



Governor Wolf Signs Employment First Bill

Governor Tom Wolf signed House Bill 1641, June 21, codifying the [Employment First policy established in March 2016](#) to increase competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

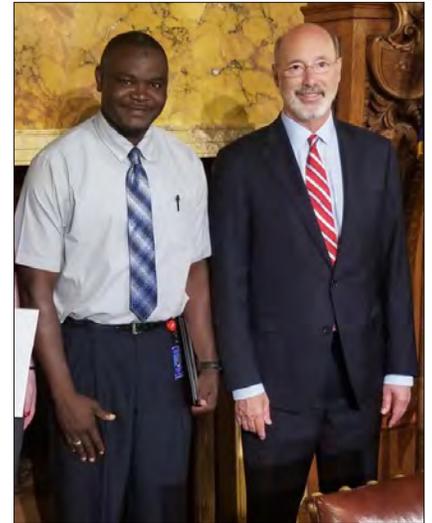
House Bill 1641, sponsored by Rep. Bryan Cutler, creates the Employment First Act, which requires all state, county, and other entities receiving public funding to first consider competitive-integrated employment as the preferred outcome of publicly funded education, training, employment, and related services, and long-term services and supports for individuals with a disability who are eligible to work under state law. The statute also creates the [Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities](#) and the Employment First Oversight Commission.

The governor's signing of House Bill 1641 reinforces, solidifies, and will sustain the hard work and dedication that ODP staff — from all bureaus and levels, administrative entities, supports coordinators, and providers — have accomplished thus far.

The Employment First Act, coupled with an ardent focus on one of the guiding principles from *"Everyday Lives, Values in Action"* will help ODP to fervently continue to support people with developmental disabilities to have an everyday life through employment at a job that generates a sense of joy, accomplishment, and community. "Employment is a centerpiece of adulthood and must be available for every person. The benefits of employment for people with disabilities are significant and are the same as for people without disabilities."

State Centers Phase Out Subminimum Wage

As of July 1, all state centers have discontinued use of the Department of Labor 14(c) certificates that allow subminimum wages. All 379 individuals who live and work in the sites are making no less than minimum wage. To improve employment outcomes, the centers are: Continuing collaboration with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR); training staff in discovery, customized employment competencies; and providing transportation to and from jobs for individuals who have jobs in the community.



Rashin Osman met with Gov. Wolf and received a signed copy of House Bill No. 1641 following the official ceremony. Rashin, an ODP intern, is one of 20 Pennsylvania college students in a 12-week paid state government internship program for college students with disabilities. The internship program was developed by the Department of Labor and Industry's (L&I) Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Office of Administration (OA).

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Statewide Movement Continues on Awareness, Prevention of Sexual Abuse

- Recently, National Public Radio (NPR)'s "All Things Considered" and reporter Joe Shapiro revealed how Pennsylvania, and other states, aim to stop sexual abuse of people with intellectual disabilities through legislation that makes testifying easier for victims ([House Bill 2321](#)) and further legislation creating the offense of neglect of care-dependent person and the offense of abuse of care-dependent person ([House Bill 1124](#)). The movement is further strengthened by designated funding for trainings about healthy relationships and how to spot abuse. You can [find the NPR Report online](#).
- At the June ISAC meeting, members shared presentations regarding efforts their organizations are making to prevent sexual abuse against individuals with disabilities. ODP has requested that members submit a description of their activities, in writing, in preparation for a publication about the efforts being made within the ODP community to prevent sexual abuse. [Submissions regarding the prevention of sexual abuse](#) against individuals with disabilities can be viewed online at the MyODP ISAC Hub. A final publication will be available at a later date.
- July 18 and 19, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) will host the PCAR 2018 State Conference: Beyond Barriers for staff and professionals, to "showcase how different parts of the field are tackling sexual violence...to reach the un-served, underserved, & inadequately served populations" and to present the latest developments in the movement against sexual assault. [Find more details about the PCAR Conference](#).
- Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training (ASERT) has partnered with researchers at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina and compiled The Be Safe Resource Collection, comprised of infographics, social stories, eLearning courses, and other resource materials focused on the prevention of sexual abuse, as well as intervention strategies to support individuals who experience abuse. [You can access the Be Safe Resource Collection online](#).



Attendees at ODP's annual Pa. Autism Training Conference had the opportunity to join ASERT Autism Resources' Be Safe campaign, which focuses on preventing sexual assault of individuals with developmental disabilities.



Kate Rooney, Amanda Duffy, and Jen Wright of Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health. Follow this link for additional resources and learn what YOU can do to ensure the safety of those in the ID/DD community: paautism.org/BeSafe

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2018 PA Community Alliance Summit Slated

Save the date for the Pennsylvania Community Alliance Summit: September 5-6, 2018 at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg.

The Summit, sponsored by the PA Developmental Disabilities Council, is a day of networking, discovering alliances, and collaboration building among diverse statewide organizations that support people with developmental disabilities, their families, and who serve populations that experience marginalization and oppression.

Five-minute Pop-up Talks will be presented, focusing on topics such as “Reaching Un-served, Underserved & Inadequately Served Communities”; “Why Representation Matters, Not Just in the Board Room”; “Building Disability Pride in Schools and College,” as well as several other topics.

There is no registration fee; registrations will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis. Registration details will be out later this month. Please contact Dana Thompson with the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council, at danathomps@pa.gov with any questions.

Are You Prepared for Storm/Flood Season?



As the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season begins, ODP would like to remind everyone to have a storm-preparedness plan. For individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities, the usual ways of support and assistance may not be available during an emergency. It is crucial to have a strong support network in place before storms occur.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) offers [online Planning & Preparedness Guidelines for People with Disabilities and Medical Conditions](#). You can also find the comprehensive [Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness Guide by Ready PA](#), which includes a section specific to planning for special needs.

Hundreds Attend Annual PATC Held in Lancaster

ODP’s Bureau of Autism Services hosted the 11th Annual PA Autism Training Conference for Professionals (PATC) from June 5-7, 2018 in Lancaster. About 400 attendees participated. Sessions explored topics including: Research, Policy & Practice; Autism/Justice System; Transition to Adulthood; Cognitive Enhancement Therapy; Positive Behavior Support; Challenging Behaviors; Functional Behavior Assessment; and Social Skills. Many of the conference sessions were recorded and will be posted to MyODP.org later this year. An announcement will be shared once the recorded sessions are available.

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Art Serves as Therapy and a Way to Communicate



William Brewer, 33, is happy when he paints.

“It makes me feel strong,” he says. He began painting in the summer of 2015 after a college student majoring in art began working with him. William participates in ODP’s P/FDS Waiver. He has an intellectual disability and autism. The art student handed over some art supplies and asked William what he was interested in. The first thing he

Painted was a pincushion and thread.

“We knew that he had an interest in sewing,” says his mother, Teri. “(My husband) Bill and I were both shocked and pleased to see his ability.”

Teri is a facilitator and assistant southeast coordinator for [Self Advocates United as 1 \(SAU1\)](#), Family Advisor for the PA Family Network and also a Person Centered Thinking Trainer. Bill is an Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) facilitator for Vision for Equality.

William sells his paintings and crafts. He makes quilts, tote bags, pillows, and jewelry. His work has been featured in the Philadelphia Autism Project Art Show at Philadelphia City Hall. You can view his handiwork on his Facebook page, William’s World.

“In September 2016, William was given the opportunity to be a vendor at the Everyday Lives Conference. Up until then, we viewed his painting as a hobby. When we were there and saw the response to his art, and the people actually purchasing his work, it became clear to us that his painting was more than just a hobby,” Teri shares.

“It makes me happy,” William says, “and I feel good when I sell and make my art.” The Everyday Lives Conference is designed around what is important to people with disabilities and their families, and is a celebration of ODP’s values that people with disabilities have a right to an everyday life. For information about the annual Everyday Lives Conference, please visit Everydaylives.org.

Sales of his art help supplement the income he receives working as a power coach for SAU1, which is funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. He and other SAU1 members travel throughout the state to teach people with disabilities and their families to advocate for everyone’s right to have an everyday life.



WILLIAM BREWER

If your organization is hosting webinars that anyone can attend, please send information to RA-PWODP_OUTREACH@pa.gov

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Information, Upcoming Events, & Training

PCAR: Beyond Barriers

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) is hosting a two-day conference on Wednesday, July 18, & Thursday, July 19, at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, for PCAR sexual assault center staff and all allied professionals. Participants will share information, network, and learn about the latest developments in the sexual assault movement. The conference theme, Beyond Barriers, will showcase how different parts of the field are tackling sexual violence by going above and beyond to reach the un-served, underserved, & inadequately served populations. Visit online to learn more about the [2018 PCAR State Conference](#).

ASERT Feature

Meet individuals with autism in the ASERT newsletter's Q&A Spotlight feature, like Cassie: A participant of the Psych Rehab program and advocate for others with autism; or Ziggy: A blogger for [ASDNEXT](#). Find newsletter archives and subscribe to receive future monthly [ASERT newsletters](#).

Video: Love Is Love

A couple with Down Syndrome share how they met and what it is like being in love and dating. They and their parents, share the message that ["love is love" in this video](#).

What is Community HealthChoices and Does It Impact Me?

Community HealthChoices (CHC) is Pennsylvania's mandatory managed care program for individuals who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare (dual eligibles), and older adults, and individuals with physical disabilities who need the level of care provided in a nursing facility.

If you are 21 or older and have both Medicare and Medicaid or are receiving long-term support through Medicaid because you have a physical disability, you'll be covered by CHC.

CHC provides physical health services for people who are dually eligible and long term services and supports and physical health services for people who are aging or have physical disabilities. An individual with an intellectual disability or autism who is receiving services beyond supports coordination through the Office of Developmental Programs is not eligible for CHC.

Individuals do not have to initiate participation in CHC. DHS will reach out to participants regarding participation. All participants will be able to choose a service coordinator in their region. For more information, visit [HealthChoices.PA.Gov](#). Providers may call

1-800-932-0939; Participants may call 1-833-735-4416. View a map of the [timeline for CHC implementation](#) and a [CHC video](#).

Save The Date: National Autism Conference

The National Autism Conference will take place August 6 – 9, at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, Pa. Educators, other professionals, and families interested in developing effective educational programming for all students with autism spectrum disorders are encouraged to attend. Find details about the National Autism Conference, and register, online at <https://autism.outreach.psu.edu/>.

Free Daily Life & Employment Guide

A free 20-page guide is available to help transition-age youth and families figure out what daily life is going to look like after high school ends. ["Charting the LifeCourse: Daily Life & Employment Guide"](#) includes resources to begin to think about jobs, careers, or continuing education in adult life.

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What Is This Thing Called 'ODP QM Certification'?

Since 2016, the ODP Quality Management (QM) Certification Program has helped enhance quality for individuals and families and improve the knowledge and skills of ODP staff and stakeholders throughout the service system. A total of 337 participants have completed the program thus far, including 69 Administrative Entity staff (AEs), 39 Supports Coordination Organization staff (SCOs), 178 Provider staff, and 51 ODP/Health Care Quality Unit (HCQU) staff.

"The QM curriculum introduces fundamental quality management principles and concepts, quality tools, improvement models, and best practices," says Dolores Frantz, Quality Management Director. "It offers an interactive, hands-on approach to gaining the experience needed to use QM resources, practices, and data to run and inform business operations locally and to carry out quality improvement projects that improve individuals' lives."

To participate in QM certification classes, stakeholders and staff must meet requirements through an online study on My ODP and also must pass a pre-test. During QM certification classes, which take place at various sites over two days, class members work in small groups to complete a series of quality improvement exercises. By working in teams, class members experience how a Quality Improvement (QI) Team functions differently from other groups and learn the value of coming to consensus.



QM-certified staff learn how these methodologies and tools support ODP's Everyday Lives mission, vision, and values. Participants learn to apply the Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) Cycle of Improvement, how to develop QM plans and action plans, and how to analyze and display data to monitor progress and achieve continuous quality improvement across all service delivery functions. Other benefits to completing the QM Certification Program include networking, building relationships across the system, and access to support/feedback through the QM Certification Mailbox.

"As an organization, Step By Step, Inc. places significant value on the development of goals and outcomes related to consumer service and traditional human service business activity," says Bob Blazaskie, Quality & Compliance Manager at Step By Step, Inc. Of Wilkes-Barre, and a QM Certification Program graduate.

"The QM Curriculum not only spoke to the development of an organizational quality process, but also included valuable information related to items such as: training and discussion on comprehensive inclusion of all aspects of service provision; presentation of information/findings; planning for and overcoming obstacles; identifying meaningful goals and outcomes; and staff awareness and inclusion."

Bob adds: "The Provider Community and overall Human Services Community in Pennsylvania is stronger as a result of the Quality Management Certification process."

Fall courses will be held on Aug. 29 and 30 in Archbald, Sept. 11 and 12 in West Chester, Oct. 3 and 4 in Mechanicsburg, and Oct. 24 and 25 in Polk. Send questions to RA-PWODPQMCerti@pa.gov.

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Summary of ODP Communications Issued June 2018, With Links



1. 052-18 : [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2017-2018 Needs Exception Allowance Rates for Period July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019](#)
2. 053-18 : [Certified Investigator Report Administrative Review Manual and Supporting Items Are Now Available.](#)
3. ODP [News: June 2018](#)
4. BAW18-15 [Admin Notice: Provider Quarterly Summary Reports \(QSR\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)
5. 054-18 : [Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Settings Self Assessment Status Update 1](#)
6. 055-18 : [Certified Investigator Program: Initial Certified Investigator and Peer Review Courses are Now Available](#)
7. 056-18 : [Process For Updating AE, SCO and Provider Contact Information For Quality Assessment And Improvement Process](#)
8. ODP Communication 057-18: [Agency with Choice \(AWC\) Wage Ranges and Benefit Allowance for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2018](#)
9. ODP Communication Number: 058-18 [Vendor Fiscal/Employer \(VF/EA\) Agent Wage and Benefit Ranges for Specific Participant Directed Services Effective July 1, 2018](#)
- 10.. ODP Communication Number 059-18: [Public Comment Opportunity-Waiver Amendments and Transportation \(Per Trip\) Fee Schedule Rates](#)
11. BAW18-16 Announcement : [July, August, September 2018 Schedule of Virtual Trainings Presented by the BAS Clinical Team](#)
12. ODP Communication Number 060-18: [Quality Assessment & Improvement Changes for Fiscal Year 2018-2019](#)
13. ODP Communication 061-18: [Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Settings Self-Assessment Status Update 2](#)