

IT'S ALL NEW!



That's right! This edition of The Cable reflects a new design for our newsletter. There is more content, more pictures of our friends and neighbors, and more information about upcoming events. We are also saving money by sharing in the publication costs with the Huron County Board of DD. Look over this new format, and let us know what you think!

THE NEW BUZZ WORD

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION: WHAT IS IT, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Community Integration is the opportunity to live in one's community and be valued for one's uniqueness and abilities, like everyone else without regard for disabilities. It is a concept that covers a very broad number of aspects of everyday life:

- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Health Status
- Leisure/Recreation
- Spirituality/Religion
- Citizenship and Civic Engagement
- Valued Social Roles (i.e. marriage, parenting)
- Peer Support
- Self-Determination

There are many reasons why we should all support and promote Community Integration. Community Integration facilitates individual well-being of our neighbors with a developmental disability. It builds friendships, and encourages volunteer opportunities. It fundamentally shifts the emphasis of employment away from sheltered workshops and toward community employment.

Community Integration is the right of all people. In fact, it is the law of the land! Here are just a few of the landmark legal decisions that brought Community Integration to the forefront:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) - Title II: requires governments to give people with disabilities equal opportunity to benefit from all programs, services, and activities

DID YOU KNOW...?

Happy Birthday, ADA! 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). First signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990, the ADA has dramatically changed the landscape of our country for many individuals with disabilities.

The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) give Civil Rights protections to individuals with disabilities similar to those provided to individuals on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, and religion. The ADA and ADAAA also assure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities to access businesses, employment transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications. We appreciate the civil rights protections ADA affords to all as well as the responsibilities that come with citizenship.

For more information and details regarding ADA, you may go online to <http://adalegacy.org/ada25>.

# The Cable

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



“There are many reasons why we should all support and promote Community Integration.”

- Department of Justice “Integration Regulation:” services, programs, and activities must be delivered in a way that enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled people to the fullest extent possible.
- Supreme Court Olmstead decision (1999): unnecessary institutionalization is a form of discrimination prohibited by the ADA
- Bush Executive Order (2001): requires federal agencies to work with states to ensure Community Integration

How can each of us promote Community Integration? It's pretty simple, really. In our everyday lives, watch for those little barriers that might prevent fellow citizens with a disability from participating fully in the life of our community. You can also support local agencies

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2nd TUESDAY of the MONTH, OCT/NOV/DEC, 2015**  
Erie County DD Family Information Network meetings

**WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7-9, 2015**  
**Synergy Conference** (Self Advocates & Ohio Self Determination Association)  
Columbus, Ohio

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015**  
**Santa's Workshop & Pancake Breakfast** (with Sandusky Lions Club)  
4405 Galloway Road, Sandusky, Ohio



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**BOARD MEMBERS:** Eric Kibler, President • David Stuck, Vice President • Stacie Schmid, Secretary • Howard Collins • Don Sieg  
Jude Theibert • Robert Wright

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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The summer went by fast (as it does here in Ohio) and we are getting ready to enjoy the changing colors that fall brings. Over the past couple of years we have been experiencing much change in the Developmental Disabilities arena and will see even more to come as time passes.



Some of the changes we will see during the second half of 2015:

- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities along with local County Boards will be supporting the transition of many individuals to move out of the state operated Developmental Centers to community living options.
- People with disabilities will be exploring and participating in more and more volunteer and employment opportunities in their communities.
- County Boards will be re-aligning their operations to come into compliance with federal and state rules, regulations and laws.
- People with disabilities will become active citizens within communities. Advocating for the rights of all as well as shouldering the responsibilities of citizenship

With these changes we are given the opportunity to become stronger and richer communities with the diversity that is so important to growing and maintaining thriving communities. As it is important for all companies and industries to evolve, we too will be evolving so that we can continue to support a good life for future generations.

If you would like to learn more about the Erie County Board of DD, please visit our website [www.eriecbdd.org](http://www.eriecbdd.org) or give us a call at 419-626-0208.

*Carrie Baier*

## OUR MISSION

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities empowers people and their families while living, learning, working, and being a part of the community.

## THE NEW BUZZ WORD

*"Buzz Word," continued from page 1*

and organizations that work daily with the DD community. They need both your voice and your time. And, if you are an employer, think about ways you could employ someone with a disability. Almost without exception, their work ethic, attendance record and commitment to doing the job right will amaze you!



## FEATURED PERSON OF THE MONTH

### JAMES MEADE

James Meade was recently hired as a Board employee in June, 2015 though he had provided services to the Board for many years in the past. We are happy to have him as part of our team.

Jim is devoted to serving the public, and is a people person. Jim is currently president of the Self Advocates of Erie County group. He lives in Sandusky, is an active bowler and enjoys sports!



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