

March 2019



# Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



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Photos from the Rivals Game vs. the Open Door Jets at Ironton

## Hardwood Heroes hits the court on March 30

Olympics' athletes are ready to hit the hardwood against this year's field of celebrities as part of the Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game, which raises funds for local Special Olympics programming. The event will start at noon, Saturday, March 30, at Shawnee State University's Rhodes Athletic Center.

The 2019 Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Team:

- Adrienne Buckler, local attorney
- Aaron Cooper, vice president of Southern Ohio Security
- Officer Chris Dixon, Portsmouth City Police Department
- Shauna Dowdy, council member, Op-

*"When you give to Scioto County Special Olympics or take part in one of our events, you are part of something that offers opportunities in sport and physical fitness to folks you care about."*

**Lori McNelly, Scioto County Special Olympics spokesperson**

portunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

- Cameron Hoover, assistant coach, Portsmouth West High School's Varsity Boys Basketball
- Kelly Hunter, director, STAR, Inc.
- Phillip Adam Jones, chairman of Special Olympics, Sons of American Legion
- Dawn Keller, court administrator, Scioto

County Juvenile & Probate Court

- Carrie Kyne, school psychologist, South Central Ohio Educational Service Center
- Tonya & Miranda, owners, Sonora Mexican Grill
- Bill Ogg, Scioto County Treasurer

See **HEROES**, Page 4

## The 'I'm Great At/Celebrate Abilities' campaign to continue beyond March

Conceived as a way to showcase the talents of the Vern Riffe School student body, this year's 'I'm Great At/Celebrate Abilities' campaign will be extended so as to introduce more of our students to the community.

"The community is incredibly supportive of the students at Vern Riffe, and have shown it in so many ways – including the great response we've gotten on Facebook," said SCDD Community Relations Coordinator Lori McNelly.

The idea was to rotate the agency's Facebook cover page and highlight a student each day for March's Developmental



I'm **CHRIS**  
and I'm great at  
**MATH!**

March is DD Awareness Month

**CELEBRATE ABILITIES!**



Disabilities Awareness activities. The teachers and aides were instrumental in interviewing the students, who were asked what they loved doing most or what activity they thought they performed best. Answers ranged from

favorite school subjects to playing basketball to cartwheels.

The campaign will continue as long as there are students who want to take part, so keep checking SCDD's Facebook page!

## Board Notes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met February 21, 2019 at 4:45 P.M. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Received an update on the status of STAR, Inc. since the privatization on July 1, 2018.
- Reviewed progress on the 2019 Annual Action Steps.
- Approved changing a current employee's title from "Teacher's Aide" to "Cafeteria Worker I" as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- Approved creating two SSA Lead positions to be added to the Table of Organization, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- Reviewed revised Policy 4.12 – Addressing Major Unusual Incidents and Unusual Incidents to Ensure Health, Welfare and Continuous Quality Improvement. The policy will be recommended for approval at March's meeting.
- Approved two Direct Service Contracts.
- Discussed topics mandated for 2019 Board In-Service trainings and when they will be scheduled.

The next regular Board meeting will be conducted at 4:45 p.m., Thursday April 18, at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth. An ethics committee meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. at the same place if there is a need.

All meetings are open to the public with the exception of executive session.

### Is YOUR info up to date?

Make sure you get all SCDD's notifications on your phone or mobile device! Contact your program secretary for more information.



## Legislative Update

### State directors testify on DeWine's proposed budget

On March 13, state lawmakers on the Ohio House Finance Committee heard directly from state department heads for the first time regarding Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's proposed two-year budget—the preliminary highlights of which were released March 15.

Speaking before the committee Wednesday morning, DODD Director Jeff Davis outlined the department's budget priorities, which include a DSP wage increase, more funds for children's programs and early intervention, transportation, and multi-system youth. As reported by OACB last week, these priorities have significant

overlap with those identified by county boards and other DD stakeholders.

In his remarks, Director Davis thanked county boards of DD for their willingness to commit their portion of the funds necessary to increase the DSP wage increase and repeatedly stressed the importance of partnerships between the state and local governments.

Committee members also heard from Ohio Department of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran, who provided a top-level overview of the department's budget and data on caseloads and trends in managed care.

#### Next Steps

Budget-related subcommittees will begin meeting next week. OACB is scheduled to present testimony on Monday, April 8, in the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

Amendments will be accepted to the budget bill until the second week of April. The House Finance Committee will vote on the amended bill late next month ahead of a full House vote on the budget in early May, after which the legislation will head to the Ohio Senate

*Reprinted from  
OACB PolicyBrief*

Check the status of any piece of state legislation at  
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov>

## Calendar

### MARCH

- 29: VRS / NO SCHOOL
- 30: Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game to benefit Scioto County Special Olympics, sponsored by SCDD

### APRIL

- 2: Autism Awareness Day
- 17: South Webster Health Fair
- 18: SCDD Board meeting, 4:45 p.m. at STAR
- 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/Agencywide staff appreciation lunch

### JULY

- 4: Fourth of July holiday/SCDD Closed
- 19: Special Olympics Birthday Party & 2nd Annual Awesomesauce Challenge



# we are ... **CARDINALS!**

Vern Riffe School's Cardinals met up with their river city rivals, the Open Door School Jets, at Ironton High School for the teams' annual season-ending game. The Cardinals pulled away early, but the Jets kept the score close all four quarters. The final score was 29-22, Cardinals.

Cardinal player Johnny Royalty made the first bucket of the game, driving into the key after teammate Dakota White dominated the tipoff. White followed up with some two-pointers of his own throughout the game. James Charles dropped a three-pointer and Allison Schmidt sank two buckets.

The community's final opportunity to see the Cardinals in action this season is at the Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game on Saturday, March 30, which will have the Scioto County Special Olympics teams in action against a group of local celebrities on Shawnee State University's court. Presale tickets are available for \$2 each at Vern Riffe School, and admission will be \$3 at the door. This event is a fundraiser to support local Special Olympics programming.



# Heroes (contd. from Page 1)

■ Lt. Scott Osborne, Portsmouth Fire Department  
■ Bret Partlow, property manager, Portsmouth Metropolitan Housing Authority  
■ Jim Preston, inventory controller, Sun Coke  
■ Matt Purcell, superintendent, Scioto County Developmental Disabilities  
■ Jeff Rase, principal, Valley Local School District (and a SCSO Advisory Committee member)  
■ Kelli Richardson, event coordinator, SOMC Friends Community Center  
■ Debbie Sanders, owner, Integrity Homes

■ Brian Stephenson, director of occupational therapy, COMPASS  
■ Anthony Stidham, caseworker, Scioto County Job and Family Services  
■ Keiliana Wright, vocational specialist, Vocation Station  
Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis will be teaming up with Keith "KC" Chatfield for color commentary during the game.  
"All money raised at this event stays local and affects the lives of our friends, family, and neighbors," said Scioto County Special Olympics Spokesperson Lori McNelly. "When you give to Scioto County Special

Olympics or take part in one of our events, you are part of something that offers opportunities in sport and physical fitness to folks you care about."

The event will also feature a raffle, art show with works by individuals served by Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, and karaoke between quarters. Presale tickets are available at Vern Riffe School for \$2 each, while tickets will be \$3 each at the door.

The game, sponsored by Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, rounds out March's Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month events in Scioto County.



## HARDWOOD HEROES CELEBRITY BASKETBALL GAME

WHEN: Noon, Saturday, March 30

WHERE: Rhodes Athletic Center at Shawnee State

ADMISSION: \$2 presale, \$3 at the door