



Erin Thompson

Special Recognition Award October 2025

Erin Thompson is a steadfast ally, particularly in her collaboration with our Major Unusual Incident (MUI) and Service and Support Administration (SSA) departments.

Her responsiveness, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the individuals we serve have made her an invaluable resource and a trusted partner.

Erin has been at the Social Security Administration for more than 24 years, most of them in her current role as the Public Affairs Specialist. She brings a wealth of knowledge and compassion. She once said that if she won the Powerball, she'd still honor her community commitments before letting her employer know she was stepping away — a testament to her integrity and sense of responsibility.

Erin's support of investigations into representative payee concerns has been critical. She has consistently trusted Lucas DD staff's input, respected the evidence, and taken decisive action ranging from suspending payees, removing them, or flagging concerns to prevent future harm. Her efforts have directly contributed to the health and safety of individuals with developmental disabilities, and her collaboration has strengthened Lucas DD's ability to protect and advocate for them.

Her impact extends far beyond investigations. Erin has:

- Provided timely and thorough responses to complex Social Security issues
- Offered Representative Payee trainings to educate providers and staff on payee responsibilities and processes
- Appeared on 102.3 Proclaim FM, answering live questions and offering guidance to the broader community
- Been a voice of reason, a source of clarity, and a pillar of support for many Lucas DD teams

Earlier this summer she led a training titled Organizational Representative Payee Duties. It was another standout example of her commitment to education and accountability. Erin walked attendees through the nuances of capability determinations, proper fund usage, legal responsibilities, and best practices for record keeping and reporting. Her ability to make complex systems understandable and actionable has empowered our staff and providers to better serve individuals in need.

She exemplifies what it means to be a community partner. Her work is not just a job — it's a mission. Thank you, Erin, for your dedication, compassion, and unwavering support to our staff, and, more importantly, individuals served. The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is proud to present you with the October 2025 Special Recognition Award.