

EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

October 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.

Success Story



Gary Morey had been working in a sheltered workshop for about 10 years, where he did piecework. Many believed that Gary was unable to work in the community because of his needed

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



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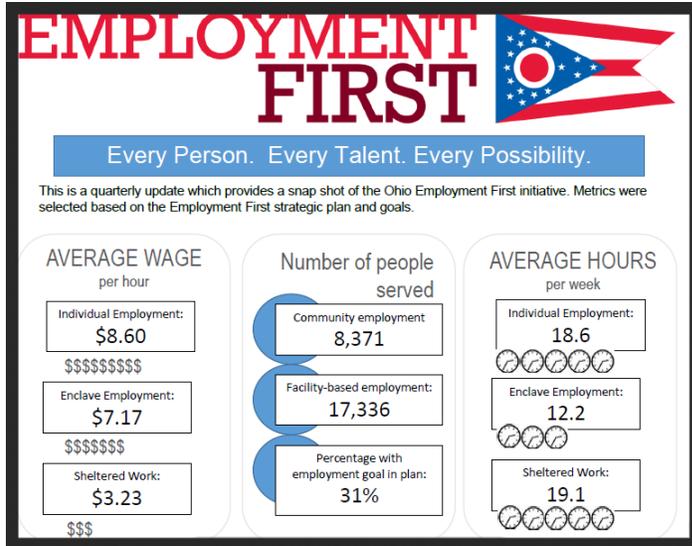
The Employment First Team

Stacy Collins

behavioral supports and limited verbal communication skills. This changed when the workshop discontinued its contracts, and Gary was referred to his OOD counselor through the DODD-OOD Employment First partnership.

While working with Gary, his counselor discovered that one of the companies the workshop had contracted with had been very pleased with Gary's quality of work. They were particularly impressed with his ability to focus. The company hired Gary in May 2015, and Gary now works 25 hours a week at minimum wage. One of his favorite things about work is the company-sponsored lunches on Mondays. He is more content and only has a follow-along job coach once a month. Gary is proud of what he does, and he enjoys the work and the paycheck. Congratulations, Gary!

Quarterly Report Now Available



A new Employment First quarterly report shares the progress we're making across the state. The report was created based on the Employment First strategic plan and includes metrics around capacity building and outcomes. The report is posted on the [Employment First website](#).



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Call For Applications

We will be accepting applications for Employment Navigation Technical Assistance Liaisons. To build capacity for Employment Navigation across the state, which will be a billable function under Targeted Case Management (TCM), DODD is establishing a system of regional technical assistance and support.

The Employment Navigation Technical Assistance Liaison Network will consist of liaisons who possess demonstrated expertise and knowledge in employment and connecting individuals with developmental disabilities to needed supports and systems.

Employment Navigation Liaisons will educate and support SSA's who function as Employment Navigators to connect individuals to supported employment services, and to better understand multiple systems, including Vocational Rehabilitation, Education, and Workforce Development. The goal is to have an Employment Navigation Liaison in each of the six Superintendent Regions.

If you have a background in employment and connecting individuals with needed supports, apply to become an Employment Navigation Liaison! Applications are due December 3, 2015. [More information about this exciting opportunity will be on the Employment First website.](#)

Adult Day Services Funding Realignment Update



The work to realign funding for adult day array services continues.

The Funding Realignment work group reconvened on October 13th and is continuing to provide feedback on the presented draft services. The October 13th [presentation is available](#) on the Employment First website.

All materials will be filed and open for public review and comment in the future. Watch for more information about that process.

If you have questions, please email the Employment First inbox at employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Fact or Fiction?

Does Employment First mean everyone has to work?

According to Ohio's Executive Order and Administrative Rule, competitive and integrated employment should be the first and preferred outcome for working age individuals, and should be addressed in everyone's Individual Support Plan. That does not mean everyone has to work, or that

work is the only service or support provided. It does mean there is an assumption that all people are capable of work, and recognizes that the typical adult experience includes work, but that all of us have lives outside our jobs. Employment *first*, not employment *only*.

Things To Try: Emergency Preparedness

Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and other Special Needs



FEMA



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Preparing for an emergency can be difficult for individuals with developmental and other disabilities. To help address the needs of individuals with disabilities, the Red Cross created "[Preparing for Disaster for People with Disabilities and Other Special Needs](#)." Individuals and their families and support system can use this guide to help plan for disasters.

Sincerely,

**EMPLOYMENT
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