



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



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Locals Graduate from Project Stir Training Program

2018: A Year of Growth at SCDD



Matt Purcell
Superintendent

As this year comes to a close and we ready ourselves for what awaits us in 2019, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what 2018 meant not only to me, but to the agency as a whole.

As of this date, I believe the Scioto county Board of Developmental Disabilities is in as

great shape as it's ever been. This year was filled with a lot of opportunity for growth through privatization of the Adult Services department, the acquisition of the Help Me Grow program, the accreditation process, the restructuring of the Business Office IT infrastructure, and the

statewide waiting list initiative. All of these opportunities were met, accomplished, and successfully implemented by our great leaders and staff.

Throughout this year I was committed to learning everything

See **GROWTH**, Page 5

Boops from Santa



The Big Man himself visited the Early Childhood/Help Me Grow program at the Carousel Center on Tuesday, Dec. 11, when staff organized a special lunch get-together for families and children served by the programs. Scioto County DD's Early Childhood and Help Me Grow programs serves more than 100 families in Scioto County, including that of little Madilyn Mollett, shown here with Santa Claus. Want more info on Early Childhood Services or Help Me Grow? Call the Carousel Center at (740) 353-3995.

PTO Basket Raffle Raises Funds for Gifts

It has been a great year for the Vern Riffe School PTO Holiday Basket Raffle. The community has supported the cause, which seeks to provide holiday gifts for each student at VRS, to the tune of \$4,530.

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Student Angel Rowe draws a ticket as VRS PTO President Kim Miller looks on in the VRS office.



Locals Graduate Project STIR Leadership Training

Self advocates from throughout Ohio attended a course offered in November by the Ohio Self Determination Association in order to become Project STIR trainers.

Project STIR provides educational opportunities and resources for people with developmental disabilities who are interested in become leaders in their communities.

Six individuals from Scioto County attended the session, which was conducted at Shawnee Lodge and Conference Center. The Scioto County Developmental Disabilities attendees were: Bill Adams, James Biars, Jan Johnson, Chaislyn Metzler, Isaiah Mullen, and Kelsi Pennington.



Board Notes

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

- Approved one direct service contract
- Approved a 9.33% rate increase by United Health Care
- Discussed the insurance rate increase and approved leaving the premium share percentages as they currently are
- Approved the revised Table of Organization which placed the intake department under the direction of the Medicaid services manager
- Approved changing the title of "Director of Intake and Early Childhood" to "Director of Early Childhood and Help Me Grow"
- Nominated and approved a delegate and alternate for the OACB Delegate Assembly
- Approved the Speech-Language Pathology Services agreement between SCDD and ESC

The next regular board meeting will be at 4:45 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20, at STAR, Inc., 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth. An ethics committee meeting will be conducted 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.

Great Things Happen Here



Miranda Nazorowski graduated from the Project STIR self-advocacy program on Dec. 13. Miranda, center, is shown here with instructors Bill Adams and Sherri Daniel. Congrats, Miranda!



For National Sock Day on Tuesday, Dec. 4, the SSA Department wore their favorite socks, but also collected 111 pairs of socks of all sizes and colors to donate to the Southern Ohio Sexual Assault Treatment Center. Center Director Patty Webster said this donation will be appreciated by local domestic violence survivors and their children served at the center. Pictured L-R: Theresa Rowland, Kellie Reedy, Webster, Carlisa Baker, Joy Copen, and Sandy Brisker.

Calendar

DECEMBER

21-Jan. 2: VRS holiday break
25: Christmas/SCDD Closed

JANUARY

1: New Year's Day/
SCDD Closed
3: VRS Classes resume

17: SCDD Board meeting

21: MLK Jr. Day holiday/
SCDD Closed

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

(DD Awareness Month)

19: RIVALS GAME
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

Legislative Update

Bill Passed to Fix 9- and 10-Month PERS issue

On Dec. 12, the Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives reached unanimous concurrence (91-0) on amendments to HB 572, an OACB-backed bill that ensures 9- and 10-month non-teaching county board school employees will continue to receive a full year's service credit within the Ohio Public Employment Retirement System (PERS). The legislation now heads to Gov. John Kasich, who is predicted to sign the bill.

The concurrence vote came after the Ohio Senate's approval of HB 572 on December 6. Changes made to the bill language in the Senate meant a final review by the House was needed. The vote today is the final procedural step before the governor's desk. After the governor signs the bill, OACB will continue to engage with members of the board of DD business manager leadership team and county auditors to assist with the bill's implementation.

Issue Background

Advocacy related to the 9- and 10-month PERS issue began last year when OACB received notice from members that county auditors had stated that boards lacked the authorization to compensate 9- or 10-month employees at board schools on a 12-month basis—potentially delaying employees' retirement dates and holding them to a different standard than their counterparts at public schools. About 1,300 board of DD employees were affected by the change statewide.

OACB Advocacy

OACB worked with county board leaders, OPERS representatives, and members of the General Assembly to explore rule and legislative fixes to this issue. After being initially included in an unrelated PERS bill, the matter was eventually taken up as stand-alone legislation and was amended in June

2018 to include retroactivity (allowing affected employees to receive service credit for the period between Jan. 1, 2017, and the date of the bill's passage).

Throughout 2018, OACB coordinated testimony in support of the bill numerous times and created an advocacy letter signed by 37 county board superintendents. More recently, Franklin DD Superintendent Jed Morison and OACB submitted proponent testimony to the Ohio Senate Insurance and Financial Institutions Committee on Nov. 27 and Dec. 4.

Thank You

The association would also like to sincerely thank the dozens of county board superintendents, business managers, and personnel directors who contributed to the research and advocacy efforts on HB 572.

-Reprinted from OACB PolicyBrief

HHS Seeks Public Input on HIPAA Privacy Rules

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, has issued a Request for Information seeking input from the public on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Rules, especially the HIPAA Privacy Rule, could be modified to further the HHS Secretary's goal of promoting coordinated, value-based healthcare.

HHS developed the HIPAA Rules to protect individuals' health information privacy and security interests, while permitting information sharing needed for important purposes. However, in recent years, OCR has heard calls to revisit aspects of the Rules that may limit or discourage information sharing needed for coordinated care

or to facilitate the transformation to value-based health care. The RFI requests information on any provisions of the HIPAA Rules that may present obstacles to these goals without meaningfully contributing to the privacy and security of protected health information and/or patients' ability to exercise their rights with respect to their PHI.

"We are looking for candid feedback about how the existing HIPAA regulations are working in the real world and how we can improve them," said OCR Director Roger Severino.

In addition to requesting broad input on the HIPAA Rules, the RFI also seeks comments on:

- Encouraging information-sharing for treatment and care coordination

- Facilitating parental involvement in care
- Addressing the opioid crisis and serious mental illness
- Accounting for disclosures of PHI for treatment, payment, and health care operations as required by the HITECH Act
- Changing the current requirement for certain providers to make a good faith effort to obtain an acknowledgment of receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices

Submissions are being accepted for the next issue!

This year's Raffle Winners

- Basket 1/ Scent of the Seasons: **Pat Milligan**
- Basket 2/ The Miser Brothers' Gift Basket: **Theresa Koch**
- Basket 3/ Dinner in an Instant: **Beth Arthurs**
- Basket 4/ Outdoor Family Fun: **Destin Metzger**
- Basket 5/Santa's Helper: **Tiffany O'Rourke**
- Basket 6/Baby It's Cold Outside: **Debi Lykins**
- Basket 7/Amazon This Basket is on FIRE: **Lori McNelly**
- Basket 8/Ohio State basket: **Debbie O'Dell**
- Basket 9/Christmas Goodies: **Canty Hasell**
- Basket 10/Merry and Bright: **Renee Howard**

RAFFLE *(contd. from Page 1)*

The annual raffle involves each classroom at VRS building a themed basket, funded partially every year by seed money from a generous donor.

The generosity of both our Scioto County community and supporters from afar has been astounding. After the raffle, the PTO and volunteers purchase age- and ability-appropriate gifts for each student at VRS.

If you would like to donate to the Vern Riffe School PTO or find out more about it, please contact the school office at (740) 353-1876.

GROWTH *(contd. from Page 1)*

I could in order to lead this wonderful organization, but quickly realize it was going to take more than a year to learn everything I needed to. However, I did figure out a few things in this first year.

To begin, I learned that we have a staff that I would put up against any in the world in terms of effectiveness, compassion, and ability.

I've learned that change in this field never ceases and the learning curve constantly changes.

I've learned that our leadership is strong, sound, and forward thinking.

I've learned that we serve close to 800 of the best people on this planet and their families.

I learned that every time I make a decision of significance, I sit in wonder of the taxpayers

of this county and what this program means to them.

I've learned that our Board is as diverse as it is talented and thoughtful.

I've learned there are many great people living in our county who want to see our program not only exist, but flourish in doing so. The past year was full of learning, accomplishments, and challenges all of which were met with enthusiasm and positive attitudes. I consider myself extremely lucky to be able to lead this organization into the future and deliver top-notch services to the people of Scioto County.

I want to close with wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season and wonderful start to a new year!

(Matt Purcell is the Superintendent of SCDD)

Sounds of the Holidays



Choirs from Scioto Career Technical Center, Portsmouth West High School, and South Webster High School continue the tradition of holiday caroling and filled the halls of Vern Riffe School with the sounds of the season this month. A great big Cardinal "Merry Christmas" and thank you to our friends at SCTC, West, and South Webster!