



Left to Right: Kim Frey, Bart Roseborough, Amy Crumm. Photos Courtesy of Ross County Board of DD, Richland Newhope and Knox County Board of DD, respectively.

Employment First

Update

Local Leaders Communities Selected

Six local teams, representing partners from multiple agencies, have been selected as Employment First Local Leaders implementation sites. The Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee selected the six sites from 17 applications, representing 29 counties from across Ohio. These teams will enable DODD and the Taskforce to learn more about the current community employment capacity in the state, and enable a collaborative approach to promoting best practices in local communities. Each team will receive help in identifying needs related to implementing Employment First in their local community, establishing a professional development action plan, and guidance in creating an interagency agreement to outline the roles and responsibilities of each member agency. The results of these activities will benefit the entire state as we use the information gained to build a statewide training plan.

Congratulations to Lucas County, Clark County, Montgomery/Greene/Warren Counties, Pickaway/Fayette Counties, Coshocton/Knox/Tuscarawas Counties, and Stark County. Selection was a difficult task, and the Taskforce and Advisory Committee appreciate all who assembled a team and responded to the questions from a multi-agency perspective. One additional team, Fairfield County, will also be part of

this learning process, per recommendation from the Taskforce and selection committee. Fairfield County has an established and active interagency team, and the Taskforce would like to study their model in greater detail. The facilitation process is expected to begin later this summer.

Policy Update

A state truly embraces Employment First when it changes its policies to prioritize community employment for people with developmental disabilities. Policy changes that have already taken place include language in the recently passed state budget bill that creates the presumption that all individuals with developmental disabilities can work; improves data collection; codifies the Governor's Employment First Taskforce; and, creates common definitions among Taskforce agencies for the terms: community employment, competitive employment and integrated setting.

Feedback from stakeholders prompted the creation of a new stand-alone Employment First Rule that applies to county boards and providers responsible for planning, coordinating, or providing employment services, to individuals with developmental disabilities. Key elements of the rule emphasize a person-centered planning process that identifies each individual's place on the path to community employment and identifies their community employment outcome.

July 2013



Kristen Helling

Employment First Project Manager
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, 614-466-6612
Kristen.Helling@dodd.ohio.gov



Upcoming Events, Page 2

Check out our upcoming events, speaking engagements and taskforce deadlines.

www.ohioemploymentfirst.org



County boards will create and implement an Employment First policy, set benchmarks, and collaborate with school districts to support transition students. Providers will participate in the Employment First data collection system and submit reports to track progress made towards achieving employment outcomes. Members of the Taskforce and Advisory Committee are reviewing the Rule before it is disseminated for clearance.



fund supported employment programs.

DODD is pleased to announce that Dr. Robert Cimera, an associate professor in special education at Kent State University, and the Director of the Institute on Outcome Analysis, has been awarded the contract for the Employment First Data Collection System. Pending controlling board approval, Dr. Cimera will work with DODD and other stakeholders to develop a user-friendly Web-based data collection system, train service providers on its utilization and analyze the data collected. Dr. Cimera is recognized as the nation's leading expert in the monetary costs and benefits of vocational employment programs for people with disabilities, and has published over forty studies relating to the cost-efficiency of supported employment programs.

Employment First Data Collection System

According to the Association for Persons Supporting EmploymentFirst (APSE) Web site, "What gets measured gets done." The Taskforce and Advisory Committee agree with this stance and recommended that a statewide data collection system be built to capture all people served in the county board system. The Advisory Committee Data Workgroup identified a list of research questions they would like the system to address, including the number of people with developmental disabilities who are working, wages earned and hours worked, and an analysis of the return on investment to taxpayers who

Upcoming Events

OAAS and APSE Conference
Columbus, November 6-7

For more details on these events, visit www.ohioemploymentfirst.org

Ohio MHAS

Taskforce member agency Ohio Department of Mental Health has merged with Ohio Department of Drug and Addiction Services to form Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

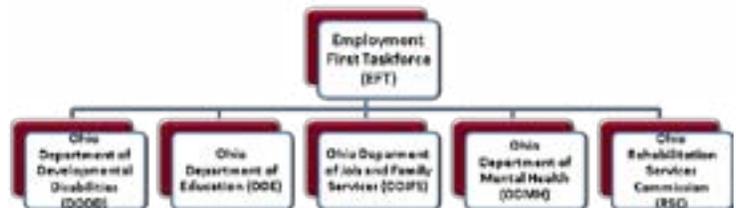


www.mha.ohio.gov
Promoting wellness and recovery

Employment First Taskforce and Advisory Committee Members.

Advisory Committee

Advocacy & Protective Services Inc.
Arc of Ohio
Association of People Supporting Employment First
Disability Rights Ohio
Governor Kasich's Office
Griffin-Hammis Associates, LLC
Kent State University
Ohio Association of Adult Services
Ohio Association of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Center for Autism & Low Incidence
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Department of Mental Health
Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
Ohio Disability Employment Alliance
Ohio Provider Resource Association and other service providers



Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
Ohio Self Determination Association
Ohio SIBS
Ohio Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities
People First of Ohio
The Ohio State University Nisonger Center
University of Cincinnati University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities