

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Illuminating Life's Possibilities



ERIE COUNTY

MRDD

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

	ACTION		
	Reviewed	Approve	Disapprove
Commissioner <i>WJH</i>	✓		
Commissioner <i>TMF</i>	✓		
Commissioner <i>TS</i>	✓		

_____ *Ry.*

_____ *M. Burt 3/27/08*



A Message From the Superintendent

We hear the word “change” a great deal these days. Change by definition involves the action of either becoming something else, replacing something, or conversion. Using any one of those definitions, change can be difficult. However, with change often comes opportunity; opportunity to grow, become more effective, and become more efficient.

Over the past several years, the Erie MRDD Board has changed the way it provides services and supports to individuals and families. These efforts, as difficult as they have been, have allowed the Board to:

- provide services to a growing number of individuals even though state funding is decreasing;
- Focus services on what each individual and their family needs;
- Form new partnerships to expand the awareness of people with disabilities and what they CAN do;
- Help individuals and families to have a greater voice in how services are provided;
- Better use technology; and
- Open new doors to the community.

I expect that the next few years are going to be difficult to weather, but I believe the supports provided by the staff of the Erie MRDD and the Board membership can light the path to opportunity, achievement, and success for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

While we look forward to the future it is also important to recognize our accomplishments. The following pages are some of the highlights that have been achieved by individuals and the Board as a whole.

Gerald Plassenthal
Superintendent

January

Erie MRDD works with the North Pointe Educational Service Center (ESC) and Sandusky City Schools to expand preschool options for the children of Erie County. The 2008-2009 school year saw fourteen preschool classes operating out of the Betty Rinderle Early Childhood Center.

February



The Erie MRDD Human Resources Department works with individuals with developmental disabilities to have them perform a substantial part of new employee orientation.

March

Christine Brown and Ruben Garcia visit Erie County to talk about their experiences as self advocates. They talked about what self-determination is and what the state of Ohio is doing to further it. Many people attend the event.

April

The Board awarded the annual **Steve Lippert Award** to Rich Steinert staff person for a residential provider agency. Rich was nominated because of his dedication to people with developmental disabilities in Erie County.



The Board establishes the **Opening Doors Award** to honor businesses that go above and beyond to employ, support, and include people with disabilities. The Board grants the first award to ICI Paints.

May

A group of individuals from Erie County attend the **International Self-Determination Conference** in Detroit, Michigan.

June



In 2008, Roger Stallard was recognized as the 2007 Associate of the Year by SBA Goodwill Industries. In honor of that achievement, the members of the Ohio Senate of the 127th General Assembly issued a commendation, initiated by Mark Wagoner, Senator, 2nd Ohio District, on Roger's behalf.

July

A new department is developed called **Community Connections**. This department's focus is to link people with developmental disabilities to members of their communities that have similar interests. One activity of particular interest to individuals was sailing and, thanks to a group of volunteers from the Sandusky Sailing Club, they were able to take sailing lessons.



August

The Help Me Grow Family Fun Fair is held on August 16. More than twenty agencies participated by offering education information and activities for children. It was estimated that 250 to 300 people attended the event.



September



Ten adults with developmental disabilities attend the annual Ohio Self Determination Conference in Columbus. Individuals learn that they have

the right to have a say in their lives just like everyone else. This group came back and developed their own Self-Determination group which meets monthly.

Scott Coffman receives a helper dog after entering a contest advertised on the side of a Milk-bone dog biscuit box.

Scott flew to Atlanta, Georgia to pick up "Roger" his new dog. While there, Scott learned how to continue training Roger once they return home. Roger opens doors for Scott, picks up items from the floor, and even carries groceries in from the car!



October

The maintenance department begins performing HVAC upgrades in the buildings operated by the Board. Upgrades will be completed in January 2009.

The Erie MRDD partners with the Arc of Erie County, EHOVE, and Creative Living Systems to build an accessible modular home in Erie County. The modular home, located in Huron, is located within walking distance of restaurants, shopping, and entertainment. Moving day, pictured right, was certainly a group effort. More than 20 volunteers were there to actually push the home onto its foundation.



November

Parents, advocates, guardians, and Erie MRDD Board members and employees come together to discuss and revise the individual budget policy.

December

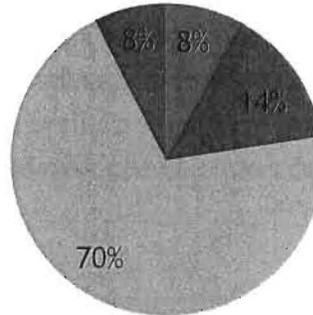
The Early Childhood Task Force met throughout the year to share information. Autism services in Erie County have been a priority topic, as well as, therapy services and family educational opportunities.

The Board expanded participation in individual budgets. By the end of 2008, 221 people were receiving funding through an individual budget.

**2008
FINANCIAL
INFORMATION**

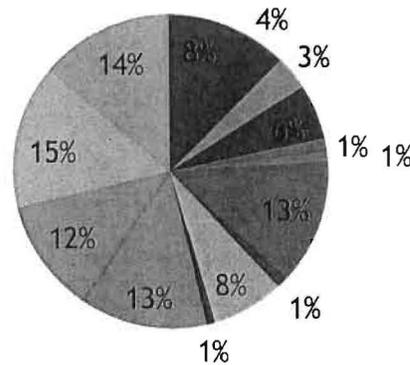
2008 REVENUE

- Federal \$631,266
- State \$1,122,930
- Local Levy \$5,440,382
- Miscellaneous \$581,962



2008 EXPENDITURES

- Adult Services \$578,390
- Early Intervention \$241,918
- Dietary \$99,953
- Residential \$901,620
- Individual Support \$526,625
- Transportation \$928,225
- Service & support \$1,047,593
- Preschool \$301,659
- Speech/OT/PT/Nurs \$400,458
- Invest Agent \$69,724
- Family Support \$85,000
- Community Support \$60,703
- Building Services \$820,945
- Administration \$975,449



Erie County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Annual Notice

All policies and procedures, including the Due Process Policy, are available to individuals being served by the Board as well as parents, guardians, and service providers. If you have questions or want to request copies of any policies, call the Erie County Board of MRDD, at (419) 626-0208. All policies are also available on our website: www.eriemrdd.org.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote choice, independence, and to support people with disabilities in exercising their rights to be respected, responsible members of their community.

Contact Information

Erie County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

4405 Galloway Road

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Phone: (419) 626-0208

Website: www.eriemrdd.org

Current Board Members

Tom Borton

Eric Kibler

Vickie Deel-Lezon

Wayne Roesch

Donald Sieg

Patrick Murray