

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board) in keeping with its mission is committed to offering individuals assistance to participate within their community. Therefore, the Board, through the Community Engagement Department, shall provide eligible individuals support in accessing a variety of recreational, learning, community participation, membership and social opportunities.

The Superintendent shall establish, revise and keep current the procedures to be utilized in the implementation of this policy. The Superintendent/ designee shall ensure compliance with these procedures. All revisions and changes will be shared with the Board when made.

Superintendent Signature: Carri Baier Date: 5/17/18

Implemented: 11/2/10

Board Approval: 10/21/10, 5/17/18

Revised: 12/18/14, 5/8/15, 5/8/18

Reviewed: 5/8/18

Cross-Reference:

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCEDURE

I. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Connections is a tool used to introduce small groups of individuals, to activities, leisure opportunities and organizations within Erie and the surrounding counties.

A. Participation Requirements:

1. Community Connections services are available to eligible adults 18 years of age and older.
2. Each individual participating must submit the following forms annually in order to participate in activities:
 - a) Consent to Participate;
 - b) Media/ Photo Release;
 - c) Information/ Medical Release Form.
3. Each individual participating will receive a copy of the monthly newsletter provided by the Community Connections staff which will offer a variety of activities for consideration.
4. All activities are on a first-come, first-serve basis, all activities have registration deadlines and maximum participation limits.
5. Three or more no-shows for activities within a 3-month period of time will suspend you from participation in Community Connections activities for the period of one month. Any cancellation less than 24 hours will be treated as a no-show.
6. If an individual requires ongoing staff support, they shall be required to provide their own staff dependent on the activity.
7. If you have personal needs that require one-to-one assistance from staff taking them away from the group, you shall be required to provide your own staff.

B. Waiting Lists for recreational activities:

If an individual is placed on the waiting list due to maximum participation limits being met the Children Options and Community Support Waiting List procedures will be followed.

II. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The purpose of these types of opportunities is to connect individual citizens with the Erie County community that they live in. These activities are specifically focused on an individual person's dreams, desires and interests. The goal of community participation opportunities is to connect individuals with their Erie County community and foster independence and relationship building outside of the developmental disabilities community.

A. Participation Requirements for Community Participation Opportunities:

1. Eligible individuals 14 years of age and older.
2. Opportunities will be based on staff capacity, to be evaluated on an on-going basis.
3. Referrals can be made by individuals, families, teams, providers, SSA's, or anyone that has knowledge of a person.

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- B. Staff Role
1. Community Engagement will assist with facilitating individual ongoing opportunities with individuals.
 2. Community Engagement Staff will notify Service and Support Administrators when a person on their caseload is participating in a volunteer opportunity.
 3. The staff goal is for individuals to develop meaningful ongoing community relationships; staff will eventually fade out of the relationship between the community member and individual. If ongoing support is required, Community Engagement staff will work with SSA's and individual teams to coordinate whom that will be.
- C. Waiting List for Community Participation Opportunities:
If an individual is placed on the waiting list due to maximum participation limits being met the Children Options and Community Support Waiting List procedures will be followed.