

## 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 advocacy, 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:  Date: 2/15/24

Implemented: 11/2/10

Board Approval: 10/21/10, 5/17/18, 2/20/20, 2/17/22

Revised: 12/18/14, 5/8/15, 5/8/18, 2/20/20, 2/17/22

Reviewed: 5/8/18, 2/20/20, 2/17/22, 2/15/24

Cross-Reference:

## **ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCEDURE**

### **I. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND ADVOCACY**

Community Connections and advocacy experiences are tools used to introduce individuals to skill building activities, leisure opportunities and organizations within Erie and the surrounding counties. Furthermore, these tools are used to develop the principles of self-determination for those we serve.

#### **A. Participation Requirements:**

1. Services are available to eligible adults 18 years of age and older.
2. Each individual that would like to participate will notify the Board via email at [communityconnections@eriecbdd.org](mailto:communityconnections@eriecbdd.org) or phone to receive a copy of the monthly newsletter provided by the Community Support Department staff which will offer a variety of activities for consideration.
3. All activities are on a first come, first-serve basis, all activities have registration deadlines, and many have maximum participation limits. Participants are limited to eight (8) supervised activities per month that have maximum limits.
4. Three or more no-shows for activities within a three-month period will result in suspension 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.
5. If an individual requires ongoing staff support, they shall be required to provide their own staff dependent on the activity.
6. 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.