

## “OPENING DOORS” AWARDS BANQUET

Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its first ever “Opening Doors” Awards Banquet on October 1. The event was held to recognize those partners of the ECBDD that make its mission possible.

“ *Sometimes we stare so long at a door that is closing that we see too late the one that is open.* ”  
Alexander Graham Bell

The 2015 award recipients were:

**Opening Doors Award:** The Sandusky Library, which was nominated for its work with Early Intervention. The library has opened doors to individuals in many ways. The library’s “Play. Learn. Grow.” program touches young families both with and without disabilities in our community.

**Steve Lippert Award:** Joe Casey, who was nominated for his involvement in Project STIR around the area of advocacy and self-determination. Joe has dedicated his career to helping individuals connect to their community in a meaningful way.

**Employee of the Year:** Thomas Beese, Jr., who has been employed for nearly 19 years! Thomas takes pride in his work at Meijer. He’s known for his pleasant personality, politeness, and “gift of gab.” Mr. Beese exemplifies the spirit of this award.

**Employer of the Year:** Commons of Providence is described as “very accommodating,” and is a wonderful example of the business benefits to inclusive and diverse hiring practices.

**Provider Agency of the Year:** Embellished Scrapbooking Boutique isn’t your traditional provider agency! This boutique provides services that are truly integrated into the community. Jean and John Brown are described as people who “don’t hesitate to help and show support of individuals with disabilities.”

**Direct Care Professional of the Year:** Mark Weikle is described as someone who encourages individuals to advocate for themselves. Mark goes above and beyond, not only for individuals that provides services but to anyone who needs his help. His compassion and patience are inspiring.

Thank you to our award winners for all they do, and to each and every one of you who helped make the banquet a success!



# The Cable

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

## FALL SENSORY FUN

In October, we invited children, their parents, their siblings, and other family members to join Early Intervention for a fun and messy night of sensory play. The goal was to have everyone explore the different textures and scents of fall, and we filled the evening with activities for babies, young children, and parents to enjoy.



“ *Look out, everyone! Things are going to get messy!* ”



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 1st MONDAY of the MONTH

**Erie County Self Advocates** meets at 4:30pm at Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Get more information at [www.eriecbdd.org](http://www.eriecbdd.org).

### 2nd WEDNESDAY of the MONTH, JAN/FEB/MAR, 2016

**Family Information Network** meets at 6:00pm at Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. For more information, contact Megan Etzel at 419-626-0208, ext. 4121.

### SAVE THE DATE: March 8, 2016

**Ohio Developmental Disabilities Awareness & Advocacy Day** For more information, visit [www.ddohio.wordpress.com](http://www.ddohio.wordpress.com).

### SAVE THE DATE: March 10, 2016

**Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities Community Awareness Art Show** at the Sandusky Artisans. Details to come on our website: [www.eriecbdd.org](http://www.eriecbdd.org).



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**BOARD MEMBERS:** Eric Kibler, President • David Stuck, Vice President • Stacie Schmid, Secretary • Howard Collins • Don Sieg  
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The Cable is a publication produced by Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities and The Krabill Marketing Group, LLC. Inquiries can be addressed to [info@eriecbdd.org](mailto:info@eriecbdd.org).

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we move forward, I want to thank everyone who has worked with us and supported the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities and those we served in 2015. Time does not stand still, and neither does the world in which we work to support individuals with developmental disabilities.

The County Board will be busy this year partnering with those we serve through the Person Centered Planning process, collaborating with private providers, and our community to enhance and expand supports and services. These activities align with the Board's vision that people will recognize possibilities, pursue opportunities, and achieve personal success as valued members within the community. We will also be enhancing our communication efforts through a wide variety of media platforms to keep our community informed and engaged in our efforts to support those we serve.

Welcome, 2016!

*Carri Beier*



## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Sometimes, first aid isn't a bandage, CPR, the Heimlich, or calling 911. Sometimes, first aid is you!

On October 29, an all day Youth Mental Health First Aid course was held at the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The course was designed for adults who work with young people from ages 12-18, such as teachers, coaches, leaders of faith communities, social workers, and other caring citizens. The course was funded by The Project Aware Initiative.

The workshop introduced common mental health challenges for youth, offered a review of typical adolescent development, and taught attendees a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics included anxiety, depression, substance abuse, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders. The training is evidence-based which has been shown to reduce stigma and provides laypeople that have no mental health background with the tools to help people in their communities.

The workshop introduced everyone to ALGEE, the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan: Assess for risk of suicide or harm; Listen nonjudgmentally; Give reassurance and information; Encourage appropriate professional help; and Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

Everyone who took the course will receive ongoing resources and supports for their schools and community to include Information Briefs, School and Community Continuum of Services mapping, Proactive Programs and Practices, Pockets of Excellence, and Professional Webinars. The Erie County Board of DD is proud to have been able to, with the generous support of others, offer this workshop to our community!



*Lead instructor Susan Bazyk spoke to Workshop attendees on a variety of topics and instructional materials. A certificate of attendance was awarded to all who completed the course evaluation.*

## 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.

419-626-0208

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