

# EMPLOYMENT FIRST



Every Person. Every Talent. Every Opportunity.

September 2014

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](mailto:employmentfirst@dodd.ohio.gov).

**Expect. Employ. Empower**



National Disability Employment Awareness Month is around the corner. [NDEAM](#) aims to educate about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. "We all have a role to play in - and benefit to gain from - increasing opportunities for meaningful employment for people with disabilities. This year's theme encapsulates this in three powerful words. It conveys that advancing disability employment is about much more than just hiring. It's about creating a continuum of inclusion. And the first step on this continuum is expectation," said Kathy Martinez, assistant secretary of labor for disability employment policy when announcing this year's National Disability

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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Employment Awareness Month theme, which is "Expect. Employ. Empower." Celebrate it this October and all year round!

How are you planning to observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month?

**Free Webinar:**

**"The Role of the Occupational Therapist in Supporting Employment"**

**September 23rd, Noon - 1:00 p.m.**

**Click Here to Register**

Occupational therapists possess skills in task analysis, environmental modification, technology and teaching of independent living and employment skills essential in supporting individuals in employment. Join Dr. Dennis Cleary, MS, OTD, OTR/L as he discusses the role of the occupational therapist in supporting employment.

**Support for Families and Job Seekers**



DODD has contracted with [The Center for Disability Empowerment](#) to develop outreach and information supports for families and job seekers about Employment First and community employment. The team, comprised of advisors from The Ohio State University, Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA), People First of Ohio and Ohio TASH, is developing an interactive electronic toolkit about the supported employment process, an online lesson for

**The Employment First Team**

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families and job seekers that is person-centered, relevant and accessible; leadership development classes for job seekers, and a "train the trainer" program where peer mentors will be supported to become ambassadors of Employment First. Keep up to date through the [Employment First Website](#).

### **Transformation: Systems Change Ahead**



Experts in systems transformation and organizational change are working with eight agencies selected for Project: Transformation technical assistance. Five of the eight have received on-site technical assistance so far. Agency-specific transformation plans are being developed and finalized with consultant on-site visits scheduled to be completed by the first week of October. In addition to the onsite visits and plan formulation, consultants are making training and other tools available to their agencies. For example, providers have recently taken part in webinars on topics such as LEAN, Value Stream Mapping and Agency Transformation case studies. Further updates and panel discussions with the Project: Transformation agencies is scheduled for the [Working Together Conference](#) in Southwest Ohio and the [OPRA Fall Conference](#). More details to follow.

### **Partnership Leads to Jobs**

The [Employment First Partnership](#) saw three successful closures in August. These individuals have successfully maintained community employment for at least 90 days and will transition to long-term supports to maintain employment. These jobs averaged 19 hours per week at \$8 per hour. Across the state, 17 dedicated counselors are serving more than 950 individuals on the path to community employment. 59 job-seekers have found community employment; 16 in August.

### **Courtney Frantz**



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## Entertaining Entrepreneur



Above: Juan brings the party to you!

Juan Diaz, a resident of Lorain County, loves music and entertaining people. Through the help of the self-employment training program through the local Ohio Means Jobs office, he was able to turn his passion into a small business, [DJ Phantom Entertainment](http://djphantoment.com). Juan needed flexibility so he could generate income and continue to be a stay-at-home father for his children. Juan is excited to continue building his business and he is hopeful for its future success!

Sincerely,

**EMPLOYMENT  
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