

March is DD Awareness Month

March 2020



Scioto County Developmental Disabilities

Serving People for a Lifetime.



DISABILITY
AWARENESS

INSIDE

*Bill and Sherri Adams attend
Advocacy Day at the Statehouse*

Levy renewal on the primary ballot

Absentee voting continues, in-person voting moved to June 2

Scioto County Developmental Disabilities has a levy renewal on the March 17 ballot that will affect services for the next five years. As this issue is a renewal, that means there is no new tax involved. The vote simply means the levy will continue as is for five more years. It will continue to cost the owner of a \$50,000 home \$2.84 per month.

Due to the pandemic declared because of the spread of COVID-19, Gov. Mike DeWine and Secretary of State Frank LaRose's have moved in-person voting in the primary due to June 2. Absentee voting

continues for the next 11 weeks, including the vote on the SCDD levy renewal.

SCDD serves people of all ages and across all demographics in Scioto County. Services include:

- Early Intervention for children birth-2
- Early Childhood Services ages 3-6
- Educational services through Vern Riffe School (kindergarten-transition age)
- School-based therapy programs, including physical, occupational, speech therapies, and adaptive physical education
- Partnership with Special Olympics
- Case management through SCDD's

Service & Support Administration

- Medicaid waiver services
- Behavior support services
- Guidance for transition-age youth
- Employment navigation
- Family-directed services, including respite and home modifications for individuals to have increased accessibility
- Partnerships with area service providers
- Assistance in obtaining remote supports for eligible individuals who want to live more independently

For more info about the levy renewal, visit SciotoLevy.com.

Coronavirus causes changes in SCDD operations, events

At the order of Gov. Mike DeWine, Ohio schools closed due to concerns surrounding the potential spread of coronavirus, or COVID-19. As of right now, Vern Riffe School is closed to students until at least April 6.

COVID-19 is a respiratory virus that has been declared a pandemic in size. The illness causes fever, dry cough, shortness of breath. Some who contract the virus show no symptoms or have a mild case resembling a mild flu. However, those who have existing health issues, are immunosuppressed, or are senior citizens may have increased difficulty fighting the virus.

The situation with COVID-19 and scheduling for March DD Awareness events has seen the cancellation of all Scioto County Special Olympics games, including the annual Rivals Game with Open Door School and the Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game.

SCDD is implementing an intensive regimen of cleaning and sanitizing facilities in order to maintain the safety of students and staff of all programs housed in the VRS building.

For more info, check out SCDD's Facebook page or view the agency website at SciotoCountyDD.org.

SCDD's response to CORVID-19/Coronavirus

■ **Students will receive food from VRS via bus delivery today. For more info, call the school at (740) 353-1876.**

■ **See Page 2 for a letter from Superintendent Matt Purcell.**

■ **Updates will continue via the one-call system, Facebook, and SciotoCountyDD.org.**



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March 11, 2020

In an effort to keep you informed as to what precautionary steps the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities is taking in order to maintain the safest and healthiest learning and working environment, we would like to update the people we serve, our staff, stakeholders and other interested parties on the safety precautions regarding COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus.

As you may know, the first Ohioans were diagnosed with COVID-19 earlier this week in Cuyahoga County. SCDD is taking every measure possible to prevent the spread of this COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

I have ordered intensive cleaning in all of our facilities in order to disinfect and sanitize all areas that employees and individuals frequent and receive services. Furthermore, we have doubled the frequency in which we regularly sanitize all areas of the organization. It is our intent to continue this practice for the next 30 days. However, due to the rapidly changing nature of this situation, this practice is subject to change in duration and frequency.

Additionally, we ask the following from our staff, students and community members for the next 30 days:

- Employees must be extra cautious with home visits. Employees should call in advance to ask if anyone in the home is sick and only proceed to those households that aren't experiencing illness.
- Visitors to our facilities should not enter the buildings if they are experiencing symptoms related to illness. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath.
- Please take extra precautions in hand-washing and disinfecting/cleaning surfaces for the next 30 days, especially during and following gatherings at SCDD buildings.
- If you are experiencing symptoms, please stay home and only leave to receive medical treatment.

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities is working under the guidance of Scioto County Public Health Department, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

For the most up to date information on COVID-19 please visit www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Purcell", is written over a horizontal line.

Matthew Purcell
Superintendent

What is the coronavirus?

“Coronavirus” refers to a large family of viruses. However, the specific virus being referenced in media reports is a novel (or new) type of coronavirus that had not been previously identified.

Is the coronavirus like the common cold?

There are several types of coronavirus. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is not the same type that commonly circulates and causes mild illness like the common cold.

How does it spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading person-to-person. For that reason, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends patients with the coronavirus be isolated either in a hospital or at home until they recover and no longer pose a risk of infecting others.

What are the symptoms?

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing. It is believed that symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

Is it dangerous?

The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully understood, but reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information, visit www.cdc.gov.

What is the risk for our area?

For the general American public, the immediate health risk is considered low. However, healthcare workers and travelers returning from certain locations are at an elevated risk of exposure. For a complete list of countries currently affected, visit www.cdc.gov.

How is it treated?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent the coronavirus, and no specific treatment. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. The CDC does not recommend wearing face masks unless you are sick. They are not an effective way for a healthy person to avoid the virus.

What steps can I take to avoid exposure?

There are several simple, everyday actions you can take to help prevent the spread of illness:

- » Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- » Stay home when you are sick, unless you have called your doctor and been instructed to receive medical care
- » Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- » Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily
- » Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

How can I make sure I have the latest information?

This is a rapidly evolving situation. For the latest information on the coronavirus and COVID-19, visit www.cdc.gov.

Mr. & Mrs. Adams go to Advocacy Day in C'bus



ABOVE: SCDD Self-Advocacy Specialists Sherri and Bill Adams met with State Rep. Brian Baldrige's legislative aide Sam Creech on DD Advocacy Day at the Statehouse. The annual event encourages self-advocates to meet with their representatives about legislative issues important to them. BELOW: Bill and Sherri with Community Opportunities Navigator Theresa Rowland and fellow self advocate and Scioto County native Marci Straughter, who is now a Project STIR trainer in Franklin County. BOTTOM: Bill and Sherri meet with State Sen. Terry Johnson's aide Abbie Benjamin.



VRS visits Scioto County Commissioners to mark March as DD Awareness Month



Vern Riffe School students and staff joined Scioto County Commissioners Mike Crabtree and Bryan Davis at the Scioto County Courthouse as March was declared Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Scioto County. Front row: Gabe Martin Justin Sanford, Jon Mitchell, Andrew Myer, Jasmine Yinger, Beth Grate. Second row: Principal Tammy Guthrie, Jaycee Yearwood, Alex Shortridge, Michael Kirkendall, George Jewell, Jon Adkins, Tristin Mollett, Chris Glispie, Zach Kigar, Brodie Wyatt, Donna Tackett. Third row: Teresa Seidel, Karen Carver, Lori Morton, Mike Crabtree, Bryan Davis, Amanda Adams, and Dana Jones. Many thanks to the commissioners!

Pre-trout derby fun for students at VRS



Todd Dunn, who with volunteers sponsors the annual trout derby for disabled children and disabled veterans at Lake Roosevelt, and Shawnee State Forest Naturalist Jenny Richards stopped by Vern Riffe School with some of the volunteers to do a fishing demonstration with students as part of March's DD Awareness Month events. Every student received a wristband and bobber, and a few -- Aaron Jacobs and Chris Glispie -- won fishing rods. The trout derby is over the weekend of April 24-26 at Lake Roosevelt, and will feature waived license fees, live music, a hog roast, and church on Sunday. Dunn said the experience is not limited to Scioto County residents, and volunteers will be on-site to assist individuals as needed.

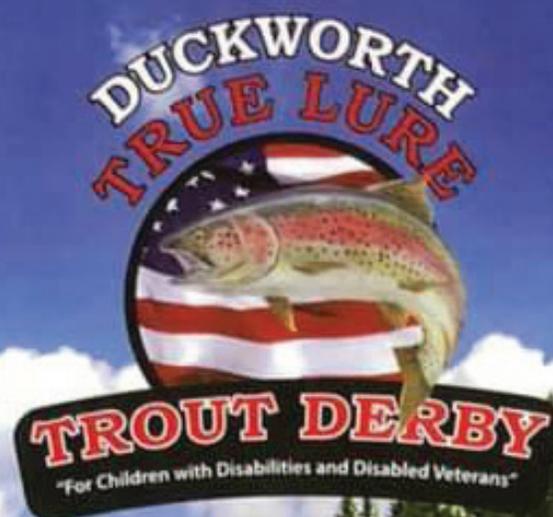


this is
**CARDINAL
COUNTRY**

The Valley-Northwest (red jerseys) team kept it a tight game with the Vern Riffe School Cardinals (white jerseys), but the Cardinals managed to keep a lead and end the game at 36-16 at the end of the fourth quarter.

It was a fast-paced game with several players scoring buckets. For the Cardinals, scorers included: James Charles, Gabby Collins, Aaron Jacobs, Michael Kirkendall, Carson Lewis, and Johnny Royalty. Many thanks to our friends at Valley and Northwest for a great game!





April 24, 25, 26, 2020

**Roosevelt Lake
West Portsmouth, Ohio**

**No Fishing License Required For
Any Individuals With Disabilities At
The Duckworth True Lure Event**

Thank You, Gov. Mike DeWine

More information call Todd Dunn

740-727-4209