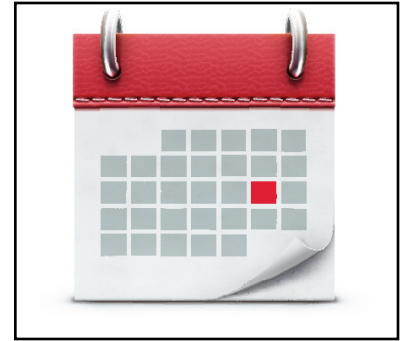


September 2019



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



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The 2019-20 SCDD
EVENTS CALENDAR

Walk-A-Thon rescheduled for Sept. 27

The kickoff to the athletic season for the Scioto County Special Olympics organization was rescheduled to Friday, Sept. 27, due to ongoing electrical repairs at Tracy Park.

The event was originally slated to be Friday, Sept. 20. Upon inspection of the work being done at the park, the Special Olympics committee came to the decision that conditions were not physically safe for students and adults who would be taking part in the annual walk-a-thon. Among the issues were trenches, which would have been a potential hazard to those with mobility issues and would have hampered the use of mobility devices during the event.

Also of concern was the lack of electricity at the park, which was being addressed by the city. Without electricity there would be no music for the dancing at the bandstand that is so popular every year with athletes and volunteers alike.

See you on Friday!

THIS IS CARDINAL COUNTRY!



VRS students
return to a gym
that had a facelift
over the summer



The renovations of the Vern Riffe School gym are complete and on the first day of school, the cardinals came home to roost – and to check out their new digs.

In addition to a new floor with new graphics, painted walls, and a refinished stage, contractors added a ramp from the gym floor to the stage to make it more accessible for those who use mobility devices.

But on the first day, it was the bright, big bird in the middle of the floor that attracted students yawning their way back after summer break.

"I like it," said transition student Cameron Watson. Cameron keeps stats for the Cardinals basketball team, which will be practicing in the gym soon.

The first basket made by a student in the newly renovated gym was by Cordell Miller, who plays on the school team.

STAFFING CHANGES AT SCDD

- Samantha Vetter was hired as a full time teacher's aide.
- Beth Arthurs was hired as a full time teacher's aide.
- Lorie Montavon resigned as a full time teacher's aide.
- Loretta Cooper has been hired as VRS school nurse.
- Brittany Mitchell has been reinstated as an SSA.
- Tom Sherman resigned as an SSA.
- One-on-one aide Savannah Whitt has resigned.
- Bradi Antrobus has been hired as a substitute teacher.
- Margaret July had been hired as a substitute teacher.
- Amanda Wells has been hire a substitute clerical support.
- Karen Gleim has been hired as substitute clerical support.
- Melissa Oiler is sponsoring a student teacher from now until December.

Anyone needing new ID badges should contact Lori McNelly in VRS Room 211 at ext. 34107 or lmcnelly@sciotodd.org. Badges can be made after 9 a.m.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DSP wage increase language intact in state's budget bill

Among Governor DeWine's line-item vetoes was a rejection of language that would have specified the statewide average wage of direct support professionals (DSPs) after the approved DSP wage increased takes effect in 2020 and 2021.

Financially speaking, this veto will not affect the DSP wage increase. The governor's veto is concerned only with the prescriptive dollar amounts for the statewide average DSP wage that the state would have been required to achieve under previous versions of the budget. These specific figures were first added by the House and were not present in the as-introduced language.

The appropriations for the DSP wage increase remain intact and, in fact, are



larger than OACB anticipated when the budget process began. The state's funding for this item now totals \$103.4 million for the biennium. Once distributed, these funds will create a statewide average DSP wage consistent with figures specified in previous versions of the budget bill.

DeWine signed the bill into law on Thursday, July 18.

SOURCE: OACB PolicyBrief

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

JULY

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, July 18. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Received a report from the Superintendent on the recent audit of the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) program
- Received an update of the assessment done on the entrance/exit doors in the VRS building, and plans to make improvements as needed
- Approved the Speech-Language Pathology Services Agreement between SCOESC and SCDD effective July 1, 2019
- Approved Resolution 2019-7.1 Regarding Appropriation and Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Residential Services Fund for the purpose of satisfying waiver matches
- Received the Annual Report draft for

BOARD NOTES

review. Approval for the report will be recommended at next month's meeting

- Approved Resolution 2019-7.02 Regarding the Cash Conversion Plan for contracted management employees

■ Approved extending the contract with SOCOG for the part-time Behavior Support Specialist, and substitute secretary
An attendee from the floor was recognized. She had returned from the last meeting to follow up with her concerns regarding the older doors at VRS. It was noted this issue is currently being addressed. She was thanked for her comments.

AUGUST

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 15. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved two Direct Service contracts

- Approved the 2018 Annual Report
- Approved the Room and Board contract between SCDD and Scioto Residential Services
- Received an informational only report from the Superintendent regarding health insurance plans. No action was taken
- Received an update on the recent DoDD Accreditation review. It was noted SCDD had zero citations, and will receive the maximum three-year accreditation
- Discussed the need for additional restrooms on the second floor at VRS

The next regular Board meeting will be conducted at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 17, at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth. An ethics committee meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. at the same place if needed.

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

congratulations

Conkel to retire after 20 years with SCDD

Nancy Conkel will be retiring after 20 years combined working at STAR/Adult Services and then the fiscal office. She was honored with a reception prior to the monthly board meeting. The board passed a resolution at this month's meeting recognizing her for her service.

Thank you, Nancy!



SCDD takes part in Ohio's largest daytime parade

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities took part in the 2019 River Days Parade on Aug. 30.



Volunteers showed up with bubble guns, giveaways, and a trailer full of fun – and we passed out more than 100 pounds of candy to parade goers along the 2-mile route!

Special thanks to STAR for loaning us the pickup and trailer and to Wright's Farm Center for loaning us the bales to sit on.



Service & Support
ADMINISTRATION



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities
www.SciotoCountyDD.org

Serving **People for a Lifetime**

2019-20 EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST

5-10: Scioto County Fair
15: SCDD Board meeting
19: VRS staff training; FT only
20-21: VRS all-staff training
20: VRS Open House
22: VRS students' first day of school
31: Portsmouth River Days Parade

SEPTEMBER

2: Labor Day/SCDD CLOSED
13: SCDD all-staff training/SCDD CLOSED
20: Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon
25: Family Advisory Council FB Live Watch Party

OCTOBER

14: Columbus Day/SCDD CLOSED
17: SCDD Board meeting
24: Fall-o-Ween
25: VRS early dismissal (noon) for staff training

NOVEMBER

11: Veterans Day/SCDD CLOSED
21: SCDD Board meeting
25-26: VRS Parent-Teacher conferences
27: VRS/No School
28-29: Thanksgiving/SCDD CLOSED

DECEMBER

17: VRS holiday program
19: SCDD Board meeting
23: VRS holiday break begins
25: Christmas Day/SCDD CLOSED

JANUARY

1: New Year's Day/SCDD CLOSED
2-3: VRS FT staff training
6: VRS students return from break
16: SCDD Board meeting
20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day/SCDD CLOSED

FEBRUARY

17: Presidents Day/SCDD CLOSED
20: SCDD Board meeting

MARCH

19: Annual Rivals Game vs. Open Door at IHS
19: SCDD Board meeting
20: VRS early dismissal (noon) for staff training
27: VRS/NO SCHOOL

APRIL

4: Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game
10: Good Friday/SCDD CLOSED
16: SCDD Board meeting

MAY

8: VRS prom at the Friends Center
15: VRS graduation
21: VRS last day for students
21: SCDD Board meeting
22: VRS last day for FT staff
22: Staff Appreciation Lunch
25: Memorial Day/SCDD CLOSED



Community partners certainly help make the dream work here at SCDD! Whether it's through volunteerism or donations, their efforts are very much appreciated! **THANK YOU!**



Bob Schmidt of Portsmouth Knights of Columbus hands a check to Coach Rita Arthur at a recent Scioto County Special Olympics volleyball practice. Donations to Special Olympics are used for transportation, feeding the team on game days, equipment, and uniform maintenance. Bob is also the father of athlete Alison Schmidt.



Joe Donini of Wheelersburg Knights of Columbus hands a check to VRS Principal Tammy Guthrie.



this class

ROCKS

Students in Brenda MacDonald's transition class became part of the Kindness Rocks social media phenomenon last week when they found one of the painted rocks placed at Vern Riffe School by a member of the Scioto County Rocks group.

The class learned about the group and its Facebook page. The goal of the group is to spread kindness and friendship, as well as Scioto County's influence, as far as possible through painting and placing rocks in public areas where others can find them. The rocks can be rehidden or kept by their finders.

The class intends to rehide theirs on an upcoming outing in an effort to pass along the smiles.

For more on Scioto County Rocks, check out their Facebook page.

