



## INSIDE:

- VRS Summer Program Activities
- Service & Support Administrators
- July 2022 Green Hat Awards
- Calendar of Events
- AND MORE!

# SCDD celebrates the start of summer

*Students and staff gather for food and fun at summer cookout activities*

The Scioto County Developmental Disabilities took the opportunity to celebrate summer school and adult day program participants and their staff with a special summer cookout in the Vern Riffe School parking lot on June 30th.

“With the fourth of July coming up we thought what better way than to do a cookout to bring everybody together and have a celebration of summer, and celebrate all of our services,” said Chad Phipps, SSA Director with SCDD while grilling hundreds of hamburgers and hotdogs. The SSA department is responsible for ensuring that the service needs of people with developmental disabilities, beginning at age 3 and continuing through the end of life, receive services and support to live meaningful lives. Some of those services include group programming for students and for adults.

The Vern Riffe School graduated five students on May 20 as the school year came to an end. June began the SCDD Summer Program Activities, which involved boat races in gutters, mural scavenger hunts with the Portsmouth Murals, and field trips to the Candy Land Museum and Shawnee State University Planetarium – to name just a few. This year’s Summer Program



concluded with this cookout on June 30, closing the book on another year of student services and welcoming the start of summer! Adult day program participants, summer school students, and staff gathered together in the parking lot of the Vern Riffe School to celebrate together with a cookout, inflatables, music, and more! “We have a great turnout. All of our day program providers from Scioto County, along with our summer school program participants, are here. We’re really happy to see all of the staff that typically have to work behind the scenes in the office get the opportunity to spend time with the people we serve and the staff who support those people.

This event is a more casual and fun way to connect and build relationships,” said Jessica Hoffer, SCDD Outreach Director. SCDD has done activities in the past, such as the Special Olympics Walk-a-thon, Hardwood Heroes, and the annual Halloween festival, but has not been able to host any larger events involving more than one program for the past two years because of Covid. Judging by the large turnout and smiling faces, people were glad to have this opportunity to get together once again. “The last few years have been rough on everybody, so it’s great to get everybody together, and see

**Continued on Page 2**

# VRS students continue learning through summer activities

*Field trips, petting zoos, and movies are just some of the activities for students in June*

School may be out, but students from the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities Vern Riffe School are still having a great time, thanks to the Vern Riffe School Summer Programs! "We have provided parents with a safe and recreational activity for their students. Some activities have been boat races in gutters, mural scavenger hunts with the Portsmouth Murals, and we took a field trip to the

Candy Land Museum," said Dana Jones, lead teacher at Vern Riffe School and facilitator of the summer program. They've also taken students to the movies to watch "Minions," observed a program at Shawnee State University Planetarium, had a petting zoo with Lucasville 4-H and visited Shawnee Forest and the local police station and courthouse. "They've been taking pictures, writing about

their experiences, and being more community-aware. When they grow up, they might need to find the courthouse or the police, fire stations, or banks. Throughout the year in our lessons, we have been doing things that build that up, so when we go there it kind of pulls it all together. It will help them with their life skills when they become an adult," Jones said. The summer program lasts the entire month of

June, three days a week for four hours each day, with a unique theme, such as community and space. The summer program ends with a giant cookout celebration at the Vern Riffe School for students, families, and service providers. For more information about the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities, visit online at [www.sciotodd.org](http://www.sciotodd.org) and like and follow them on Facebook.



## SCDD Cookout - Continued from Page 1

each other, and be able to smile and laugh and have fun together again," said Elizabeth Porter, Star, Inc. Program Manager. Shonda Saylor is a service provider helping individuals who come to the Star, Inc. Adult Day Services program, and her daughter, Tyeshia, attends these services.

"She would have fell through the cracks if it wasn't for the DD program. She's high-functioning and lives on her own with support, but she needs assistance for safety," Saylor said. Tyeshia said her favorite thing about the event was all the good music and food. Around 200 people of all ages enjoyed the day

of fun to celebrate summer and the chance to gather again. For more information about the programs and services at the Scioto County Developmental Disabilities, call 740-353-0636 or visit online at [www.sciotodd.org](http://www.sciotodd.org), and like and follow them on Facebook.

## SCDD assists individuals to show their value in the community

*Service and Support Administrators assist people in learning independence and confidence*

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities is assisting individuals with disabilities by giving them the skills and tools to be independent, and connecting them with job placement programs.

“People with disabilities have the same thing to offer as anyone else. Our goal is to show that they are not disabilities but abilities. You might see limitations, but these individuals can surpass just about anything you could imagine,” said Service and Support Administrator Eddie Davis.

Davis works with individuals like Robert Milani, of Portsmouth.

“I have served as an advocate for Bobby for about two years. He can call me anytime a need arises, and I will try to help him meet that,” Davis said. “Working with Bobby has been phenomenal. I’m not



here to do things for him. I want to get him the tools he needs to learn how to do this for himself, or at least help with those tools. Everything we do is geared toward building independence.” Davis and the program at SCDD

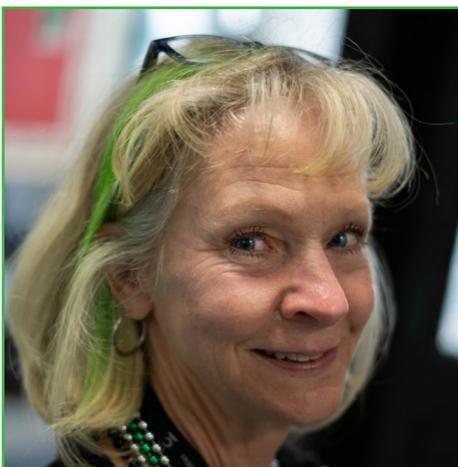
connected Milani with the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities program and Goodwill, which helped him find a job he loves at Tim Horton’s in Portsmouth. “I went in for an interview, and then two or three days later they hired me,” Milani said. “I’m a baker’s assistant, and I do the eggs and the bacon, and I get the donuts for the bakers, and I make the iced cappuccinos and I sweep and mop. I really like my employer and the employees, and I like to get out and enjoy meeting people.”

Milani said it has been great working with his SSA Eddie. “I feel a lot better about myself now. I feel very good,” he said.

People wanting to learn more about the SSA program and services

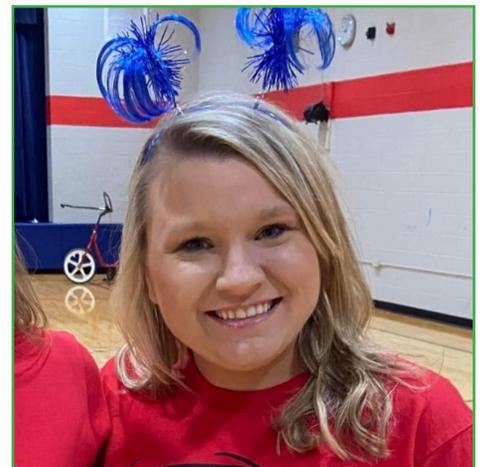
at the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities can call 740-353-8448, or visit online at [www.sciotodd.org](http://www.sciotodd.org) and like and follow them on Facebook.

## Green Hat Awards: Cindy Coriell and Sam Vetter



“Both ladies are always ready to help in any way. They both go above and beyond their job descriptions and have never uttered the words, “that is not my job.”

They exemplify good work ethic and set a perfect example for their colleagues to follow. They will do whatever needs to be done to make sure their students have a positive and full school day and they do it with smiles on their faces.”



## **Phipps: ‘OhioISP will improve communication and information for families’**

The SSA Department of Scioto County Developmental Disabilities hosted informational sessions in June regarding the new Ohio Individualized Service Plan (OhioISP). The new plan is created for all individuals served by an SSA.

“Where we’re moving to one plan, there’s going to be some positives in that. Everyone’s plan will look the same in all 88 counties. For families, they’ll see better communications and easier ways to contact teams and share documents. It’s still a work in progress on the IT side, but I see this as a great positive. Other states, like Oregon, are already doing this with great success and we’re consulting with them to make sure this all goes well,” said SSA Director Chad Phipps. The SCDD participated in local OhioISP events on June 22 for families, and on June 28 and 30 for local providers.

From the OhioISP website -- Built on the Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC) core belief that all people have the right to live, love, work, play, and pursue their life aspirations, the OhioISP places the needs of the person receiving services in the center of the planning process. The person leads the planning process by making choices, setting goals, and deciding how they want to live their life.

Every member of the team is equally important to the success of planning and implementing a person’s OhioISP. The team consists of the person, their family, friends, and professionals in the person’s support network. By asking questions and working with the person as their guide, teams explore the person’s vision of a good life in their current circumstances and the future.

The team explores all experiences and areas of the person’s life and considers every age and upcoming life changes. As they prepare for the OhioISP and assessment, the CtLC Person-Centered tools can help people with developmental disabilities, their families, and teams have more meaningful conversations that are focused on the person and the supports they need to fulfill their vision for a good life. CtLC Family Perspective tools can specifically help families as they plan, problem-solve, or work on goals. The tools enable families to share information, their unique perspectives, and their opinions with the

team.

The OhioISP format is the same no matter where you are in Ohio. People moving throughout the state will have the same plan format and experience the same planning process no matter what county they live in or what provider(s) they choose while maintaining the individuality of the plan content for each person. In fact, when a person moves to a new county or facility, their Ohio ISP moves with them. Service and Support Administrators (SSAs) and Qualified Intellectual Disability Professionals (QIDPs) can continue using the person’s established plan, and the new team will not have to start the OhioISP from scratch.

SSAs, QIDPs, and providers can collaborate easier, even from across counties, because everyone is working from the same template. SSAs and QIDPs will receive standardized training to ensure statewide consistency in planning and assessment. With a consistent plan for all Ohioans with developmental disabilities, providers, even if they offer multiple services or operate in multiple counties, will have a single plan to learn. No matter where they work or what services they provide, direct support professionals (DSPs) will know exactly where to find the information they need about the people they serve and the supports they are providing.

An online platform will be available to teams throughout Ohio to access the assessments and plans for the people they support.

For more information, visit <https://dodd.ohio.gov/compliance/oisp>.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **JULY 14:**

SCDD will be at the Community Action Health Fair, at the Scioto County Welcome Center, on Second Street in Portsmouth, from 1-3 p.m.

#### **JULY 21**

SCDD Board Meeting – 5 p.m. in the Carousel Conference Room, or Live on Facebook.

### **HOW TO CONTACT US:**

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You can also find us on Facebook, and online at [www.sciotodd.org](http://www.sciotodd.org).