

February 2019



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



On Page 3

Photos from Scioto County Special Olympics' Basketball Openers

Healthy Families Earns 3-Year Accreditation

Prevent Child Abuse America has announced that Healthy Families Scioto County, a program of Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, has been accredited as a provider of high quality home visiting services to families who want to improve their child's health, nutrition, and developmental outcomes.

Home visitors with Healthy Families Scioto County receive extensive training in a wide range of areas that can cause stress and worry to new parents: caring for a new baby, ensuring the baby is receiving appropriate nutrition, promoting healthy child development, among others. The goal is to affect and support families who may be

"This accreditation is a testament to that hard work and, at the end of the day, the ultimate beneficiaries of these services are the children and families of Scioto County."

Superintendent Matt Purcell

dealing with risk factors such as: poverty, a history of drug abuse or addiction, domestic violence, cognitive disabilities, and mental illness.

Healthy Families Scioto County connects with families through community partners like hospitals and pediatricians to find the answers to their questions, meeting within

the familiarity and convenience of the family's own home. The primary population served by Healthy Families Scioto County is expectant families or those with infants to 3 months.

It's a program that is fairly new to SCDD, See **ACCREDITATION**, Page 4

Scioto County Special Olympics Basketball Schedule

THURSDAY, Feb. 14

■ **Jackson DD at VRS** (adult teams), 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 20

■ **Scioto County adult team at Adams County** (Manchester High School), 11 a.m.

FRIDAY, Feb. 22

■ **BCU at Scioto County** (VRS gym), 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, Feb. 26

■ **Scioto County adult team at Jackson DD**, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, Feb. 28

■ **Buckeye Hills at VRS**, 10:30 a.m.; boys play half, girls play half.



Thank You, Garfield School Alumni!



Members of the Garfield School reunion committee stopped by Vern Riffe School to donate funds and T-shirts. Accepting the donation is Principal Tammy Guthrie and students Cameron Watson and Ania Payne. The VRS building was built in 1915, and has served generations of Scioto County children over the years as Garfield School, Happy Hearts, and VRS.

Board Notes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met December 20, 2018 at 4:45 P.M. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

■ Before the meeting started, Board Member C. William Rockwell Jr. was sworn in for his third term by Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis.

■ Approved a 3 percent salary increase for qualified staff members as recommended by the Finance Committee

■ Approved a salary adjustment for managed employees with increased duties as recommended by the Finance Committee

■ Approved a two-year contract for the Director of Early Childhood/Help Me Grow, and a three-year contract for the Director of Finance/Human Resources, as recommended by the Finance Committee

■ Approved the contract with Southern Ohio Council of Governments, which included a three-month trial contract addendum for Behavior Support services

■ Discussed updates on the 2018 Community Needs and Assessment Survey and the proposed 2019 Annual Action Plan

■ Discussed revised Policy 2.10 – Credit Card Usage. The policy will be recommended for approval at the next board meeting

■ Discussed installing a fence around the VRS buses and agreed to continue discussion when more details were available

■ Approved allocating a total of 25 waivers for 2019

Board meetings are conducted at 4:45 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month. Meetings are held at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth.

Legislative Update

9 DD-Related Bills Move in Lame Duck Legislative Session

In a marathon of legislative votes during the final weeks of 2018, the Ohio General Assembly took action on several bills with the potential to impact county boards of DD and/or the people they support.

Covering the final two months at the end of each two-year legislative session, the so-called “Lame Duck” period is lawmakers’ final chance to advance bills before a new two-year legislative session starts. Of the nine DD-related bills that were acted on in the 2018 Lame Duck period, two were newly amended in December to include language relevant to

county boards. As such, they were not previously tracked in OACB’s Bill Tracker.

SB 21 was a bill containing language that would have required all levy ballot language to express annual tax rates in dollars and cents per \$100,000 of fair market value. After learning about the amendment, OACB drafted a letter to Senate Majority Caucus. The bill subsequently failed to reach its final vote in the Senate and will not become law.

SB 265 was amended in mid-December to include language from HB 72, a bill regarding step therapy protocols

for prescription drugs. Patients affected by the bill could include many people served by county boards. The amended version of SB 265 is awaiting a signature from the governor.

The other DD-related bills on which action was taken during Lame Duck have been covered at length in the OACB Bill Tracker at . As of January, the 2019-20 legislative calendar has begun. OACB will provide details on the association’s advocacy goals for the new legislative session in future editions of the PolicyBrief.

*Reprinted from
OACB PolicyBrief*

Calendar

FEBRUARY

18: Presidents Day holiday/
SCDD Closed
21: SCDD Board meeting

MARCH

19: RIVALS GAME vs. Open Door at
Ironton High School
21: World Down Syndrome Day
SCDD Board meeting
25, 27: VRS Parent/Teacher
conferences
29: VRS / NO SCHOOL

APRIL

2: Autism Awareness Day
18: SCDD Board meeting
18-22: VRS Spring Break/
NO SCHOOL
24: Good Friday/
SCDD Closed

MAY

10: VRS Prom
16: SCDD Board meeting
24: VRS graduation
27: Memorial Day holiday/
SCDD Closed
29: VRS students’ end of year awards/
last day of school
30: VRS teachers’ last day

we are ...

CARDINALS!

The 2019 Special Olympics basketball season kicked off in January, including road games against Buckeye Hills and Pioneer School. VRS hosted Jackson City in Cardinal Country, too. The next game is scheduled for February 5, when the Cardinals travel to Lawrence County for a match-up against the Open Door Jets.



Accreditation (contd. from Page 1)

having come into the organization in 2018 as part of the Help Me Grow program. The programs had formerly been overseen by the South Central Ohio Educational Service Center. Both Help Me Grow and Healthy Families Scioto County are now under the umbrella of Scioto County Developmental Disabilities and the staff at the Carousel Center, which is led by SCDD's Director of Early Childhood Services and Help Me Grow Tammy Nelson.

"I appreciate the team's passion for the target population that we serve," Nelson said. "They really do want to make a change and make a difference in children's and families' lives. They really feel this,

and they love the work they do and they take pride in assisting families."

The federal accreditation by Prevent Child Abuse America means Healthy Families Scioto County has been recognized for utilizing best practices in its home visits and supports for local families in the program.

"Tammy and her staff have worked so diligently and have exceeded any and all expectations in these areas of service delivery," said SCDD Superintendent Matt Purcell. "This accreditation is a testament to that hard work and, at the end of the day, the ultimate beneficiaries of these services are the children and families of

Scioto County."

"The SCOESC has been thrilled with our partnership with SCDD," said South Central Ohio Educational Service Center Superintendent Sandy Mers. "Tammy Nelson took the leadership role with Help Me Grow and Early Intervention this year and has been an outstanding change agent for positive outcomes. The programs are improving and expanding to help more families in our community. We really appreciate the work Tammy continues to do on behalf of Scioto County."

For more information about Healthy Families Scioto County, contact the Carousel Center at (740) 353-3995.

"I appreciate the team's passion for the target population that we serve. ... They really feel this, and they love the work they do and they take pride in assisting families."

ECS and Help Me Grow Director Tammy Nelson

Life HAPPENS

Everyone needs an assist at some point. The goal of Friends of Scioto DD is to provide that help for people who are eligible for services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities.

As a 501(c)3, donations to Friends of Scioto DD are tax deductible. They are used in situations when existing routes are too slow or don't apply.



**FRIENDS OF
SCIOTO DD**

www.FriendsofSciotoDD.com

