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EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

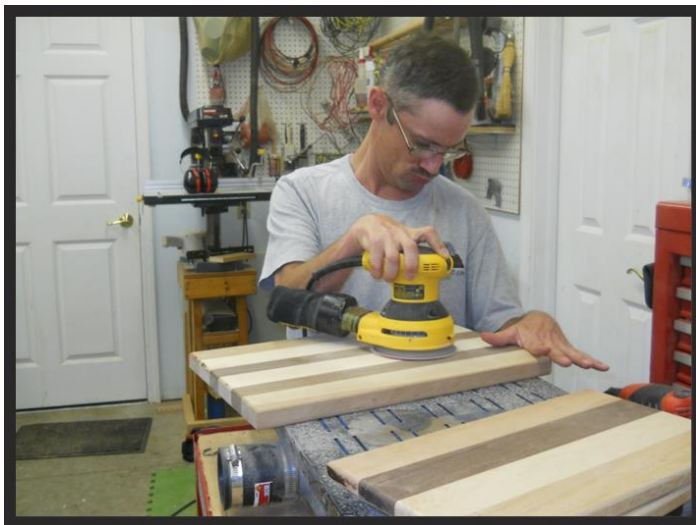
August 2015

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.

A Cut Above



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!](#)

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Jamie Hoy has two part time jobs in Coshocton County. He works as a part-time groundskeeper for the Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities and owns a woodworking business called Jamie's Custom Cutting. Woodworking had been a hobby for Jamie for several years and became an employment opportunity when he was provided adapted saws that he could use with minimal safety risks. Jamie's family and friends provide some assistance, but a majority is done independently. He has owned his own business since 2012. Jamie's first project was a contract to create strips of wood for a factory to use in packaging, but now he primarily creates custom cutting boards and other designs for clients. Congratulations Jamie!

DODD-OOD Employment First Partnership



[Register for upcoming Regional, in-person trainings!](#)

Topics will include "Marketing and Employer Engagement" and "Job Support and Training". Employment First Partnership providers are required to send all team members who have successfully passed the "Supported Employment online course" to a these trainings within 12 months of passing. Trainings do not have to be completed in a two day sequence, but team members must attend both ("Marketing and Employer Engagement" and "Job Support and Training") at some point in the 12 month period. If you have additional questions please feel free to contact the Ohio Employment First team at EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

The Employment First Team

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Disability Benefits 101



Disability Benefits 101, also known as DB 101, is an integrated suite of online tools, information, and training where people with disabilities can directly access plain-language information about work and a range of benefits and health coverage programs. Three calculators have been developed: Work and Benefits, School To Work; Medicaid Buy-In. DB 101 is a resource for families, job seekers and professionals that can be used to help analyze the impact of employment on an individual's benefits. DB 101 is tailored for Ohio specific regulations. While it is not a replacement for a formal benefits analysis by a Certified Work Incentive Counselor, it should aid the initial and outgoing communication about each individuals' Path to Community Employment.

Trainings for how to use DB101 will be held in the 6 Ohio Superintendent regions September 10-17, 2015.

[Register Now](#)

**Project Transformation 2.0: Employment First
State Leadership Mentoring Program**



As part of the Office of Disability Employment Policy, Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program, Ohio granted 4 County Boards and 4 Private Providers the opportunity to receive technical assistance from national experts to transform facility-based services to community-based services. Over the month of July, the experts (Sara Murphy and Dale Versteegen) facilitated strategic planning meetings with these organizations across the state. Technical assistance will continue through September with each team committing to develop a formal Transformation Plan. The outcome is to sustain and continue their progress towards integrated and person-centered outcomes.

Upcoming Event?



Have events coming up that you would like to share?
Please submit upcoming events and trainings going on in your area to the Employment First website.

[Click here to submit an event](#)

Leadership Update



Welcome Tom Hess as a project manager with the Employment First Team where he will be primarily working with the DODD-ODD Employment First Partnership. Tom brings 18 years of experience working with Ohio agencies, individuals and families with disabilities, and managing projects that affect their lives. Tom previously held the position of Autism Project Manager at DODD.

To Contact Tom, please
email: thomas.hess@dodd.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

**EMPLOYMENT
FIRST** 

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