



## INSIDE:

- SCDD Staff Appreciation
- Photos from around the community
- Calendar of events
- SCDD Board Minutes
- AND MORE!

## Smiles and sunshine at the Scioto County DD Summer Cookout

*Families, providers, and staff gathered to celebrate the end of school and the start of summer.*

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities kicked off the start of summer with its annual SCDD Summer Cookout, which was held this year at Earl Thomas Conley Park in West Portsmouth, on June 21, 2023.

The cookout was divided into two parts beginning with the adult day and summer school programs in the morning, and families and providers invited in the afternoon. Families, providers, and employees gathered throughout the day to enjoy good music, good food, lots of fun inflatable activities, and plenty of good company.

"School ended about a month ago, so this is our kickoff to summer for all of our departments. It's a nice break for everyone to get together and have a nice time," said Erica Wallace, director of Early Childhood Services at SCDD. "This is actually larger than last year. We've added our Early Intervention families this year, and we're very excited to see them coming out and having a good time together. The Summer Cookout also allows our staff to mingle, because we have two buildings and we don't get to mingle with each other very often."

While hot dogs were grilled in



the sun, Ollie's Burgers and BBQ provided additional catering and Sunset Slush of Portsmouth, Ohio helped keep people cool with their famous Italian shaved ice. Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Franklin Furnace donated sodas and juice and the staff of SCDD provided buns, chips, desserts, and tableware.

"Everybody who is associated with Scioto DD is welcome today. We have our 3 largest day program agencies here such as SRS Our Place, STAR, Inc., and Easter Seals; and our VRS summer program students are here," said SCDD Outreach Coordinator Theresa Rowland. Kelly Johnson brought her son

Brendon out to enjoy the event. She said she loved having an opportunity to get together with all of the individuals from SCDD. Brendon was enjoying the music and food, Kelly said.

"SCDD has assisted us a lot throughout the years. It's a really good program," Johnson said. Linda Frazier, a caregiver for individuals with developmental disabilities attended the Summer Cookout and said she was happy to see old friends again. "I can't believe what our county board has done for our population. It always amazes me. The thought and work that goes into this is unbelievable. When you've got people with good intentions, it all

**See more cookout photos inside!**



## SCDD Summer Cookout

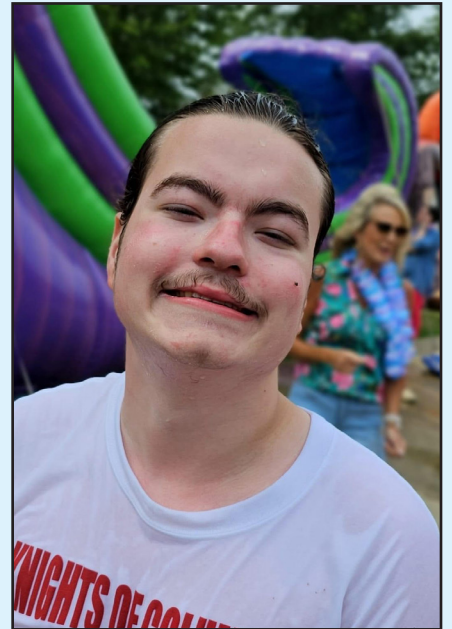
works out,” Frazier said. Last year’s cookout was held on the hot parking lot of the Vern Riffe School, so this year’s event was moved to the comfortable shade of the big shelter house at Earl Thomas Conley Park. Rain had fallen all week before the event

and was predicted to continue and wash out the cookout, but the clouds parted and the sun came out to play and give everyone a bright and happy time. “We love to see those we serve interacting with each other and enjoying the summer season,”

Rowland said. For more information about the programs and services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, call 740-353-0636 or visit online at [www.sciotocountydd.org](http://www.sciotocountydd.org), and like and follow them on Facebook and TikTok.



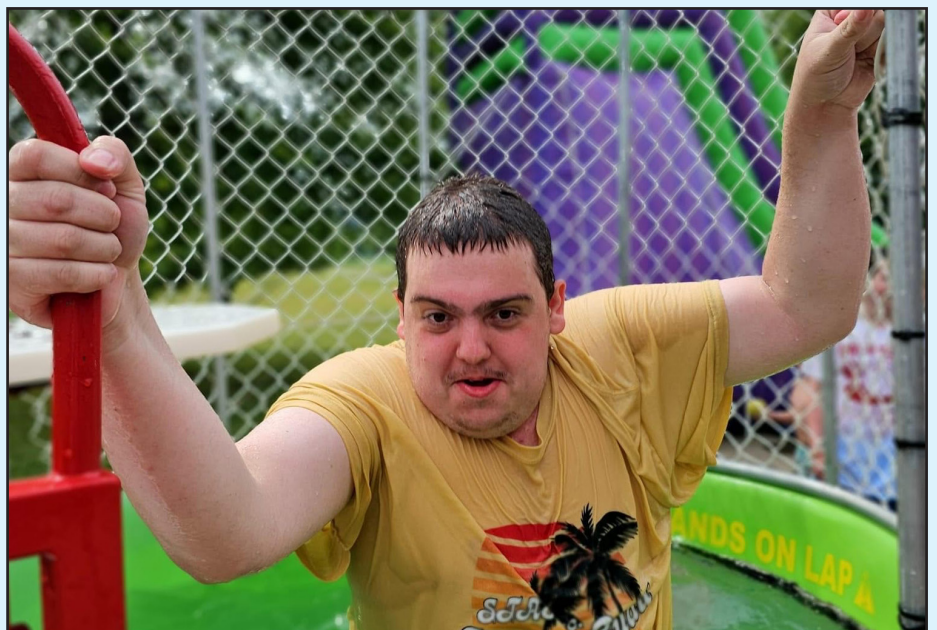
*Erica Wallace and Rosemary Cook at the Summer Cookout.*



*Brody Wyatt at the Summer Cookout.*



*HR Clerk Trent Fife at the Summer Cookout.*



*Zach Kigar enjoyed a cool dip in the dunk tank at the Summer Cookout.*



# SCDD staff receive Biographical Timeline Certification

*Positive Support Facilitators complete trauma informed training to better serve individuals.*

Two Positive Support Facilitators (PSFs) working with Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, Jeff Horner and Lori Snyder, have recently completed additional training to help teams for individuals with developmental disabilities use a trauma informed lens to better understand a person's entire life story. The certification program helps the facilitators have further insight into behavioral reactions in order to assist people strengthen their resilience and have positive outcomes.

Prior to becoming PSFs, both Horner and Snyder had several years of experience working in the field of developmental disabilities. Horner started working with SCDD as a bus driver in 2012, and by the next year he was also working as a one-on-one aide inside the Vern Riffe School. Snyder joined SCDD 20 years ago as a substitute at the Vern Riffe School and she became a one-on-one after only a few months, in addition to serving as an independent provider for 22 years. She became a full-time teaching assistant in 2008.

"I'm very passionate and I love the job I do. I can't imagine myself doing anything else. The fulfillment you have for being able to help the individuals we serve, and to see their accomplishments, that's the best part," Snyder said.

In 2022 Horner and Snyder were both hired as PSFs.

"As a PSF, we work with individuals and their families, guardians, providers, and SSAs. We're just part of the team that takes the needs of the individuals we serve into consideration, and discover ways to help someone who is having bad days have better days.

Sometimes it's behavioral reactions to situations outside of their control and they need help, and sometimes it's just helping them communicate their needs and wants in order to gain more personal autonomy. A big part of

what we do is making sure that individuals' rights are being considered," Horner said. Horner and Snyder each recently completed their Biographical Timeline Certificate program; a program to facilitate trauma informed and responsive care to help them better support individuals with developmental disabilities.

"A lot of people think that a biographical timeline, sometimes referred to as a trauma timeline, is something you can look at to see all the bad things that's happened in someone's life, but being positive is in the name of what we do. While those things are relevant, they also tell a story of someone who has survived. We get to learn some of the ways they have coped with these challenges, and it's a really powerful story," Horner said.

Snyder said the training provided valuable skills to help them uncover past experiences that the individual might have had, and



helps them realize why they may be reacting a certain way currently as well as what a person needs to feel safe and understood in the present. Facilitating a learning experience through these timelines is an approach for the teams to gain a deeper understanding about ways they can help someone they support who is reacting in an undesired way.

"Many individuals we work with have had some trauma, but they also have a lot of good attributes. This tells you everything about them. It's really telling you the story of their life," Snyder said.

The certification was offered by Soulbird Consulting, and was completed online with occasional in-person sessions in Columbus over the course of 6 months. For more information about the programs and services at Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, call 740-353-0636 or visit online at [www.sciotocountydd.org](http://www.sciotocountydd.org), and like and follow them on Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok.



## SCDD out and about



*On May 25, 2023, Early Childhood Director, Erica Wallace and Stephany McGlown of Help Me Grow participated in the quarterly Community Baby Shower at the Scioto County Welcome Center.*



*On June 30, 2023, SCDD participated in the Corporation for Appalachian Development (COAD) Summer Fest event in Tracy Park to bring awareness of DD services. Pictured: Brian Holbrook, Theresa Rowland, Catie and Georgia Metzler.*

*Portsmouth River Days Contestant Miss East, Haylie Howard, hosted an event on July 20th during the Challenger League Baseball game. Her River Days platform raises awareness about fairness, equality and inclusion (F+E=I). SCDD attend to provide info about services and speak about the importance of inclusion.*



*On July 25, 2023, Chris Cooley, self-advocate held a fundraiser at Stadium Lunch in Portsmouth Ohio for Ohio Service Dog Awareness Week. He collected donations for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Pilot Dogs, 4paws Ability, and Canine Companion. He is photographed here with his service dog, Larkin, and Stadium Lunch Owner, Reese Brown.*



# SCDD staff connect with students through intervener program

*Two SCDD classroom aides have earned their intervener certificate to help students with sensory impairments.*



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities Classroom Aides Penny Wheeler and Tracy Smith have recently completed their Intervener Certificate programs to help them better serve students and families at the SCDD.

An intervener is a support role in which certified interveners work directly one-on-one with students with sensory impairment, such as deaf or blind, to help them achieve their goals. The certificate program is a two-year online program offered by Shawnee State University, in Portsmouth, Ohio. The credit hours can also be transferred to count toward completing an associates degree in teaching.

"If a teacher is working with

a student and needs help communicating in a way the student communicates, I will come in and I will sign for them or I will help them use their device to understand what the teacher is saying. We will go on field trips and everywhere with the child," said Wheeler, who has been a Pre-K through 3rd grade teacher's aide with the Vern Riffe School program at SCDD for four years. She said she was excited at the opportunities the program would create for her to help students. "I want to do teaching, but I kind of want to gear myself toward being an interpreter because I really like sign language. I like how it's a whole different language and community, and there's not enough

of us out there," Wheeler said. Smith has been a teacher's aide with SCDD since 2012, first working at the Carousel Center before moving to the Vern Riffe School in 2016. "I've always had a fascination with sign language because I had several kids at the Carousel Center who spoke primarily in sign language, and so many non-verbal kids with autism that sign language kind of became a second nature to me after a while. But I've never had a good background in braille, which is another thing that has fascinated me. So when this program became available I jumped at the chance," she said. Smith said she does not currently have any deaf or blind students in her classroom, but many of the techniques she learned during the Intervener Certificate program can also be applied to working with children with autism.

"I was amazed at how well I was able to throw something in once in a while to see how it worked, and they responded. It makes learning so much easier for the kids," she said.

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## Welcome the newest faces around SCDD!



### CALE HAGEN

*Service & Support Administrator (SSA)*

When he's not at the NASCAR races or lounging on the beach, Cale enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and his "fur babies" Jojo and Tank. He joined SCDD to help individuals reach their full potential to be included in the community.



# Scioto DD's Erica Wallace accepts new position with the Ohio Association of County Boards

*After 14 years with Scioto DD, Wallace will be OACB Children and Families Advisor*



## Erica Wallace Selected as Children and Families Advisor

The Scioto County Developmental Disabilities congratulates Director of Early Childhood Programs Erica Wallace for accepting a new position with the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB). While she will be greatly missed by the SCDD community, we are excited to watch her take this new opportunity as the association's next Children and Families Advisor. She formally assumes her new role on Aug. 28, 2023, and will be the first representative from Scioto County chosen to serve on the OACB.

"We were blown away by the talent, expertise, and passion that all five of our finalists demonstrated during the interview process,"

said Adam Herman, OACB's chief executive officer. "When it was time to make our final decision, however, Erica's creativity, unique skill set, and strong relationships across county lines convinced us she was the right person for the job. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team and can't wait for her to get started later this month." Wallace currently serves as the Director of Early Intervention for the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, a position she has held since 2018. Before taking a leadership role at Scioto DD, Wallace served in three positions supporting children and families at the board, including four years as a developmental

specialist, four years as a service and support administrator, and three years providing general administrative support for board operations.

"I have absolutely loved working with the families over the last 14 years. It's been an honor to work with each and every one, and I am excited to continue my role, and still serve and support Scioto in a different capacity," Wallace said. "In my new job, I'll be able to provide support to all 88 counties, including our Scioto County, to our Early Intervention team."

A certified Developmental Specialist, Early Intervention Supervisor, PLAY Project Consultant, and Court Appointed Special Advocate for children (CASA), Wallace is a graduate of Shawnee State University. She lives in Wheelersburg, OH with her husband, Eli, and three daughters: Ava, Kinley, and Callie.

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## Thank you, Erica!





## Upcoming Events:

### August

- 8/7 - 8/12: Fair Week!
- 8/17: SCDD Board Meeting 5 p.m. at the Carousel Center
- 8/21 - 8/22: Return of Full-Time School Staff
- 8/22: New Employee Orientation 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 8/23 - 8/25: All School Staff Return for Back-to-School Training
- 8/24: VRS Open House 3 - 5 p.m.
- 8/28: First Day of VRS for 2023-2024 School Year

### September

- 9/2: River Days Parade
- 9/5: Labor Day – All SCDD Programs Closed
- 9/8: Special Olympics Walk-A-Thon (rain date 9/15)
- 9/22: Staff Recognition Lunch and Inservice  
\*Ends at 4 p.m. – Itinerary to come

### October

- 10/5: VRS Picture Day
- 10/6: VRS: No School – all staff report. Emergency Drills for VRS Building
- 10/9: All SCDD Programs Closed - Indigenous People's Day
- 10/26: Save the Date: SCDD Falloween
- 10/27: End of 1st VRS Grading Period. Early Dismissal



## Scioto County Board of DD May-June Meeting Minutes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities conducted their regular Board Meeting at the Carousel Center in Portsmouth, Ohio, on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 5 p.m. In addition to regular business, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the previous Finance Committee and regular Board meetings,
- Accepted a report from Finance Director Steve Sowkulech reporting the beginning and ending balances for April 2023,
- Accepted the Superintendent's Report from SSA Director Chad Phipps reporting for Superintendent Matthew Purcell.
- Accepted a report from Personnel/Finance Committee Chairperson Anthony Mantell, reporting that the Committee met on May 15, 2023 to discuss the five-year forecast. No action was taken and no recommendation given for the Board at this time.
- Accepted a report from Ethics Council Chairperson Adrienne Buckler-Callihan, reporting that the Council met at 4:45 P.M. prior to the Board meeting to discuss three Direct Service contracts. No conflicts were found, and the Committee recommended the Board approve all three.
- Discussed In-service trainings for Board members in June 2023
- Approved the 12-month and 9-month calendars.

The Board met again on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 5 p.m. and took the following actions:

- Approved one Direct Service contract,
- Received an update from the Superintendent on passed legislation that allows DD Board meetings to continue being conducted (post-pandemic) both in-person and remotely; and,
- Received an update from the Superintendent regarding CMS requesting the provision permitting parents/authorized family members to be caregivers to their minor children during the pandemic be reinstated to become a permanent waiver service. The Senate version of the bill still has to go through the Conference Committee and survive a possible veto by the Governor.

# Staff Appreciation

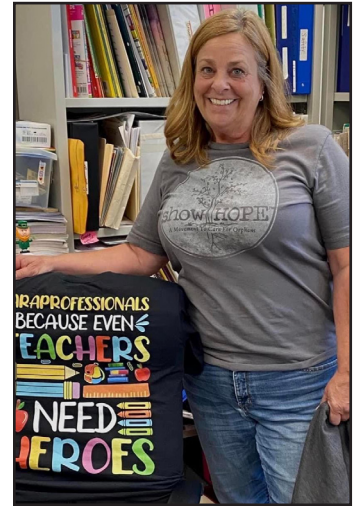
End of the school year was appreciation for Teachers, Paraprofessionals, 1:1 Aides, Therapy Staff, School Nurse, Bus Drivers our Cafeteria Worker and School Nurse. Here's a few photos with their appreciation shirts. SCDD appreciates all you do!



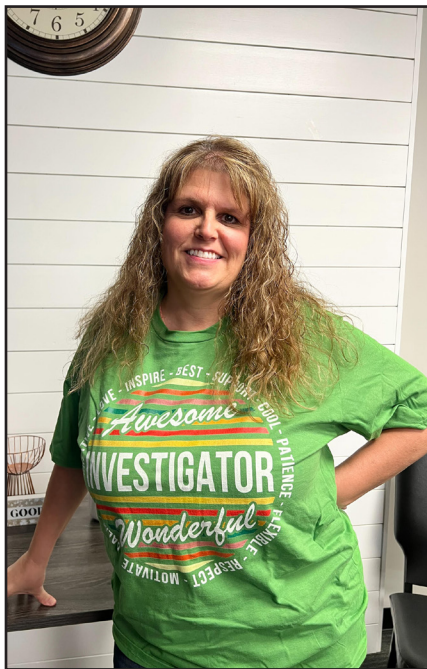
Staff in Missi Wolfenbarker's classroom



Cafeteria Worker  
Sharon Malone



Paraprofessional  
Theresa Seidel



National Investigators Day was July 24th: Thank you Tara for your work as our MUI Coordinator



Scioto County DD celebrated Developmental Specialist Appreciation Day on July 20, 2023. Pictured are Cassie Clark, Kayla Stone, Cera Wymer, Alma Whitt, Sarah Huffman, Catie Metzler, and Erica Wallace. Not pictured: Erica Culver and Kalyn Eastwood

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