



The Cable

Employment First Newsletter Now Available

Employment First In Erie County, a new newsletter designed to highlight achievements and possibilities in community employment opportunities, saw its inaugural edition hit the streets in January.

The newsletter will be published every two months. The editor is Employment First Advisor Jennifer Yingling.

The newsletter will include articles of importance around Ohio and locally.

If you would like to receive the newsletter, contact Jennifer at 419.626.0208 or jyingling@eriecbdd.org.

Would you like to receive our newsletter electronically? If so, email newsletter@eriecbdd.org with "subscribe" in the subject line, and we will add you to our email distribution list.

Parents Group Forming at Erie County DD

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is forming a parent's group to assist in supporting each other and disseminating information.

The Erie County Board of DD Family Information Network is meeting at the Erie County DD building the second Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30 p.m.

The group began organizing late last year and about 30 parents, caregivers and individuals have been attending. Meetings this year have explored such topics as how waivers work and how parents can work with providers.

Megan Etzel is serving as the Board's liaison. For more information, contact Megan at 419.502.4121.

At Erie DD, we are serving more individuals while being good stewards of your money



Carrie Beier
Superintendent,
Erie County DD

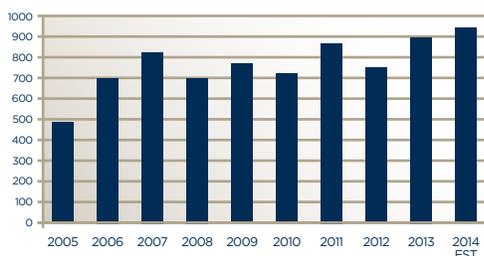
The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is a microcosm of the rest of Erie County, the State of Ohio, and the country.

Like governmental entities everywhere, we are highly focused on being cost conscious and good stewards of tax payer dollars.

We get it. And, we are doing it!

- In 2014, we served a record 962 clients, an increase of eight percent over 2013.
- We spent an average of \$8,300 per individual receiving our services. That is the lowest per-person average spent since we began tracking those statistics in 2009.

TOTAL PERSONS SUPPORTED



The increasing number of people we serve follows a trend we are seeing around the state. There are several reasons for the increase. One is that we are now more keenly aware that addressing and providing interventions and supports at a younger age is a great benefit and leads to a positive long-term prognosis for children.

INCOME

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 Budget
Local	\$5,448,127	\$5,579,495	\$5,429,394	\$5,309,095	\$5,280,636	\$5,432,151
State	\$720,251	\$793,979	\$526,987	\$580,128	\$572,607	\$544,776
Federal	\$669,247	\$1,366,146	\$1,471,829	\$929,621	\$866,535	\$1,462,416
Misc.	\$765,651	\$474,130	\$412,174	\$392,649	\$381,835	\$115,125
Total Operating Revenue	\$7,603,276	\$8,213,750	\$7,840,384	\$7,211,493	\$7,101,613	\$7,554,468
Unduplicated individuals served	760	706	858	735	890	962

All children - those with and without disabilities - are sponges for information. They love to learn. Science tells us that growth, development and learning happen at

the earliest of ages and on a daily basis. Children learn and adapt at a much faster rate than when they are older.

Research also tells us that parental confidence and competence are strong predictors of positive outcomes and success for children. Parents who are aware of these advantages are more likely to seek early help. This is why such programs as Help Me Grow and Early Intervention have such a positive impact on child and parent success.

As science improves, we are better at spotting signs of developmental delays and autism at an earlier age. In past years, a delay or disability may have gone undetected or undiagnosed. Today, we can, and do, address them at an earlier age.

Another possible reason for the increase in individuals served has more to do with today's acceptance of individuals with developmental disabilities. In the past, individuals with developmental disabilities were often shunned by society and hidden from view. We are thankful that is no longer the case as more individuals with disabilities are becoming participating

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See "We are serving more individuals"

Planning for the future

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities held its annual community meeting on Dec. 17 to begin establishing five-year goals and to solidify its Mission, Vision and Values.

The Mission of the Board is:

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

The Vision of the Board is:

People will recognize possibilities, pursue opportunities and achieve personal success as valued members within the community.

The Values are:

- Respect
- Principles of Self Determination
 - Support
 - Authority
 - Control
 - Responsibility
 - Confirmation
- Integrity and Trust
- Community Connectedness
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Achievement

WE ARE SERVING MORE INDIVIDUALS

Continued from front page

and contributing members of their communities, particularly with such initiatives as Employment First.

To make sure we can provide the supports needed by the individuals we serve, we must continually sharpen our pencils in search of ways to be cost effective and use all available community resources. We continually look at opportunities to reduce local duplication of services and develop collaborations with others to maximize our supports. We embrace innovation, creativity and best practice as we continually strive to provide quality supports with the currently available funds and resources.

The 2015 Annual Action Plan goals are:

Goal 1:

People with developmental disabilities in Erie County plan their futures and drive the decision making. Outcomes: The principles of self-determination have become a part of our culture. Self-advocates will demonstrate leadership at the local and state levels. Our person-centered planning process results in a more self-directed plan.

Goal 2:

We support all individuals through flexible spending options to live, learn, work and participate in their community. Outcomes: We have flexible options in place. Children will receive the supports needed to participate in the community, helping them when they are ready to learn and then successfully transition to adulthood. Everyone will find meaningful work and contribute to the support of themselves and their families. We will create an environment where individuals, families and retirees thrive.

Big Crowd Makes Santa's Workshop Event a Success

The Annual Santa's Workshop open house was held at the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities on the morning of Dec. 6. Erie County DD again partnered with the Sandusky Lion's Club, which provided the pancake breakfast. The building was open for the community to view and six different craft stations provided visitors an opportunity to create a holiday craft. Door prizes were given out and, of course, the highlight of the day was a visit from Santa Claus. It was one of the most successful Santa's Workshop events with 330 people attending.



Food Drive Fills Pantries for Local Agencies

The employees of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities participated in a Food and Fund Drive during the month of November. The results were stellar. The Board employees collected 264 boxes of cereal, 80 jars of peanut butter and \$323. The food and funds were distributed locally to Care and Share, Victory Kitchen and the New Day Family Resource Center.



Goal 3:

There will be a provider to meet all of an individual's unique needs. Outcomes: We will provide choice for all services. Our providers will understand and commit to the Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals of the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Providers understand the unique character and needs of Erie County, have access to professional development opportunities, reduce turnover, and are full partners with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities in delivering the highest quality services.

Goal 4:

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is a respected, valuable and visible member of the Erie County community. Outcomes: Our community knows who we are and what we do. The Board is valued as a resource for the community, which shows commitment to our agency by supporting our individuals, programs and levies.

Goal 5:

Our operations and systems are effective, efficient and innovative, and support our long-term sustainability. Outcomes: Services and supports are consistent with our mission and our strategic goals. We will effectively manage and administer all available resources. We understand the difference we make in people's lives, and our workforce is completely committed to our mission and to the principles of self-determination. We have strong staff development practices and programs, and are transparent in our business practices.



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A Note of Thanks from Joseph's Grandma

Sometimes, it's the little things that count... like a simple note of thanks.

Help Me Grow Service Coordinator Tara Frost and Early Intervention Specialist Traci Nash received such a note from Chere Woolf, the grandmother of Joseph Rose, who receives services from Erie County DD. Joseph recently celebrated his third birthday and moved on from Early Intervention.

The note read: *You are both a very important part of our family! Thank you so much for the kindness, caring, support and love you have shown to us and given to our family repeatedly and unconditionally! We are very blessed that God brought you into our lives. Our hearts and our door will always be open to you both. Words cannot express the gratitude and respect I have for you both. Thank you so very much...love you girls.* Tara and Traci had worked with Joseph since he was just a few weeks old.



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