



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. SUPPORT.

Report
SUMMER 2019

NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES WEEK

is celebrated the third week of May. In honor of many hard-working men and women, the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities takes this week to thank all first responders and emergency personnel for their service and dedication to our community. We visit Police, Fire and EMS stations throughout Erie County and deliver baskets full of snacks and treats, as well as provide information cards with tips on who to call, what to look for and how to respond if they encounter or are asked to look for a person with a developmental disability.

Clockwise from top: Sheriff Paul Sigsworth, Thank you baskets, City of Sandusky First Station 1, Perkins Township Police



Children's Options Manager, Becki Walter, honored with Excellence Award at State Conference



The Erie County Help Me Grow Home Visiting team. From L to R: Carolynne Zettler, Becki Walter, Kristi Smith

Becki Walter, Children's Options Manager, received the honor of being awarded Home Visiting Supervisor of the Year at the 2019 Ohio Early Childhood Systems Conference held in Columbus at the end of March. She was one of twelve individuals and six agencies to receive a Home Visiting Excellence Award. She is the first employee representing Erie County to be nominated. Becki has been employed at the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities for five years, and was promoted to the management team in 2016. She can often be heard saying, "People don't care what you know, until they know that you care." "The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities is extremely fortunate to have such a committed and talented manager, whose passion makes our local program one of the strongest in the state," commented Carrie Beier, Superintendent.



Did you know?

We offer 2 separate programs for families with infants and toddlers: Help Me Grow Home Visiting and Early Intervention

Home Visiting is a family support program for pregnant women and parents of newborns. Families can start the HMG Home Visiting program during pregnancy, so they can get information and support to be ready for baby's arrival and beyond. Home Visitors bring a play activity on every visit, they help make learning fun for babies and families.

The Early Intervention program provides free developmental evaluations for children under the age of 3. This program offers fun opportunities for children and parents to connect with each other. In-home supports can include speech, occupational and physical therapies and/or developmental specialist services.

Call (419) 621-3962 to learn more about these great programs.



INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL CLINIC

On Saturday, June 19 close to 40 local children and teenagers gathered at Sports Force Parks for a free football clinic presented by The Legends Foundation. For the second year in a row, the event was co-sponsored by Sports Force Parks, Cedar Fair Charities, The Legends Foundation and the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This event brings together



former NFL players, high school athletes, coaches and school-age participants for a morning of skill building and practice drills. The Legends who attended this years event included: Anthony Griggs (Philadelphia Eagles), Cleo Miller (Cleveland Browns) and Jamar Martin (Ohio State). Despite the rainy weather, the participating children gave their all on the field and received shirts, autographs and small giveaways to remember the day. Local players and coaches from the Perkins Pirates, Edison Chargers and Sandusky Central Catholic Panthers were instrumental in helping to make the clinic a success.

- Congratulations to Teresa McDermond, Early Intervention Speech-Language Pathologist, for representing our agency and graduating as part of the 2019 Leadership Erie County class.
- Our Superintendent, Carrie Beier, was chosen as the 2019 Leadership Erie County Distinguished Alumni Award recipient. Melissa Tomaro, Assistant Finance Director for Erie County, "Her enthusiasm and passion for her career are infectious and we are fortunate to have her in our community."



Event Leaders: Mitchell Sweet (Sports Force Parks), Anthony Griggs (Eagles Linebacker), Cleo Miller (Browns Running Back), Carrie Beier (ECBDD), Jamar Martin (Ohio State) and Joe Hoffman (The Legends Foundation)





Intern shines in IFS Department

In June the Erie County Board of DD partnered with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to offer a work assessment intern position in our Individual and Family Supports Department. Summer Braddock, with the aid of a job coach from Step by Step, completed a two-week administrative assessment with Debbie Crosby, SSA Assistant. During her time with the Board, Summer worked behind the scenes with the Service and Support Administrators learning about review monitoring tools, as well as document checklist and tracking. Summer advised, *"This experience has given me the confidence needed to know just how capable I can be in a work setting. I'm extremely thankful to have had this opportunity working alongside such positive and caring staff!"* Summer was professional and thorough when it came to her tasks, but it was Debbie who got to know her on a personal level. *"I have learned one of her goals is to be an inspiration to others, which I have to say, she is off to a good start because she has certainly been an inspiration to me,"* Debbie said.



Project STIR Class of 2019 Graduates

After a seven week course, we are happy to congratulate six graduates and one honorary graduate from the Project STIR (Steps Towards Independence and Responsibility) curriculum. Project STIR was developed by the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) and is a training program designed to provide self-advocates with the tools to advocate for themselves, mobilize others in advocacy and gain leadership experiences. Each year local peer trainers take on a new class, offering hands-on activities, role play, guest speakers and videos that aid to strengthen problem solving, communication and advocacy skills.

Project STIR 2019 Graduates. From L to R: Gabe Hopkins, Toni Cantito, Brandon Carr, Daniel Ingram, Cassidy Butcher, Jesse Voltz, Sam Nikolajevs



Carrie's Corner

Hello! I am so happy to share with you our newly revised and redesigned newsletter. The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities will be sharing program information, success stories, legislative hot topics and much more. I would like to share with you a few highlights from the first quarter of 2019:

- There were 891 people were eligible for County Board supports.
- Over 100 people we support were competitively employed in the community.
- The Board established a Speakers Bureau to provide presentations to the community about our agency, those we serve, and the work we do.
- In March, our local Erie County Self-Advocates went to Columbus to speak with their legislative representatives to share ideas and concerns.
- The Board coordinated 27 community volunteer opportunities for individuals we serve.

- In total, 733 people received Service and Support Administration (case coordination) from our Individual and Family Supports Department.
- For children birth to 3, the Early Intervention team completed 653 home visits and the Help Me Grow Home Visiting program completed 196 home visits.
- 1700 children, in grades K through 3, participated in our annual Disability Awareness Coloring Contest.

The work we do, the programs we provide and the supports we offer are driven by mutual respect, integrity, equality, collaboration, teamwork, trust and personal responsibility, so that those we support will achieve personal success.



EXT. 4131 TO SCHEDULE A PRESENTATION



**Erie County Board of
Developmental Disabilities**

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Open Monday through Friday | 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM
4405 Galloway Road | Sandusky, OH 44870
PH: (419) 626-0208 | www.eriecbdd.org

BOARD MEMBERS: David Stuck, *President*
Howard Collins, *Vice President* | Stacie Schmid, *Secretary*
David Danhoff | Mark Harrington | John Hoty | Melissa Tomaro

Mission: To inspire, empower and support individuals and their families.

Vision: Individuals will achieve personal success.

Values: Integrity and Trust | Mutual Respect | Equality
Collaboration and Teamwork | Personal Responsibility

**NOW COLLECTING NOMINATIONS FOR
OUR ANNUAL BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD BANQUET**

Visit our website or Facebook page for a nomination form to recognize an individual, community employer, provider, advocate or community member!

Upcoming Events



Top to Bottom: Table at the Wightman Wieber Safety Fair, Run Jump and Play at Sports Force Park, Game Night at Chet & Matt's Pizza

TINY TOT TUESDAYS

Kids 0 to 3 and their siblings
Every Tuesday in our play area
10 am to 11 am



August 6
City of Sandusky Touch-A-Truck
@ Battery Park

AUGUST 6-AUGUST 11
Erie County Fair

OCTOBER 10

Building Bridges Awards Banquet
@ Mesenburg Hall, Huron



OCTOBER TBD

Cedar Point Trick-or-Treat



DECEMBER 7

Santa's Workshop
9 am to Noon

FOR MORE EVENTS & UPDATES FOLLOW US

