



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

**METZLER SELECTED
FOR STATEWIDE EI
TEAM**

Catie Metzler, Developmental Specialist helps other EI professionals across the state. pg. 2

**SSA MITCHELL
MAKES
DIFFERENCE**

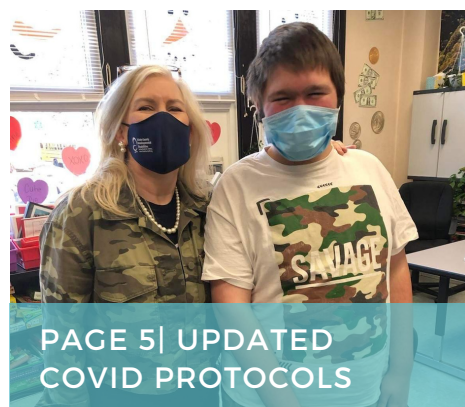
Brittany Mitchell instills hope and offers support to Tony Fisher. Fisher is grateful for her belief in him. pg. 2

**PROTECTING
INDIVIDUALS'
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Announcing the 2022 Human Rights Committee Members. pg. 4



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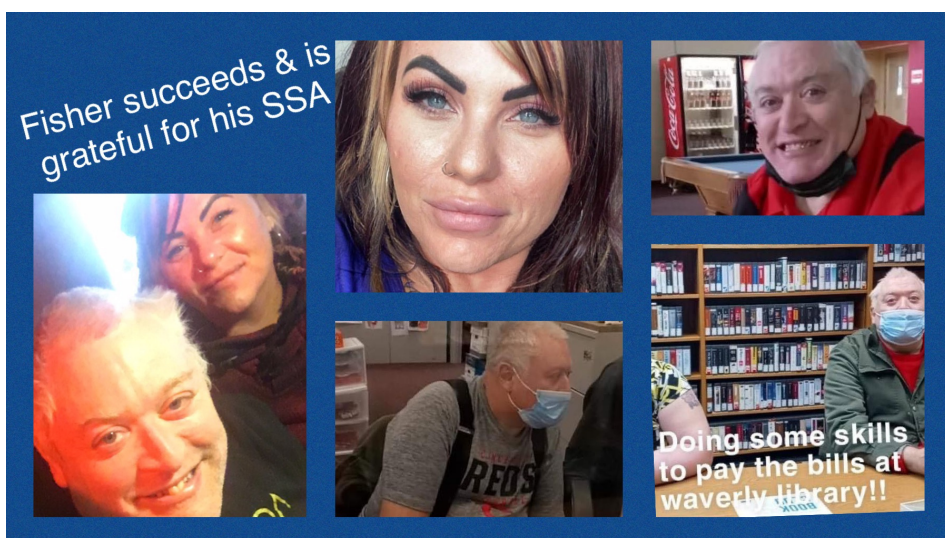


PAGE 4 | CAROUSEL PLAYGROUND COMPLETED



Adrienne Buckler Callihan
participated in her first
board meeting

PAGE 3 | NEW BOARD
MEMBER, CALLIHAN



SSA BRITTANY MITCHELL MAKES A DIFFERENCE

There is power and hope wrapped in believing in someone's abilities. Tony Fisher, service recipient at the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) knows first hand the difference this belief can make in a person's life. "Brittany is my SSA and she never gives up on me," Fisher remarked. Brittany Mitchell, Service and Support Administrator (SSA) at SCDD has been Tony's service coordinator going on 5 years. Ensuring that the right supports are in place to help Tony, and other service recipients, succeed is a key aspect of the SSA role. When Tony hit obstacles in a previous job, Brittany was right there advocating for Tony during his weekly meetings. Through assessment, determination, and belief in Tony's abilities, Brittany did not give up hope on him. Brittany learned of a new program out of Pike County called ACES that helps build employment skills. She called upon them to provide services to Tony to help sharpen his skills in order for him to achieve employment success. "It is important that you continue to support people with their dreams, while breaking down any barriers they face in order to help them achieve their goals," explained Brittany. "SSAs have a wonderful opportunity to help connect people with the services they need to help them live a self determined, good life," She continued, "seeing things come together for people helps me appreciate the small things and gives a sense of satisfaction that I've ever had with any other job."

SSAs conduct person centered planning and assessments on a daily basis to help people achieve the outcomes they want out of life. They utilize information gained in the planning process to connect people on their caseloads with services and then author the service and supports into their Individualized Service Plans (ISPs). Candidates for SSA positions must have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in human services or other applicable field. There are currently SSA positions available. To apply, send resume and applications to the Fiscal and Human Resources office of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities.



METZLER SELECTED FOR STATEWIDE EI TEAM

Developmental Specialist, Catie Metzler, has been selected to help prepare and coordinate the Early Intervention State Networking calls in the state of Ohio. Each month, calls are held between Early Intervention professionals across the state to discuss challenging cases and gain new perspectives and ideas from their colleagues. Catie celebrates 5 years in the Developmental Specialist role next month.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES

6 yrs: Tom Koch- 1/27
3 yrs: Jeannette Ferguson- 1/30
2 yrs: Chelsea Watkins- 1/7

25 yrs: Kim Miller- 2/18
5 yrs: Kristi Cyrus- 2/6
5 yrs: Catie Metzler- 2/6





CALLIHAN EMBARKS ON HER FIRST TERM AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD

The Scioto County Probate Judge, Alan Lemons appointed Adrienne Buckler Callihan to serve on the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, beginning in 2022, at a small ceremony at the court house in November 2021. Callihan was appointed to replace 12 year board member, Jeff Kleha, who completed his tenure last month.

On January 27, 2022, Adrienne participated in her first board meeting. She was also appointed as chair of the ethics committee. Adrienne shared that her own educational journey began at the Carousel Center, as she was a preschooler in their very first class that included “typically developing” students integrated with students with developmental delays and other disabilities. Adrienne reflected, “Looking back, I had no idea how big of an impact that preschool classroom would have on my life. Being involved in the DD community is now something that is not just “typical” to me, it is important, a staple. From the Special Olympics or Hardwood Heroes, to the Vocation Station or Halloween carnivals, to simply still having friends like Daniel or Neil, the DD community is truly in my heart! Then AND now.”

Coming full circle from being a student in the classroom to having the opportunity to be involved as member of the board, Adrienne expressed, “It is truly an honor to give back to people who mean so much to me. And, while I feel like I never really left the DD community, or really, that preschool classroom, I’m so glad to (officially) be back!”



JON PETERS SWORN INTO FIRST FULL TERM

A small ceremony was held on January 19, 2022 at the Scioto County Courthouse by Judge Alan Lemons to swear in SCDD Board Member Jon Peters.

Peters was appointed to the board in April of 2021 to fill a vacancy and is now being appointed to serve his first full term.

Photo Credit: Tiffany Keller from DPS at SSU



Michael Arnett and Cindy Gibson were sworn in by Scioto County Commissioner, Scottie Powell for a 2nd term on the board.

The ceremony was held at a special board meeting on January 27, 2022



CAROUSEL PLAYGROUND COMPLETED

A capital improvement project at the carousel center was completed this month. Children who utilize CAO Head Start in the building were excited to start playing on it this month.

The Carousel Center houses:

The Early Intervention Department

The Outreach Department

SCDD Intake Services



PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS' RIGHTS: HRC

Elizabeth Porter - Chair
Latisha Darby
Brandi Dalton
Elizabeth Legg
Kimberly Miller
Dustin Schenk
Raetta Schenk



The Human Rights Committee is tasked with ensuring individuals, living with a developmental disability, are receiving the least restrictive supports needed to ensure their health, safety, and welfare.

HRC is a volunteer position. The members are appointed annually by the Superintendent. The group receives training, approved by DODD, to carry out their duties and is made up of an equal representation of people who meet the following criteria: a person eligible to receive DD services; a family member of someone eligible to receive DD services; a qualified person with experience or training in contemporary measures of behavioral support; and a county board staff or service provider.

Upcoming training opportunities

March Forth to Employment Conference!

March 4, 2022 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Virtual - [Click HERE to Register!](#)



Join us virtually on March 4th, 2022 for this event! While there are two "tracks," please be aware that some presentations under the Employer track are still very appropriate for individuals, family members and professionals (and vice versa). Your schedule is up to you! We are seeking Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for all presentations.

For Individuals/Families (I/F): Students with disabilities and their families or providers will hear from self-advocates and learn how to prepare for employment. Mock interviews and networking opportunities will also be offered.		For Employers (E): Employers and managers will hear from other businesses who have successfully hired individuals with disabilities and will also have opportunities to network and learn about growing your inclusive hiring practices.	
9:00-10:00	Panel of Self-Advocates and their Managers/Employers (Café Bon Appétit at Denison University, Nationwide Children's Hospital, and Zanesville Steel). Moderated by Keith Banner, Project Manager with Employment First, an initiative within the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.	Keynote: Making It Work! (I/F & E)	
10:30-11:30	How To Support Individuals at Career Centers (I/F) by Jackie Johnson, Vocational Special Education Coordinator at the Delaware Area Career Center.	The Employer Toolkit (E) by Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities	
12:30-1:30	Transportation Realities & Considerations (I/F) Panel (COTA, Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Ohio Department of Transportation, and Ohio State's Assistive Technology Center) Moderated by Mace Moore, Public Transit Manager with COTA.	Employer Panel #1: Employment at the Macro Level (I/F & E) Panel (Advance Auto Parts, Autism, Huntington Bank, and OhioHealth) Moderated by a Nationwide Children's Hospital Talent Acquisition Partner.	
1:45-2:45	Charting the LifeCourse (I/F) by Ambassadors from Nationwide Children's Hospital, Ohio Family to Family, Ohio State University Manager Center, and University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.	Employer Panel #2: Employment at the Micro Level (I/F & E) Panel (Blue Spectrum and Goodwill) Moderated by a Nationwide Children's Hospital Talent Acquisition Partner.	
3:00-4:00	Self-Advocacy in The Workplace (I/F) by Project STIR	Supported Employment (E) by ARC Industries	



NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S
When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.

For questions, please contact Nationwide Children's CAPABLE Employer Resource Group at CapableERG@NationwideChildrens.org.

UPDATED COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Highlights from 1/6/2022 Memo by Superintendent Matthew Purcell

In accordance with changes from the Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control:

- Diagnosed with COVID-19:
 - Stay home & isolate for a minimum of 5 days regardless of symptoms or the lack of them.
 - wear a three-layer (or better) mask when you are positive and must be around other people.
- Exposed to COVID-19 & Vaccinated (up to date on shots/booster)
 - Not required to quarantine unless you develop symptoms or test positive.
 - Wear a mask for 10 days after exposure
 - take a COVID test on day five.
- Exposed to COVID-19 & Not Vaccinated (or vaccines are not up-to-date)
 - Stay home and wear a mask around other people for a minimum of 5 days after exposure.
 - Take a COVID test on day five and isolate at home if you develop symptoms or test results are positive.

Things that are not changing:

- Masks required in all buildings. This does not apply to students who do not tolerate masks.
- Masks do not have to be worn when someone is working alone in an enclosed workspace or when actively eating and drinking.
- Masks should cover both the mouth and the nose.
- While in our buildings or working in the field, all employees must have immediate access to a mask in case they find themselves in an unexpected, congregate situation.
- All sanitization procedures will continue.
- Social distancing is encouraged whenever possible.
- Being vaccinated and receiving the booster are highly recommended.
- We will maintain separate entrances, continue taking temperatures upon entering our buildings, and reporting elevated temperatures to the FMX system.
- Staff members who must isolate or quarantine and those with positive tests are required to report to school nurse Loretta Cooper as soon as they are able so that she may make timely reports to the local health department. Mrs. Cooper may be reached by email (lcooper@sciotodd.org) and voice mail (740-353-1876, ask for the nurse's office, Ext. 34130). See memo emailed to staff on 1/6 for further details regarding specific information to report.



GREEN HAT STAFF

Each month, at least one staff will be honored with the Green Hat Award. A green hat staff is someone who shows a lot of positivity in their work. Green hat professionals are seen as helpful, optimistic, supportive, and focuses on strengths, abilities, possibilities, solutions, and success.

Jeff Horner exhibits all of these qualities and more. He works 1:1 with a student at VRS, drives a bus, creatively produces video/media content for VRS One-Ten Media, and is currently training for his new job as Positive Support Facilitator. He does all of this with "can do" attitude. Thanks Jeff for sharing your compassion and skills with a smile.

JANUARY STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Melissa Gampp
Margaret July
Megan Webb
Matthew Purcell
Melissa Wolfenbarker
Nancy Sand
Erica Culver
Jessica Hoffer

FEBRUARY STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Jason Chaffin
Kristi Cyrus
Catie Metzler
Cindy Coriell
Cera Wymer
Tracy Smith
Donald Blackburn
Brittany Mitchell
Becky Mault
Stephanie Moss
Carlisa Baker



CONGRATULATIONS!! STAFF WITH NEW ROLES AT SCDD



STEVE SOWKULECH
DIRECTOR OF FISCAL
AND HUMAN RESOURCES

2022 is bringing change and new opportunities to the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Among these is long time SCDD employee and Scioto county native, Steve Sowkulech, being promoted to Director of Fiscal and Human Resources, at the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Steve has been an employee of SCDD for over 16 years serving in a variety of roles throughout the organization, including: substitute teacher, Service and Support Administrator, Community Employment Team Leader, and Medicaid Services Manager. Over the past five years, Steve concentrated his focus on more of the fiscal aspect of service rendering. "During that time, Steve was responsible for monitoring all Medicaid services, providing quality assurance on billable services, and assisting administration with program development to maximize efficiency of our revenues.", according to Matt Purcell, Superintendent of SCDD. Purcell continued, "Steve's business savvy approach, his solid record of efficiency with public funds, and his dedication to the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, made him a clear choice for the director role."

Amid the challenges that have arisen while serving people through a pandemic, SCDD has remained true to their values. "We pride ourselves on being good stewards of taxpayer dollars while also ensuring the needs of those we serve are met," stated Steve Sowkulech, Director of Fiscal and Human at SCDD. "Our main objective will continue to be using our fiscal resources effectively and efficiently to provide services that will lead to the highest quality life for individuals we serve in Scioto County. We will continue to look at ways that we can use technology to become more efficient, in order to provide the highest levels of oversight and accountability."

Human Resources are also an ancillary service to SCDD and one that Sowkulech remarks will be seeing advances and improvements "We will be working to retool the HR department to meet the needs of the agency in a post pandemic world - in order to be more accessible and helpful to our employees, which will increase their accessibility to those we serve. We will strive to build a department that will lead to the recruitment and retention of quality employees."

Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, including the Vern Riffe School employs nearly 100 full and part time employees, all of whom work together to support individuals with disabilities as well as their families and the community as a whole.

Published on January 7, 2022 in the Portsmouth Daily Times



NATHAN POWELL
SERVICE AND SUPPORT
ADMINISTRATOR

introducing Nathan Powell, SSA at Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities!

SSAs do the important work of assessing service needs, creating person centered plans, authorizing any funding needed for assessed services, and monitoring the health and safety of those served.

Nathan is not new to this role or to SCDD, however he was previously working at SCDD under a contract through Southern Ohio Council of Governments (SOCOG). On January 1, 2022 Nathan was hired full time through SCDD to continue his SSA work. Nathan has been involved with SCDD since January 2018 when he was a graduate student intern with our Behavioral Support Coordinator. He also worked as an SSA assistant through SOCOG since July 2018 and then began doing SSA work in January 2021.

Nathan has a Master's Degree in Social Work.
Congratulations Nathan! We're glad to have you as an official SCDD staff!



STORMY WILLIAMS
TEACHER'S
ASSISTANT

Introducing our newest Teacher's Assistant at Vern Riffe School, Stormy Williams!

Stormy was hired into the Teacher's Assistant position on January 3, 2022. Prior to this role, she was a One on One Aide at VRS. She is assisting Lead Teacher Dana Jones. Dana has reported that Stormy is doing a fantastic job in the classroom and well-liked by the students.

Congratulations Stormy! Keep up the good work!!