has four unique spots. Today we will look at spot one. Chris has worked at Berardi's for the past 8 years. He talks fondly of his job and has lot of different

Path to Employment - Spot One "I have a job and would like a better one or to move up"

responsibilities. Chris also works part-time at Goodwill. Chris has a job, but that doesn't mean he is done with his career goals. He is currently working with [OOD](#)* to reach his next career goal of

working on cars! Although employed, he is looking to move up in a job field that really meets his interests. Be sure to check out next month's feature to hear more about Chris's story.

Where do you fall on the Path?

1. I have a job and would like a better one or to move up
2. I want a job! I need help to find one
3. I'm not sure about work. I need help to learn more
4. I don't think I want to work, but I may not know enough about it.

Ohio Employment First - Community Employment

[Employment First was signed into rule in 2012](#) by Governor Kasich. A part of the rule includes defining different words or phrases.

Knowing the language and words of the Employment First rule may help you to feel more empowered when it comes to making employment decisions.

Like art or music, employment can mean different things to different people. “Community Employment” is defined in the rule as *competitive employment that takes place in an integrated setting*. So now we have

to ask, what is “competitive employment”?

“Competitive employment” is *full or part time work in the competitive labor market, in which payment is at or above the minimum wage and not less than the wage or benefit paid for the same/similar work performed by someone who does not have disabilities*.

So basically “community employment” means the person is working in an integrated setting and making at least minimum wage, if not more.

The two definitions are important when selecting your spot on the Path to Employment, as spot 1 “I have a job but would like a better one or to move up” specifically applies to “community employment” under the Employment First rule.



www.OhioEmploymentFirst.org for more

The entire [Employment First rule](#) can be found online at:

www.OhioEmploymentFirst.org

Goodwill Hosting 2nd Annual Spring Career Event in March

Goodwill is hosting their second annual [Spring Career Event](#) March 12th at Vanguard Tech Center and March 26th at EHOVE (both from 4-6:30pm). Last year’s event had over 400 job seekers and 70 employers in attendance with over 200 open positions. The event is free to ALL job seekers and will offer them the opportunity to meet face to face with employers and

attend free workshops: Resume Writing, Interview Skills, Applying for a Job, and Dress for Success. For each workshop the jobseeker attends, he/she will receive a voucher

50 Employers from All Industries

Onsite Interviews

FREE Workshops

Enter to win a FREE iPad

to receive one free professional clothing item from the Goodwill Career Corner Store. Job seekers are encouraged to dress to impress and bring their resumes.

Please contact Shannon Kieffer via phone at 419-625-4744 or email: skieffer@goodwillsandusky.org with any questions.

Upcoming Events and Training Opportunity

Upcoming EVENTS

2015 Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day

March 3rd 10am Statehouse Atrium. All must register. See www.ddc.ohio.gov for more info

ECBDD Open House

Join ECBDD for our [annual open house](#). March 3rd 7:30 am–4:30pm Guest speaker Kristen Helling (RSVP), Help Me Grow events and

more. See www.ErieCBDD.org for more info

Kristen Helling at EHOVE

Employment First general overview. March 19th 5-6:30pm building A. contact MMerk@ehove.net for more info

Proposed Changes to Budget

If you are served through a waiver or

on the waiting list you will want to attend this event to learn about proposed budget changes. March 26th Hollywood Casino 9-4pm. [See our homepage for link to registration.](#)

Spring Job Fair

OhioMeansJobs Erie County job fair at Kalahari. [April 16th 1-5pm](#) FREE for all job seekers

Community Highlight - Ohio Youth Leadership Forum

Ohio Youth Leadership Forum is designed to help youth with disabilities demonstrate their leadership potential.

Youth will be introduced to professionals with disabilities and role models who encourage youth to realize their ability, rights, and obligation to pursue meaningful employment and community leadership.

The program boasts “Exciting, fun, educational four-day training

program includes meeting with government officials, tour of the State Capitol, and exciting programs with community leaders and celebrities”.

Students (11th 12th+ grade) must apply and be selected to participate. There is no cost to attend.

Application deadline:

**Postmarked no later than
March 31, 2015.**



Go to www.gcpd.ohio.gov for more information. ([Click tab Youth Leadership Forum](#))

Words get in the way. No one knows this better than families!

IEP, ISP, IPE, backwards planning, path to employment, discovery... the list of words goes on and on. What’s often most frustrating is different agencies use different words to describe the same thing! The truth is families with a transition age youth (14-graduation) can easily find themselves with many different agencies on their child’s team.

And while agencies may not be able to adopt new vocabulary, families and the team need to speak the same language in order to operate effectively.

“What’s often most frustrating is different agencies use different words to describe the same thing!”

The [Transition Vocabulary Crosswalk](#) is a reference tool for families, youth and their team. You can view this tool online at www.ErieCBDD.org under the transition tab or at www.OhioEmploymentFirst.org. Even if reviewing for your own reference, this resource tool can help families feel more empowered and not let the words get in the way!

Family Corner

On Feb 11th family members met at the ECBDD for the Family meeting. The hot topic of the night was the proposed elimination of independent (Medicaid) providers as a part of Governor Kasich’s new budget. (See upcoming events for info opportunity) Families determine the topic for

the month. **Next meeting 03/11/15 6-7:30pm at the ECBDD.** Contact Megan Etzel at metzel.eriecbdd.org for info.



Can’t make it to the next family meeting? Have questions about Employment First or topics? Have a story to share? Please email EmploymentFirst@eriecbdd.org with any questions, ideas, or feedback! We’d love to hear from you.

Employment First In Erie County

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Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Employment1stOfErieCounty

Check out the Erie County Board of DD website at www.ErieCBDD.org

You read our newsletter digitally on our website for a more interactive experience.

Feedback, questions, stories always welcome. Just email EmploymentFirst@ErieCBDD.org

Employment First in Erie County

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

“Within the heart of each community, everyone belongs”. This is the message that best describes the 2015 strategic plan of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. From Help Me Grow to Community Connections the ECBDD 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.

