

EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

November 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.

Great Work Ethic



Terry Liston of Adams County, who had previously worked in subcontracting with a mobile work crew, expressed interest in finding other employment. Terry

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!](#)

was referred to his Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) counselor through the Employment Frist OOD/DODD partnership. He completed his community-based assessments with a local animal shelter with whom Adams County has a relationship. The animal shelter was impressed with Terry's work, and he was hired to work part time in June. Terry has a great work ethic and a sense of pride knowing that he is doing a good job. Congratulations, Terry!

OOD-DODD Joint Guidance Available

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) Joint Guidance on Referrals for Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Purpose

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) have developed the following joint guidance for both County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) staff to facilitate the referral process for vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Included in this document, you will find background information, definitions and guidance on:

- how to utilize vocational rehabilitation & HCBS waiver funding streams for employment services

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) have developed joint guidance about the [referral process for vocational rehabilitation services for individuals with developmental disabilities](#). County Boards and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) staff can refer to the document for guidance on: how to use vocational rehabilitation and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver funding for employment services, when to refer an individual to OOD, and what information to include in the referral packet to OOD to expedite eligibility.

The Employment First Team

Stacy Collins



Project Lead

1.614.466.6612

Stacy.Collins@dodd.ohio.gov

Tom Hess



Project Manager

1.614.466.7480

Thomas.Hess@dodd.ohio.gov

Courtney Mullin



Policy Intern

1.614.466.1689

Courtney.Frantz@dodd.ohio.gov

Using Data To Guide The Future



The Employment First Outcome Tracking System, which launched in Spring 2014, was developed to capture employment outcome data for everyone receiving employment services in order to develop benchmarks and strategic plans for future services.

The [Employment First Administrative Rule \(5123:2-2-05\)](#) outlines the responsibilities of County Boards and private providers for entering data into the Employment First Outcome Tracking System. For more information about the Outcome Tracking System, including a [comprehensive guidebook and video tutorial](#), visit the Employment First website-Resources section. If you have questions or would like to request training, send an email to employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Intermediate Care Facility Grant Update



Three proposals have been selected for the Intermediate Care Facility Employment Pilots grant. This grant aims to facilitate the transition from facility-based to community-based services, with a focus on community-based employment and adult day services for individuals with complex needs. Outcomes and strategies from these pilots will be shared and act as models across the state.

The selected projects were proposed by: Champaign Residential Services Incorporated, The Arc of Medina County, and Sunshine.

Watch for more information about their proposals and projects. Congratulations to the selected proposals!

Fact or Fiction?

Only individuals served by the OOD-DODD partnership will have data entered into the Employment First Outcome Tracking System.

The Employment First Outcome Tracking system was developed by stakeholders to capture employment data for **all individuals** who receive developmental disability-related services. While the OOD-DODD

Employment First partnership is one avenue for employment opportunities, all other outcomes are to be collected on an annual basis as well - this includes community- and facility-based settings regardless of funding source.

For more information about the Outcome Tracking system, please email Courtney Mullin at courtney.frantz@dodd.ohio.gov.

Things To Try: Tuesdays With Liz



Interested in learning more about national disability policy? Check out [Tuesdays with Liz, Disability Policy for All](#). This weekly YouTube series, hosted by Liz Weintraub, helps self-advocates and others who are less familiar with the politics and policies of Washington, D.C. better understand them.

Sincerely,

**EMPLOYMENT
FIRST** 

Stay
Connected!

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



[Forward this email](#)

 **SafeUnsubscribe**[®]

This email was sent to courtney.frantz@dodd.ohio.gov by employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)[™] | [About our service provider](#).



DODD | 30 East Broad Street | Columbus | OH | 43215