

Jefferson County Board of DD  
Employment First and Integration Efforts Underway  
Jefferson County Adult Services/Community Employment Services/ Bridges Program  
February 2015

- The Jefferson County Board of Developmental Disabilities (JCBDD) currently has 25 individuals placed into community jobs with various employers in the community. Each of these individuals make Ohio minimum wage or higher at their place of employment. Some enjoy other benefits provided by their employer.
- At the present time, JCBDD Employment Services has 15 local employers who work cooperatively with us in our efforts to prepare individuals for employment. Some employ individuals while others permit us to do community based assessments or other activities that help individuals gain the necessary skills for employment.
- Our Bridges to Transition Program continues to grow with the assistance of our five local school districts. During 2014, 45 Jefferson County school age students participated in various employment preparation activities that will help them find employment upon graduation from school. Our Bridges Coordinator also continues to provide services and assistance to Guernsey County so that they can participate in the program as well.
- In January of 2015 the JCBDD approved an Employment First Policy that commits our Board and Program to the concept that all individuals with disabilities should have the opportunity to work in the community and enjoy all available community resources.
- JCBDD Employment Specialists continue to work cooperatively with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) staff in our Employment First initiatives. During 2014 we met our Employment First goal (goal established by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities) to customize employment opportunities for 9 individuals that have been under-employed or not employed at all. Most of those individuals are now currently employed in community jobs.
- An additional part-time staff person was employed to assist the efforts of our Community Employment Services Department (CES).
- The School of Bright Promise continues to expand our community based training program. High school aged students are offered the opportunity for job training at various local businesses in the community.

- Jeffco Workshop continues to provide a number of community based work sites for individuals and continues to offer a number of opportunities for integrated community recreational activities. Expansion of these efforts remains a priority.