



Scioto County Board of DD

“Each and every decision must be weighed and considered in light of how we can serve the most people with the resources available.”

— Superintendent Julie Monroe



New Year Brings New Vision, Strategic Direction to SCBDD

As we embark upon a new year and the kick off of a new Strategic Plan, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief overview about our direction for the future.

We are going to make a concerted effort to enhance our identity as the central point of support, expertise, and funding for individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities living in Scioto County. While all county boards of DD in Ohio got their start in operating programs, the system has evolved and become more diverse due to our role in Medicaid waiver funding, mandates, and an ever-increasing service population. We are going to be proactive in getting the message out about what we do and how the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities helps people receive services they need.

While we plan on continuing our school program at Vern Riffe School and the early intervention program for children ages birth through 6, the adult services programs at STAR and the Vocation Station will be privatized in 2018 because of federal mandates. What we hope to communicate during this transition, however, is that reliance on local tax dollars will not change when we no longer operate these programs. We will be transparent in educating



the community about why local funds are needed to fund the wide array of services individuals receive.

Instead of being a place where people go, our role is to meet people where they are and assist them in accessing the supports they need. Through partnerships with stakeholders and community partners, we will strive to work towards more inclusion in the community for those we serve in all areas of life. However, for this to occur, it is imperative a pool of qualified and capable

providers exist so individuals and families have as many options for quality services as possible. Provider recruitment and support will be a key area of focus for us moving forward.

Being good stewards of tax dollars has been and will remain a critical area of focus for the Scioto County Board of DD. There have been major changes in recent years in how we allocate resources. We can no longer continue doing things because we have always done them that way. Each and every decision must be weighed and considered in light of how we can serve the most people with the resources available. That is the only way we can work toward long-term sustainability.

We consider it a privilege to serve those who utilize our services and will continually work towards helping people build meaningful lives. As always, we appreciate the support of the citizens of Scioto County for their role in helping us achieve our mission.

We invite all stakeholders to look at our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and 2016 Strategic Plan progress report. Both publications are now available at www.SciotoCountyDD.org. Feedback is welcome and can be sent via email to sciotocountydd@k12.oh.us or through the Contact Us tab on the website.

Board Notes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in regular session on Dec. 15 at STAR, Inc. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Recognized Laura Womack on her retirement from the SSA Department.
- Approved and adopted Policy 2.03 – Federal Funds
- Approved six revised personnel policies
- Reviewed and approved the new Strategic Plan draft
- Approved changing the EI/ Developmental Specialist salary range
- Discussed evaluation for the superintendent

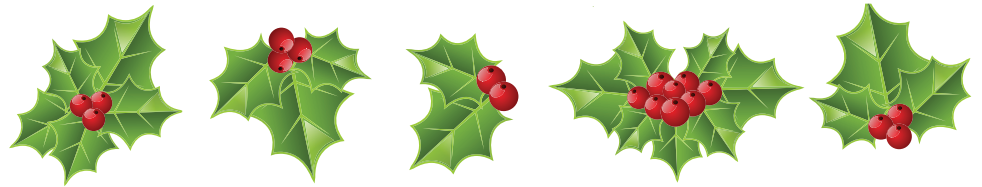
The next meeting of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities is set for 6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 19, at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth. An Ethics Committee meeting will be held the same day at 5:45 p.m. if there is a need.

Meetings of the Board and its sub-committees are open to the public, with the exception of executive session.

Pet Corner



Kanga is a retired Greyhound racer who calls Carla Nelson-White her aunt. Kanga enjoys wearing hats, being goofy, and having a fan club amongst some SCBDD staff.



Early Christmas at VRS

SunCoke Employees Bring Gifts, Lunch for Students and Staff



Jim Preston, of SunCoke Energy in Haverhill, is accompanied by student Cordell Miller as he delivers gifts donated by employees of SunCoke to the student body of Vern Riffe School. SunCoke also provided and served a pizza lunch to students and staff.

“They’ve been an active partner in assisting us to make the kids’ lives better this year. Their generosity has had a direct impact on the children we serve here at Vern Riffe School.”

— **Tammy Guthrie**
Director of School Programs

Employees of SunCoke Energy’s Haverhill location donated lunch for all Vern Riffe School students and staff Wednesday, Dec. 21, the last day before the Christmas break. As a surprise, they also brought gifts for all 61 students and went classroom-to-classroom delivering gift bags full of goodies such as hats, gloves, coloring books, books, and crayons!

Larry Walker, SunCoke Energy’s Human Resource Manager, said the opportunity to serve at Vern Riffe School was an honor and one he wants to see continue throughout the year. SunCoke Energy donated several electronics items to the annual PTO Basket Raffle, which raised almost \$4,000 — nearly \$1,000 over the PTO’s original goal. Basket raffle money is used annually to purchase Christmas gifts for students.

Walker said the company has a long history of “reaching out to the community to donate time and money” and looks forward to working with VRS in the future. Five volunteers played Santa, and then made their way to the cafeteria to serve pizza for lunch.

“We are really appreciative of the new relationship we’ve been able to develop with SunCoke throughout the school year,” said Director of School Programs Tammy Guthrie. “They’ve been an active partner in assisting us to make the kids’ lives better this year. Their generosity has had a direct impact on the children we serve here at Vern Riffe School.”

Birthdays & Workiversaries



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5: Melissa Gamp
- 11: Julie Monroe
- 17: Matt Purcell
- 19: Missi Wolfenbarker
- 20: Nancy Sand
- 23: Shonda Cooper
- 28: Jessica Hoffer

JANUARY WORKIVERSARIES

- 1: Tammy Bolton
- 2: Debbie Pace
- 3: Cindy Newberry
- 5: Ceci Sherman
- 16: Shelley Clifford
- 27: Tom Koch

EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFO

Vern Riffe School and 9-Month Staff

Please keep this information accessible and contact us with any questions or concerns at (740) 353-0636.

■ Announcements of early dismissals, delays, or emergencies will be announced on the media outlets below, including the School Messenger one-call system, the SCBDD Facebook page, WSAZ, WOWK, WNXT 99.3 FM, WIOI-AM, and WOKE 98.3.

■ Decisions to close, delay or dismiss early are based primarily on road conditions, temperature and severe weather forecasts, and how those factors impact safe bus transportation throughout the county.

■ There may be times the programs are

open, but the bus driver decides it is unsafe to travel on a particular area or road. You will be notified by transportation if/when that occurs on your route.

■ If you bring an individual into a program when bus transportation is not available in your area, you will need to pick them up in the afternoon. Buses do not travel in the afternoon where they were unable to go in the morning.

■ If your contact information should change, please notify us ASAP so the right information can be put into our School Messenger one-call system. Forms can be found in your program office or in the Business Office, located on the second floor of Vern Riffe School.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE INFO

Adult Services and 12-Month Staff

Please keep this information accessible and contact us with any questions or concerns at (740) 353-0636.

■ Announcements of early dismissals, delays, or emergencies will be announced on the media outlets below, including the School Messenger one-call system, the SCBDD Facebook page, WSAZ, WOWK, WNXT 99.3 FM, WIOI-AM, and WOKE 98.3.

■ The decision to delay, dismiss early, or close the Adult Day Services programs at STAR, and other 12-month programs operated by the SCBDD (i.e. SSA Department, Early Childhood, Administration, etc.), will be based on road conditions and/or snow emergencies as determined by the Scioto County Sheriff's Office and the Scioto County Commissioners.

■ Programs may be open and operating on regular schedule even when Vern Riffe School is delayed or closed. If these programs are closed or delayed, there will be an announcement made that refers to **ALL** SCBDD programs.

■ If you ride a school bus to STAR, you will need other transportation when Vern Riffe School is closed, unless you live in Portsmouth and New Boston. When possible, we will provide limited transportation in those areas to pick up adults. The availability of limited transportation in these areas will be included in the announcement you receive through the one-call system. All other bus transportation will be unavailable.

■ If Vern Riffe School is delayed, all bus routes are delayed. So, while STAR is open on regular schedule, bus services will still be delayed. This is the same for early dismissal of Vern Riffe School.

■ There may also be times when Vern Riffe School and transportation are running on regular schedule but a bus driver deems it unsafe to travel a particular road. The transportation department will notify anyone impacted.

■ Individuals brought to STAR when bus transportation is unavailable in their area will also need to be picked up.



Job Placement

■ **Brenda Goodman** is now working at Crystal Care in Portsmouth in laundry and dietary. Congratulations, Brenda!

Calendar

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day

JANUARY 2

New Year's Observed
(SCBDD Closed)

JANUARY 3

VRS: Classes resume

JANUARY 4

STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 6

STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 11

STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 13

SCBDD Staff Half-Day Inservice
All programs close two hours early
STAR closes at 1 p.m.

JANUARY 16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
(SCBDD Closed)

JANUARY 18

STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 19

6 p.m.: Board meeting at STAR, Inc.

JANUARY 20

STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 25

People First & Project STIR bake sale @
STAR
STAR: Bowling

JANUARY 27

STAR: Bowling

Stay Connected! Is Your One-Call Info Up-To-Date?

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities uses a one-call system to notify subscribers about changes in program scheduling. Subscription forms are available in program offices and the Business Office for individuals served by SCBDD programs, as well as caregivers, providers, and staff.



Kris Kringle Visits



TOP LEFT: Trenton and Cordell check out the train on the back of Santa's sleigh with Miss Trish; ABOVE: Alex hangs out with Santa; BOTTOM LEFT: Santa's Express, which is a joint effort of the Washington Township Fire Department and Norfolk Southern. Santa's Express comes to visit Vern Riffe School every year, bringing presents for every Cardinal he meets! Big thanks to the big man and his elves at Washington Township FD and Norfolk Southern!



Superintendent's Office
Scioto County Board of
Developmental Disabilities

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