

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

April 2015

Dear Employment First Partners,

Keep up to date on Employment First news in Ohio. Don't forget to [contact us](#) if you need a speaker or visit the [Community Employment Resource Map](#) for local Employment First news.

If you have a story you would like for us to share, would like to give us feedback, or you need Employment First support, please contact us at [EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov).

## Keep Open the Possibilities



Recognizing opportunities has been an important aspect of Kyle Pigman's professional life. Kyle previously worked in a sheltered setting before obtaining Community Employment. He is currently a clerical assistant at Disability Rights Ohio, where he performs a number of administrative duties. Kyle enjoys working and feels that he is able to contribute to his community. "Keep your mind open to

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

## Ohio's Path to Employment First

A summary of Ohio's Employment First Initiative and Future Plans

See Ohio's current plan to support the ongoing implementation of Employment First.

Access the [online archive](#) for previous issues of the *Employment First Update*.

### Quick Links

[Employment First Website](#)

[DODD Website](#)

### Upcoming Trainings & Events



[Click Here!](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

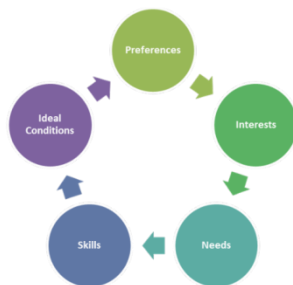
possibilities," is Kyle's advice to other job seekers. Congratulations Kyle!

### Project: Transformation 2.0 - Kick Off



Project: Transformation 2.0 officially kicked off on Friday, March 20th! Congratulations to the selected agencies: Butler County Board of DD, Capabilities, Inc, Goodwill Columbus, Hattie Larlham, Medina County Board of DD, Tuscarawas County Board of DD, United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Cleveland, and Wood County Board of DD. Agencies will be working with Transcen, Inc. over the next seven months as they begin the steps towards transforming from facility-based to integrated services. Continue to monitor the progress of Project: Transformation and Project: Transformation 2.0 at the [Employment First website](#).

### Statewide Career Discovery Training



Thank you to all attendees of the recent training, Career Discovery: Exploring What it Takes for Employment Success, a supported employment training for professionals. The training included steps to determine a person's place on the Path to Community Employment and the services and supports necessary to help each individual meet their

### The Employment First Team

#### Kristen Helling



Community Advisor/Employment First Lead

1.614.466.6612

[Kristen.Helling@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Kristen.Helling@dodd.ohio.gov)

#### Joe Kowalski



Project:Transformation  
Employment First Partnership

1.614.728.8468

[Joseph.Kowalski@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Joseph.Kowalski@dodd.ohio.gov)

#### Stacy Collins



Local Leaders  
Family & Job-Seeker Support  
Provider Support

1.614.728.5811

[Stacy.Collins@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Stacy.Collins@dodd.ohio.gov)

employment outcomes. Training covered the career development process, creating individualized learning and work experiences, and the discovery process. Please access the Career Discovery Guide, Career Discovery Tools, and the Work Experience Guide [here](#).

### **Employment First Job Seeker Informational Session**



Informational sessions are being held across the state for potential job seekers looking to learn more about Employment First. Trained peer mentors will be leading each session in partnership with People First of Ohio. You will learn about the Employment First initiative, resources, and the benefits of community employment. Please visit the Employment First [Event Calendar](#) for more information.

**Assistive Technology Webinar:  
*The Job Matching Process*  
April 28 - Noon to 1pm**

**Click Here to Register**

Dr. Andrew Persch, PhD, OTR/L will review the best practices in job matching that The Ohio State

**Courtney Frantz**



Policy Intern

1.614.466.1689

[Courtney.Frantz@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:Courtney.Frantz@dodd.ohio.gov)

University Occupational Therapy Division has been studying to help quantify and streamline job matching. Attendees will examine the job matching process from the perspectives of the client, job coach, employer, job developer, and vocational rehabilitation professional.

### **Employment First Outcome Tracking System**



The Employment First Outcome Tracking System launched in Spring 2014 and captures employment outcome data for all people in employment services. The application was released to private providers this March. County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and private providers are responsible for entering data into the system based on the Employment First Administrative Rule [5123:2-2-05](#). If you are a private provider who needs access to the system, please direct questions to [employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov).

Two additional webinars are scheduled for [April 6 9:00a to 10:00a](#) and [April 9 2:00p to 3:00p](#) .

### **Helling Named State Ambassador**



Kristen Helling, DODD lead person for the Ohio Employment First initiative, has been named an Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program State Ambassador by the national Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). In announcing the ODEP 2015 State Ambassadors, the agency noted that the state ambassador role is extremely important in moving the workplace improvement programs forward, nationwide. ODEP recognizes that many states desire to align their efforts to support individuals with disabilities toward an Employment First approach, but may not yet possess the capacity, experience or technical resources necessary to lead and facilitate such change. Helling is among only nine 2015 appointees to the group - a network comprised of people demonstrating exemplary leadership among local and state officials who are guiding high-impact systems-change efforts to promote Employment First principles in their state or local community.

Sincerely,



Stay  
Connected!

Get timely DODD news and other relevant information from  
your desktop, laptop, tablet, or phone:

