



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDY OURIEL/SANDUSKY REGISTER



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. SUPPORT.

Report
WINTER 2021

Introducing the Technology Home

In early 2020, the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities embarked on an unique project. Superintendent Carrie Beier had a vision to create a home where technology could be experienced in-person, both visually and physically. This project, led by Director of Community Supports Diane Corso and supported by the technology expertise of AbilityTech, has a goal to prove that technology solutions can address frustrations, concerns and meet many needs. Our intention is to work with families, caregivers and providers to ultimately identify technology that will lead to an increase in independence.



“It is my hope that we can also reach out to the rest of our community and see how we can use our tech home to benefit other in our community, such as our senior citizens and our schools, and really make a difference in the future for people,” said Superintendent Carrie Beier.

Top: The ECBD Technology Home located in Sandusky. Bottom L to R: Clarity AlertMaster Notification System which can provide visual cues as well as vibration alerts for vision or hearing impairments; SmartCaregiver Door Exit Alert safety system; A view of the guest room which contains both a Sonic Bomb Alarm Clock and a EmFit Movement Monitor for guests to try.

Currently, the technology home has over 25 devices for visitors to experience. The home is a welcoming space with little pieces of non-intrusive support spread throughout. Interested in learning more? Check out the video section on our website for a virtual tour. For specific questions please contact Diane Corso at (419) 626-0208 x 4131.





Direct Support Professionals

Erie County Board of DD collaborates with multiple agencies and Independent Providers who provide direct care to people in Erie County that qualify for needed services. These Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) assist people who need support to lead independent and quality lives and to participate fully in our community. Erie County Board of DD identifies, through a team process, what services need to be provided, helps find a DSP that can meet these needs, and then authorizes the funding for services. DSPs have long played a role in the success of services authorized through Erie County Board of DD.

However, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become obvious that they are truly the unsung heroes of our operations.

They are the face of essential services and have continued to ensure no one goes without during this uncertain time.

Erie County Board of DD cannot begin to express our gratitude for their dedication and selflessness.

We sincerely thank each DSP we are fortunate enough to come together with in our county!



Check out DSPOHIO.ORG to learn more about becoming a Direct Support Professional

EARLY INTERVENTION NAMED LUCKY RECIPIENT OF GRANT FUNDING

During a challenging 2020, the Help Me Grow Early Intervention team never wavered in their commitment to the families they serve in our community. With safety always a priority, the team applied for and was awarded \$5,000 through the Boeckling Charitable Trust and an additional \$3,500 from the Wightman-Wieber Foundation Grant to help purchase much-needed safety items for the families in the Help Me Grow program. Items included baby gates, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, cabinet locks, window and refrigerator locks and so much more! These awarded funds will help support families enrolled in Early Intervention for years to come.



The Early Intervention team is helping families stay connected through virtual opportunities each month. These virtual Zoom play groups allow parents to meet, kids to engage and provide some learning fun during an isolating time. Our team was awarded \$890 by Grace Episcopal Church to help continue these opportunities through 2021. The funds will be used to put together "kits" for the participating families that will help enhance the virtual group experience.



Are you concerned about your infant or toddlers development?
Are you pregnant or have a little one at home and want more support along the way?

CALL 1-800-755-GROW

www.helpmegrow.ohio.gov

CHECK OUT OUR NEW & IMPROVED

Did you know?



The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities, along with all other county Boards of Disabilities, is responsible and required to investigate any claims of abuse, exploitation and misappropriation against a person that is eligible for county board services. Oftentimes this leads us to work with other agencies such as law enforcement or Children Services when criminal acts have occurred.

As a community member, if you ever have a concern regarding the treatment of someone with a developmental disability, please feel free to reach out to our 24-hour crisis hotline: (419) 626-1752.

Although we weren't able to host our Drive-Thru Santa event this year, many children throughout Erie County still received a giveaway bag or book to celebrate the holiday season. Erie County Board of DD staff handed out over 400 bags and 100 books to kids in the community. We were happy to put forth the effort to still spread some Christmas cheer and we look forward to the day we can celebrate with our community again.



Carrie's Corner

To Our Community: *This has certainly been a year unlike any other. Many of us have been separated from our friends and family, faced unexpected challenges, and experienced loss unlike anything we have ever encountered before.*

2020 was a difficult year. I have been inspired by so many acts of kindness and bravery, as our community rallied together to support one another. The resiliency of the individuals we serve to adapt to their continuously changing routines and schedules is amazing. The selflessness and unrelenting dedication that service providers and county board staff have demonstrated throughout the pandemic is humbling. The tireless efforts and countless hours that Providers and Erie County Board of DD employees spent ensuring the health, safety, and needs of the people we serve is extraordinary. The compassion and generosity shown by our community is heartwarming. It is because of these incredible acts that I am hopeful for the future.

While navigating a pandemic, the Board has continued to:

- Ensure Early Intervention families receive supports and services through technology, including virtual home visits.
- Ensure SSA services continued to individuals age 3 through life, including virtual visits, plan writing, team meetings.

- Assure individuals had a ride to their place of employment.
- Implement new opportunities for individuals to connect with one another and their community, as the Community Connections staff turned on their creativity and resourcefulness.
- Remain open to the public for essential operations. Administrative, business and facility staff have been working at the office through building upgrades, COVID protocols and system revisions to make sure all operations continued with minimal interruption.

The Board remains committed to protecting the health and safety of the people we serve, our providers, employees, and the community. Although it will still be awhile until we can return to our "typical" operating procedures, the Erie County Board of DD is ready, willing and able to provide needed supports as we move into 2021.





Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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Open Monday through Friday | 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
4405 Galloway Road | Sandusky, OH 44870
PH: (419) 626-0208 | www.eriecbdd.org

BOARD MEMBERS: Melissa Tomaro, *President*
John Hoty, *Vice President* | Stacie Schmid, *Secretary*
David Danhoff | Mark Harrington | Eric Kibler

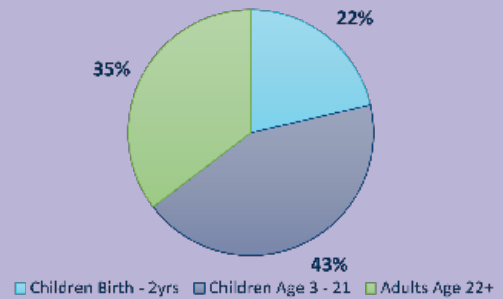
Mission: To inspire, empower and support individuals and their families.

Vision: Individuals will achieve personal success.

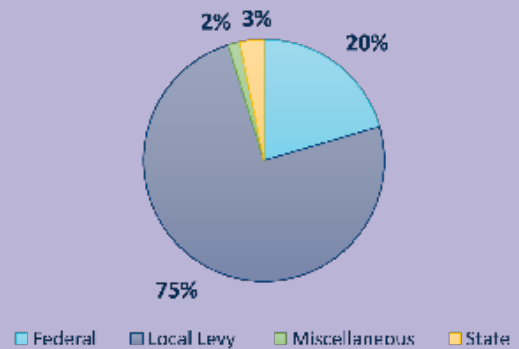
Values: Integrity and Trust | Mutual Respect | Equality
Collaboration and Teamwork | Personal Responsibility

2020 YEAR-END DATA

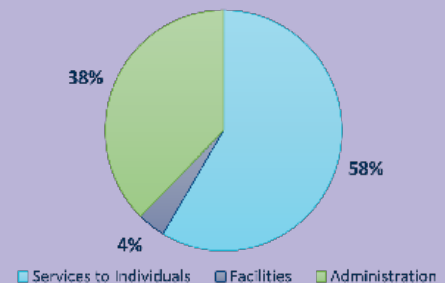
People Served



Revenue



Expenditures



COMING UP NEXT:

**March is
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH**

Keep an eye on our website & social media for ways to celebrate with us!

FOR EVENTS & UPDATES FOLLOW US

