

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

JULY/AUGUST 2014
SUMMER EDITION



SUMMER YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTY

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- On July 22, 2014 President Obama signed the Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act. Under this bill, youth with disabilities will be significantly limited from entering sheltered workshop programs. It also includes major changes to the path from school to work for people with disabilities. For more information: <http://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/>

Twenty students participated in the Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities Employment Services Summer Youth Program for 2014. This is the fifth year of this very successful program in which transition youth are able to earn minimum wage, while learning a multitude of basic skills in the community. The program, comprised of five weeks total, consisted of invaluable vocational training as well as job related skills that are imperative to being successfully employed. The first week of the program consisted of a classroom component that allowed the young people extensive training on various topics including team work, communication in the workplace, problem solving and

interviewing. The final four weeks of the program consisted of hands on learning at various job sites in the community. Those sites included Ohio State University-Lima, Johnny Appleseed Parks, Lima City Parks, and Better Brake Parts. The students worked in groups along with a job coach who provided on-going direction, instruction and vocational training. Students are expected to follow company policy and procedure and to learn to cooperate and communicate with supervisors and co-workers. The ultimate goal of the program is for the students to gain vocational skills necessary to make them ready for community employment.

Summer Youth continued on pages 2 and 3.



Summer Youth Crew at Better Brake Parts, Lima

ALLEN COUNTY EMPLOYMENT FIRST HOSTS A TRANSITION TRAINING

The Allen County Employment First Collaboration hosted a Transition Training at the Ray Pangle Community Center located in Lima, Ohio, 616 S. Collett St. on August 5, 2014. The training was held to educate those in attendance of the transitioning processes involved for students with disabilities. Sue

Beck, Project Coordinator, *Realizing Employment First for Youth*, at OCALI-Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, was a featured guest speaker along with Rachel McMahan Queen PhD, Outreach Director for the Center for Innovation in Transition & Employment at Kent State University and Stacia

Kaschak, Ohio Longitudinal Transition Study Director. The training included an overview of the Employment First Initiative, local agency introductions with a summary of services, formal/informal assessment options, continued on page 3.

SUMMER YOUTH ACROSS THE COUNTY CONTINUED

Allen County Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) have made available a Summer Youth Program for Youth between the ages of 14 – 24. The TANF Summer Youth Program was funded with state money for low income youth to gain real work experiences. As a part of the program, youth received a minimum of one hour per week of work readiness training including topics such as job

search through OhioMeansJobs, resume preparation, appropriate work behaviors, personal finance, etc.

These contracted services were provided through The Lima City Schools YES Program, Coleman Behavioral Health, and Goodwill Easter Seals of Miami Valley. There have been 123 youth that have been employed at 38 worksites.

Coleman Professional Services completed their first summer with youth. They were able to place 37 youth at several locations throughout the county. Some of the worksites included the Allen County Fair, Maplewood Apartments, All-Service Glass and Lima Manor. The youth gained valuable experience through wonderful worksites and supportive site supervisors. This was challenging as

the majority of the youth were under the age of 16. They all worked very hard and great feedback was received from the community. There were 10 youth that continued to work through the summer program and half of these are being considered for permanent employment when the summer programming is complete. The staff felt that these youth did a fantastic job.

Lima City Schools A Culinary Arts Vocational student, who is also a member of the football team from Lima City Schools, was placed with Primrose Retirement Community to work in the dietary program. They have been impressed with him and are working around his sports schedule for work and will be

hiring him after the program has ended.

There was also a graduate student who returned to the program this year. His past worksite (construction) asked to work with him again this summer (if approved). He had mentored another YES! student, finished the program, and he will be hired by

a contractor that works with Lowe's Home Improvement for doors and window installation after the program ends (a position lined up for him by his worksite supervisors).

There was also a student working in activities at a nursing home and is currently a health careers student at Lima, completing STNA

This was received from a worksite:

Rhonda:

"Today I received a phone call from a docent at the Allen County Museum. Each Tuesday, the summer program students go to the museum to study a different area. The docent (a former teacher) complimented the youth for excellence in keeping the children involved, engaged and in order during their 90 minute stay. She said she was so impressed by the way they handled themselves, she just had to call to let me know. "

Vickie:

"I'm very proud of them. In particular these four are outstanding employees and should experience great success in life. Thank you for introducing them to me and the Cheryl Allen Center!"

certification. She will be hired on as soon as the program is complete.

Another student is tutoring adults at her worksite. She is also taking post-secondary dual enrollment classes, (LCS student), first chair violin player, and will be volunteering her time in the community for fundraisers for illiteracy. This came about as a result of her job in the YES! Program.

Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley, a contracted provider for the summer youth program, has placed 23 youth in meaningful work experiences so far. Some work sites include the Goodwill store, Lima UMADOP, Shawnee Manor, Springview Manor, LuLu's Diner, and Advanced Mechanical Plus. All of our participants have been required to attend two hours each week of "soft-skills" training to educate them on the importance of work ethic and job skills. One young

man has been able to secure his own apartment, and recently received his temporary driver's permit. He hopes to further his education at the University of Northwestern Ohio.

Pictured on the right: Two adults working at the Goodwill store in Lima. Linda Jenkins, Goodwill Store Manager, Center. Cleah Marr, Right and Trey Glenn, Left



ALLEN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES HOSTS A TRANSITION TRAINING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and the Backwards Planning Process. The event was a success as indicated by a full house and the consensus among those that attended was that it was very informative. Many were not aware of the different services that the guest agencies provide. To have several agencies in one setting available to answer questions was a great collab-

orative effort and exchange of valuable information. The Allen County team hopes that the collaborations will continue to develop and grow.

Pictured on the right: Attendees of the Transition Training.



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WWW.ACBDD.ORG

**THE ALLEN COUNTY BOARD OF
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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EMPLOYMENT FIRST:OHIO

In response to multiple requests, The Employment First team finalized a guidance document to support county boards and providers as they develop Employment First policies and procedures. The document addresses presumption of employability, professional development, school to work transition, interagency collaboration, and much more. Also, six county boards and three private providers are working with five expert systems transformation consultants to receive guidance in the development of strategies to transform from facility-based

to integrated services. Those agencies are learning fiscal transformation strategies designed to better include competitive and integrated employment options as a viable and sustainable funding stream.

For more information please visit the Employment First Website:
www.ohioemploymentfirst.org



The Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities offers a full range of services beginning with in-home early intervention programs for very young children and their families to activity services for individuals who are elderly. In between, we provide service and support administration which links individuals and their families to needed services, preschool and school services, family resources which can include respite care, supported residential services, vocational training, community employment, and crisis intervention.

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming 2014-15 Regional
Transition

Council Meetings (SST6)

Thursday Oct. 9

Tuesday Dec. 9

Tuesday Feb. 10, 2015

Wednesday May 6, 2015

Wednesday June 3, 2015

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