

2/15/12

MBR Submission

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state of Ohio that competitive and integrated employment shall be considered its first option when serving persons with developmental disabilities who are of working age to obtain employment. This policy applies to programs and services that provide services and support to help obtain employment for persons with developmental disabilities. All state agencies shall follow this policy and ensure that it is effectively implemented in their programs and services. This policy is intended to promote and individual's right to informed choice. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any employer to give preference to hiring people with a disability.

All state agencies shall coordinate efforts and shall collaborate within and among such agencies to ensure that state programs, policies, procedures and funding support competitive and integrated employment of individuals with disabilities. All state agencies shall share data and information across systems in order to track progress toward full implementation of the act.

State agencies shall adopt rules and regulations to implement this act.

The Department of Developmental Disabilities, in coordination with the Employment First Taskforce, shall be the lead agency responsible for compiling data and coordinating the preparation of an annual report to be submitted to the Governor.

Place holder language.

## Executive Order

## The Establishment of Employment as the First Priority and Primary Outcome for Working-Age Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

WHEREAS, we need *all* Ohioans in the workforce for businesses to thrive and Ohio to prosper;

WHEREAS, there are current state and federal efforts to rebalance Medicaid spending to promote community-based services;

WHEREAS, Ohioans with developmental disabilities experience some of the highest rates of unemployment, underemployment and poverty, and have little exposure to community employment options;

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities have the right to make informed decisions about where they work, and to know that community jobs result in greater earnings, better benefits, improved health and increased quality of life;

WHEREAS, Ohio is in receipt of the *Findings and Observations Report* from the State Employment Leadership Network which recommends Ohio develop a clear employment policy;

WHEREAS, the Department of Developmental Disabilities has established community employment and school-to-work transition as priorities;

WHEREAS, Ohio's developmental disability system currently spends ~~on State of Ohio's~~ ~~less than 6% on community employment;~~

WHEREAS, there is ~~a~~ *need to improve & expand* coordinated effort to increase community employment outcomes for working-age Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the this State do hereby order and direct that:

1. Integrated employment shall be the first priority and primary outcome for working-age Ohioans with disabilities;
2. The Governor's Employment First Taskforce ("EFT") is hereby created in order to collaborate, coordinate and improve employment outcomes for working-age adults with developmental disabilities. In the first six months following the effective date of this Executive Order, the EFT shall do the following:
  - a. Review and incorporate State Employment Leadership Network report, Work Plan and workgroup priorities;
  - b. Review and align policies, procedures, eligibility/enrollment and planning;
  - c. Develop cross-agency/system tools to document eligibility, order of selection, assessment and planning;

- d. Identify best practices (Project Search, Customized Employment, etc.), effective partnerships, "untapped" federal funds, opportunities for shared services and means to expand model programs;
  - e. Identify and address service gaps;
  - f. Establish interagency agreements to improve coordination of services and allow for data sharing;
  - g. Set benchmarks for improving community employment outcomes/services.
3. I hereby appointment the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) to lead the EFT. DODD shall oversee and implement the activities described above, and have the authority to establish an Advisory Committee.
4. The EFT shall also include the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), Ohio Department of Mental Health and Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. All Cabinet Agencies, Boards and Commissions shall comply with requests issued by the EFT, subject to the supervision of their respective agency directors.

I signed this Executive Order on March 1, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio and it will not expire unless it is rescinded.