

SAVE THE DATE!

Individual Provider Fair

July 31st, 9:30AM - 12:30PM

Liberty Center

This is an opportunity to meet with Individual Providers who provide limited amounts of waiver service and some respite service. For questions, call Heida Powers at (513) 867-5618 or Robin Thomas at (513) 867-5602.

EPRO Group Celebrates 10 Years

Empowered People Reaching Out (EPRO) is a group of people with disabilities who gather together for regular meetings across Butler County in local restaurants, public libraries, and at each other's homes to work on issues that give meaning to their lives.



EPRO works with other self advocates across Ohio and the nation in order to have their voices heard, their points of view included in the way people see them, and the way decisions about their lives are made.

Deb Wilson, one of EPRO's founding members, said the group has been beneficial to bringing awareness about people with disabilities to the community. "This group says, we are here, we are somebody," she said.

Formed in 2000, the group celebrated its 10th anniversary last month. The group started out with a half dozen members and has grown to 60 over the years. Their accomplishment list is impressive:

- The first project they undertook was a bake sale for Feed the Hungry.
- They've raised dollars for other local charities and created a fund to provide help to people with

developmental disabilities who live in Butler County and are moving into their own homes for the first time.

- The group also sponsors dances, parties and social activities.
- They facilitated workshops for high school students with developmental disabilities about to graduate.
- They've attended rallies for funding issues and transportation and were active in the

push to remove 'MR' from local boards of DD.

- Group members attend conferences on self advocacy and are looking forward to a conference this summer celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which they are co-sponsoring with neighboring counties.

What is Self Advocacy?

People (with and without disabilities) taking charge of their lives. This is done by learning how to make decisions and choices in life in order to be more independent. It also means learning about rights and responsibilities.

James Henrie has been a member of EPRO for five years. He said EPRO is important because it gives people with disabilities a chance to voice their concerns. "It's important for all of us, whether we have a disability or not, to speak up for others," he said. "The biggest gift we can give to other people is we can teach them that people with disabilities are no different than anyone else."

For more information about EPRO, visit www.butlerdd.org/about/eipro.php or contact Keith Banner, Quality Enhancement Coordinator, at (513) 867-5932 or kbbanner@butlerdd.org.

ADA – 20 years later. July 26, 2010 is the 20th anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA was the first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

Butler County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
1910 Fairgrove Avenue, Suite E
Hamilton, OH 45011

Address service requested

Artist in Residence Teaches Pottery Techniques

InsideOut Studio, housed at the Liberty Center, hosted an Artist in Residence in April and May thanks to a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. Clay artist Diane Fishbein worked with artists and taught them different techniques of hand-building sculptures, vases and bowls. The clay mask, shown right, was made by artist Lynn Brannon during Diane's visit. Artwork from the studio has been recently featured in exhibits: Inner I Gallery in Xenia, Pendleton Gallery and Venue 222 in downtown Cincinnati and an art show at the Art Academy of Cincinnati.



How are the Board's Finances?

Currently, the Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities is following the budget approved for 2010 and is on track for spending and revenues.

It has been helpful that the temporary allocation of Federal Stimulus money allows for the Board to spend less local money on the Medicaid services it provides, which helps to maintain current services and delay when the Board will have to go for a levy on the ballot.

The Board's revenues depend on local, state and federal money. The Board's state money has been cut and additional cuts are expected in the next biennium (two year) budget because of the state's budget deficit.

This makes the DD Board more dependent on local money which, due to recent law changes and the poor economy, will bring in less funds with the current millage.

Although the Board has not given employees raises (and employees do not get automatic step increases), the Board already knows that the health care costs will go up beginning in 2011.

"The difficult changes the Board has made in the past few years have helped to continue to provide supports to the increasing number of individuals who seek it. There is no doubt that the Board will have to continue to make difficult decisions and significant changes in order to survive. These times are unprecedented and will continue to be a challenge. Services and supports are not likely to look the same in five years as they do today since there is no stable revenue source to rely on," said Christina Hurr, Superintendent.

What can you do to help? It was the steadfast efforts of families that helped to create the County Board of DD system in Ohio more than 40 years ago. With the current economic and political struggles, it is likely that we will need the voices and active presence of families and friends to keep revenue streams committed to our service system. Please stay informed and help us educate others about the value of our service and supports.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FAIRFIELD, OH
PERMIT NO. 160