

October 2019



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



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*What happens at SCDD
when winter weather hits?*

"I am so very proud of the efforts that our team puts forth every single day to make sure the citizens of Scioto County continue to realize the investments of their tax dollars. Achievements of this magnitude serve to validate what I already know about this organization."

Superintendent Matt Purcell

SCDD Earns Three-Year Accreditation

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities recently underwent accreditation review by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Upon releasing zero citations for SCDD, which is a rare occurrence, the state has awarded the agency a three-year

DODD accreditation.

"You, the Board members, your superintendent and staff are to be commended for your efforts in achieving this status," wrote DODD Director Jeff Davis. "Department staff and I are well aware that this accom-

plishment required considerable commitment of resources and energy."

The accreditation team examined every department, poring over records and conducting interviews with staff. The process

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Fall-O-Ween raises funds for VRS PTO

In just two hours of Halloween-themed carnival fun SCDD volunteers and the community raised \$850 for the Vern Riffe School PTO on Oct. 24.

The VRS PTO's mission is to enhance the educational opportunities of students at Vern Riffe School. Among the many things the PTO has done: helped fund field trips, purchased a washer/dryer for the school, and sponsored prom and graduation every year.

The PTO's annual holiday basket raffle is coming up; more info will be available soon.

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is designed to encourage continuous improvement of the services and supports offered by Ohio's county boards of developmental disabilities.

"I am so very proud of the efforts that our team puts forth every single day to make sure the citizens of Scioto County continue to realize the investments of their tax dollars," said SCDD Superintendent Matt Purcell. "Achievements of this magnitude serve to validate what I already know about this organization."

The accreditation process requires all programs under the agency's umbrella to work toward a common goal; something that is a common occurrence at the agency. The services provided to individuals served by SCDD often require high levels of inter-departmental communication and cooperation.

"The results of this accreditation process speak to the hard work and commitment of our staff to the more than 750 individuals with developmental disabilities and their

"Achieving the maximum award possible confirms that our team is coordinating quality person-centered services and supports for the individuals receiving our services."

SSA Director Chad Phipps

families whom we serve in Scioto County," said Service & Support Administration Director Chad Phipps. "Achieving the maximum award possible confirms that our team is coordinating quality person-centered services and supports for the individuals receiving our services."

DODD accreditors were onsite at the Vern Riffe School campus in August to examine documentation and perform interviews. SCDD programs directly involved in the 2019 accreditation process included: Intake, SSA, Vern Riffe School, the Human Resources/Fiscal Office, Help Me Grow and Early Childhood Services.

"The 2019 SCDD accreditation process

proved to be a challenging, yet, a very positive experience," said Early Childhood and Help Me Grow Director Tammy Nelson. "I witnessed wonderful teamwork between the Help Me Grow Service Coordinators and the SCDD Developmental Specialists. Each staff member took their responsibility very seriously and wanted to make sure their 'product' met with our accreditation standards. The process allowed us to reflect on the quality services we provide and what a true difference Early Childhood Services makes for a child who has delays or a disability."

The accreditation period is effective Dec. 1, 2019, through Nov. 30, 2022.

Legislative Update

DODD issues final summary on provider suspension guidance

DODD has issued final guidance on new language in the Revised Code creating a new provider summary suspension process. ORC 5123.1612, which was passed as part of the two-year state budget bill, went into effect Thursday, Oct. 17.

The guidance explains the procedure for using this new process and considerations related its use. The guidance also explains the burden of proof necessary for the process to take place and the preferred method for contacting DODD in situations where suspension may be necessary.

*- Reprinted from
OACB PolicyBrief*

SCDD Calendar

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 VRS vs. Open Door at Ironton High School
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



Fall-O-Ween! fantastic!





Winter Weather Advisory

When winter weather arrives, there will be circumstances when transportation will have to be delayed or cancelled or Vern Riffe School will be closed.

■ On days when VRS is closed, Administration and Service & Support Administration (SSA) offices will typically remain open. These offices will follow the schedule set by the Scioto County Commissioners and Scioto County Courthouse on severe weather days.

■ Bus drivers are supported in using their own discretion when it comes to winter driving. This may include bus drivers making the choice to avoid certain roads known to be hazardous during inclement weather.

■ Scioto County Developmental Disabilities offers a taxpayer-funded services that is a healthy and safe learning environment. It is an option to attend; individuals may choose not to attend, that is their right.

■ Scioto County Developmental Disabilities never requires people to board a bus if they feel conditions are unsafe. Individuals, family members, and providers are also reminded they can always decide not to send a student to school, even if transportation is on regular schedule. Conditions may vary countywide, and circumstances and health considerations may require individuals stay home.

■ In addition to the one-call system, notifications of scheduling changes and closures are announced on SCDD's official Facebook page as early as possible. Local media outlets are notified, including radio and TV stations. Please consider monitoring multiple media outlets for up-to-date information.

■ Please make sure your contact information is current with the Business Office if you want to receive one-call notifications and texts. The appropriate forms can be found in your program offices and in the Business Office (VRS 209).