

Employment First

In Erie County

A New Year brings A New(s) Letter

Change, progress, new. Whatever word comes to mind Employment First is something different. But different does not have to mean scary. Employment First is a response across the nation to the desire and rights of those served within the Developmental Disability system.

To help families and individuals be more empowered and knowledgeable on the topic of Employment

First, the Erie County Board of Developmental Disability (ECBDD) in partnership with the local community would like to present this family friendly newsletter *Employment First in Erie County*.

Each Bi-Monthly newsletter will include facts and information around Employment First, community resources, employment success stories, and other articles to help families and individuals learn about the

many pieces of this state wide initiative.

This newsletter is designed to get valuable information out to families and individuals. We are looking to hear your thoughts, concerns, and ideas.

Please feel free to interact with the newsletter by contacting:

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Employment First Advisor
Jennifer Yingling.



Path to Employment

The journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. The Path to Employment is that first step. As a part of the person centered planning process Service and Support Administra-

tors (SSAs) will now help each (working age) person find their spot on the Path. The Path has four spots that a person will choose from. By determining where someone falls on the

Path, the SSA can ensure that each person's Individual Service Plan (ISP) truly addresses their employment goals! Talk to your SSA about Path tools to learn more.

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.

Website Spotlight - Ohio Employment First

www.OhioEmploymentFirst.org is the official State of Ohio website on Employment First. This site is user friendly and has a lot of information about Employment First. Whether you are a parent of an adult or transition age youth this website has information for you. To receive email updates from the website click "join our mailing list" on the left hand side of the

homepage. Read through the Employment First rule, Path to Employment tool, or Transition Planning tool to learn more about the bits and pieces of Employment First.

The website is also a wonderful resource for training information and opportunities. Webinars on various topics can be viewed from the convenience of

your computer! Check out all the upcoming events and resources listed on the Ohio Employment First website.



Check out www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Employing People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) comprise an underutilized population of potential employees proven to be a positive influence on coworkers, customers, the community and a company's bottom line."

In 2014 the Institute of Corporate Productivity (i4cp) published a comprehensive report on research findings that speak to the reality

of hiring a person with IDD. Findings include the statement, "The profile an employee with IDD reads like that of an ideal

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employee". Employers rated this group's performance factors at 89% dependability, 88% engagement & 79% work quality. Reports such as this sends a clear message to employers—you can't afford not to hire from this group of qualified job seekers! To read the entire study go to www.imintohire.org

Up Coming Events and Training Opportunity

Kristen Helling, *Employment First Project Manager* from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities will be discussing the initiative that Governor Kasich signed into effect March 19, 2012 declaring Ohio an Employment First state. This initiative is based on outcomes, stating that

employment should be the first option for people with disabilities. Come hear how this directly affects the schooling a student receives, as well as potential and existing agency supports.

March 19, 2015 at 6:30pm
EHOVE building A

Upcoming **EVENTS**

This upcoming event is brought to you by EHOVE Hot Topics. Hot Topics is hosted throughout the year and covers a variety of topics from expert presenters.

Community Highlight - OhioMeansJobs Erie County

OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) Erie County offers many free employment services to help all residents of Erie County prepare for and find employment.

Every month OMJ hosts a variety of free informational workshops such as basic computer skills, resume building, career assessment, or mock interviews.

In addition to skill building workshops OMJ features FREE

access to computers, online job searching, printing, fax, and phone services. Staff is friendly and willing to help with any questions while at OMJ.

Eligible individuals may also qualify for more specific assistance (stop in for more information).



100s of open jobs. Find the best one for you!

OMJ is a wonderful community resource for anyone to use. Check it out today!

OhioMeansJobs Erie County

Open Monday-Friday

8am -4:30pm (closed on holidays)

221 W Parish Street
Sandusky, Ohio

419-626-6781

Evidence Based Predictors of Post School Success

Predictor 1—multi-agency coordination for student support.

Research has shown that youth with broad supports are more likely to find post school success. Student support is a network of people who provide services and resources in multiple environ-

ments to prepare students to obtain their annual transition and post secondary goals (aligned with their preferences, interests,

“Students with a formal mentor are more likely to have academic success, have higher self esteem”

and needs). Evidence in this predictor also shows that students with a formal mentor are more likely to have academic success, have higher self-esteem, and are more likely to be employed during the school year. All 8 Predictors can be read online at eriecbdd.org under the EF transition tab.

Family Corner - Advocacy Group

Family advocacy has always been an important key to an individual's success. In November 2014 a group of family members met at the Erie County Board of Developmental Disability (ECBDD) to launch a Family Advocacy group. This group will be completely designed and run by its members

not the ECBDD. Attend the next Family Advocacy meeting to learn more about how you can get involved.

Contact Megan Etzel at metzel.eriecbdd.org for more information.

Next meeting will be held on **January 7th at the ECBDD from 6-8pm**



Employment First In Erie County

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Employment is not a
program. It's an outcome

Employment First in Erie County

From the Superintendent Carrie Bier

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.

One person at a time. One success at a time

