



Together, We Build Meaningful Lives

# Scioto County Board of DD

## STAR to be independent on or by July 1, 2018

### Services provided by STAR to individuals enrolled will not change

At the June 16, 2016 meeting of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities (SCBDD), a resolution was signed that sets the stage for an eventual end to the board's role as a provider of Adult Day Services funded through the Home and Community-Based waiver (HCBS) program.

For several years, the SCBDD has been the service provider for adults through the adult center and community-based programs operated by STAR, Inc. Payment for these services is received primarily from the federal government through HCBS waivers, and the county board is responsible for paying a match of 40 percent.

According to Superintendent Julie Monroe, the federal Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) adopted a rule in 2014 prohibiting all county boards of develop-

*"Individuals can expect to receive the same level of quality service as always when the transition is complete."*

**Superintendent Julie Monroe**

mental disabilities in Ohio from providing direct services under HCBS while at the same time providing Service and Support Administration (SSA) services. "The SSA function, provided exclusively by County Boards, provides case management, quality control, authorizes waiver services, coordinates service planning and assists with provider selection," Monroe said. "CMS believes it is a conflict of interest for a county board to provide waiver services and also SSA services."

CMS has given Ohio until 2024 for those enrolled in a county board-operated program to come into compliance with

this rule prior to the 2014 effective date. However, new enrollees should not be enrolled in county board-operated programs after 2014 unless there is no other willing or qualified provider in the area. This fact, along with projected financial implications, is why the SCBDD has set the date to cease being the provider of record on or before July 1, 2018.

At that time, STAR, Inc., will operate as a private entity, with a chief executive officer. All staff will be employed by STAR. The SCBDD will continue to provide SSA

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**Tony Blevins**

## Glockner names Tony Blevins Employee of the Month for May

Tony Blevins has been named the May 2016 Employee of the Month at Portsmouth's Glockner Honda-Toyota.

"Tony has successfully completed his training and performs his job duties in a successful manner. It is such a pleasure to see how much he enjoys his job and the willingness to complete all the tasks he is given," said a representative of Glockner Honda-Toyota. "All the employees at Glockner Honda-Toyota enjoy being around Tony. He always tells everyone that he loves his job and the people he works with. He said he looks forward to going to work and earning a paycheck.



Tony was placed in his job as custodial staff at Glockner Honda-Toyota by Job Developer Brandi Dalton through The Vocation Station. His job coach is Donnie Albrecht.

*From the Directors*

## Last days of school give way to planning for next year at VRS

Students and staff of Vern Riffe School completed the year with several fun and meaningful events. Everyone attended a picnic at Earl Thomas Conley Park early in the month. Lunch was served fresh off the grill between recreational activities and an afternoon nature hike.

Track and Field Day was held at the Portsmouth High School facility. A day of friendly competition was shared with students from Valley Local School District.

Rita Arthur and the Special Olympics Committee provided pizza for lunch. SSU Physical Therapy students assisted the school therapy staff with organization of the day's events.



**Tammy Guthrie**

*Director, School Programs*

Prom was at the SOMC Friends

Center this year. The venue looked amazing decorated around a Great Gatsby theme. After Grand March, the transition-age students were treated to a catered lunch and dance. Many donations and volunteers helped make this year's prom very special for our students.

The year came to a close with graduation ceremonies for eight students. Best wishes to each of them moving forward as we hold dear sweet memories of our time watching them grow up.

Plans for the new school year are coming together. Teachers and staff will attend training the week before students begin school on August 29.

We invite all stakeholders and supporters to collect Box Tops for Education. These can be found on canned goods, cereals, and other products used in the home. A complete list can be viewed at [www.boxtopsforeducation.info](http://www.boxtopsforeducation.info). Community members can drop these off at the main entrance to the school building. The school would like to use monies from this campaign to increase the number of manipulatives, hands on activities, and technological tools available for students.

## STAR / Continued from Page 1

services and will continue to pay the 40 percent non-federal share match for services. However, STAR will be the provider of record and bill Medicaid directly for payment.

Services to individuals provided by STAR, Inc. will not change.

"This transition was jumpstarted in 2011 when the board decided not to replace outgoing direct service staff in the Adult Services Program. Through attrition, most of the Adult Services staff are already STAR, Inc., employees," said Mike Thoroughman, chair of SCBDD's Finance Committee. SCBDD staff remaining when the final transition occurs will be considered carry-over employees and will be able to keep their positions.

"Individuals can expect to receive the same level of quality service as always when the transition is complete," Monroe said.

*"This transition was jumpstarted in 2011 when the board decided not to replace outgoing direct service staff in the Adult Services Program. Through attrition, most of the Adult Services staff are already STAR, Inc., employees."*

**Mike Thoroughman**

SCBDD

*Finance Committee Chair*

Representatives of the boards of both STAR and SCBDD will participate in the transition planning process over the next few years with the goal being a seamless transition for all involved.

## June Board Notes

The Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities met in regular session on June 16, 2016 at STAR, Inc. In addition to routine business, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved one Direct Service contract
- Received update from Superintendent regarding Scioto County Head Start renting the two vacant classrooms at the Carousel Center.
- Approved revised/updated policies from May Board meeting
- Received Policies to be reviewed for approval at next regular Board meeting
- Approved 2016-2107 revised SCBDD 12-Month Employee calendar
- Approved the addendum to the contract between SCBDD and STAR
- Approved SCBDD discontinuing Adult Day Array services no later

than June 30, 2018

- Approved recommendation the ADS Director must apply for a Provider Medicaid certificate by the October Board meeting.
- Approved and signed a Resolution stating SCBDD will no longer be a provider of HCBS Adult Day Array Services on or before July 1, 2018.
- Discussed scheduling two ad-hoc committee meetings in the near future to discuss STAR privatization and the review of Board/ Superintendent policies.
- Approved the purchase of a second van for STAR not to exceed the price of the first recently purchased van.

The next meeting of the Scioto County Board of Developmental Disabilities is set for 6 p.m., Thursday, July 21, at STAR, 2625 Gallia St., Portsmouth. An Ethics Committee meeting will be at 5:45 p.m. if needed.

# Why can't people like Bill and I get married too?

On a three-day week starting on March 13, 2014, I attended a People First of Ohio state conference. Director Sadie Hunter had contacted me and asked me if I wanted to be in a talent show with her and her sister-in-law Joellen Hunter. But they told me not to tell Bill what the talent show was going to be and I had to wait until I got up there to find out what it was. I could tell Bill that I was going to be in it.

Before the talent show I asked Bill to sit up front. I didn't tell him what the talent was going to be, but that I hoped he liked it. So when it was our turn, I got on the stage and the ladies put a wedding veil on me and they had their go-go dresses on with tall white boots. I could see Bill's face was starting to turn red. So the ladies started to sing their part of the song and mine was to sing "Will You Marry Me, Bill? Please!"

We won fourth place.

On March 15, 2014, we were between elections. Bill and I were talking and he asked me if I believed in long engagements. I said yes, but not too long, like 10-15 years. We both laughed. So he started to pull off the ring he got for me for Valentine's Day and he proposed to me and, of course, I said yes because I did and still do want to marry Bill Adams. He pushed the ring back on my finger and sealed it with a kiss! We both were very happy we were going to get married.

Then our happiness turned to sadness and hurt. When we left the conference we found out that the government take all or

just leave me with \$80 SSI, and Bill would be able to keep all of his SSDI. We need two incomes to make a life for us because we both have medical expenses that require doctor visits and medications. Also, we both need help with our daily living. I need help with my personal needs and Bill needs help with feeding and so on. We



**Bill Adams and Sherri Daniel**

also need both incomes for rent, electric, food, phone, and other necessities. Both of us have powered wheelchairs that need maintenance. If the government takes away my SSI or leaves me with \$80, we aren't able to get married.

There are many disabled couples who want to marry the love of their life but can't because the government says they have

to live on one income. So they are either living together or having a commitment ceremony. Neither option is suitable for us. Bill is an elder of his church, and they don't believe in that. We want our marriage to be legal and in the eyes of God. People that don't have disabilities can keep both incomes and marry the loves of their lives. So the big question is: "Why can't people like Bill and I get married, too?"

The only disability Bill and I have is physical. I am an Achondroplasia Dwarf and I have Spinal Stenosis. Bill has Cerebral Palsy. We are so lucky to have found love despite our disabilities, and we think that is amazing! We love each other and help each other, too.

*Sherri Daniel is coordinator of Project STIR and Bill Adams is a Self-Advocacy Specialist at STAR.*

## Rummage Sale

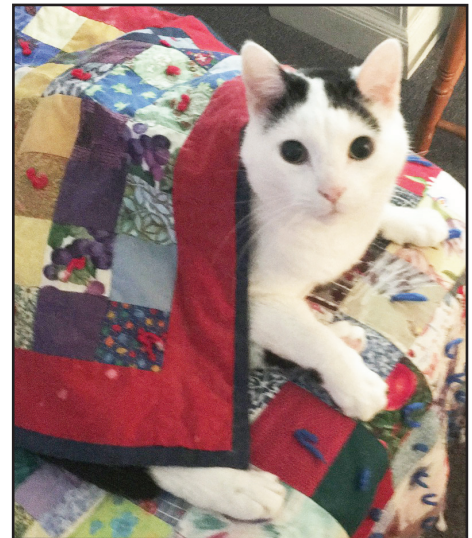
SSA Assistant Cera Wymer is hosting a rummage sale July 7-8. All proceeds will help Cera and her husband cover the costs of adopting a child.

The sale will be at Calvary Chapel Church, 1530 Franklin Ave., Portsmouth. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Did you take an awesome vacation?**  
Show us your pictures!

## Pet Corner



Spot Nelson-White is a pretty chill dudecat. He enjoys quilts (laying on them) and boxes (sitting in them) and instructing his human on how to use the computer mouse. Spot's human is Carla Nelson-White. Do you have a pet you'd like to see appear in Pet Corner? Send a pic and some information about your buddy to [lmcnelly@scdd.k12.oh.us](mailto:lmcnelly@scdd.k12.oh.us).

## Birthdays and Workiversaries

### BIRTHDAYS

#### JULY

- 4 : Samantha Vetter
- 7 : LaShawnda Biggs
- 15: Kim Miller
- 18: Joy Copen
- 20: Tara Rodino
- 23: Lynne Webb

### WORKIVERSARIES

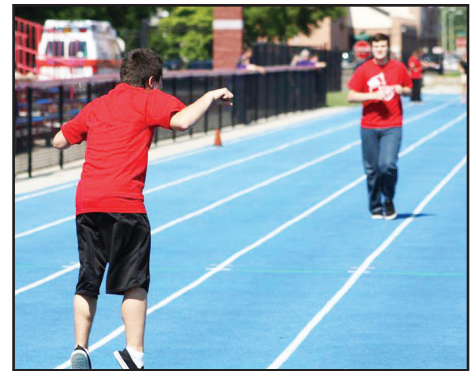
#### July

- 6: Adam Sylvia
- 10 : Laura Womack
- 13 : Lori McNelly
- 15 : Whitney Horsley
- 17: Steve Sowkulech
- 23 : Tara Rodino
- 24 : Julie Monroe
- 30 : Keiliana Wright

# Cardinals out and about!



The last days of school were celebrated with friends, fun, and field trips! Above, VRS goes to the Clark Planetarium on the campus of Shawnee State University. At right, Track and Field Day was held at Portsmouth High School's athletic facility with volunteers from the SSU Physical Therapy program and lunch provided by the Special Olympics Committee. Have a great summer, Cardinals!



**Superintendent's Office**  
Scioto County Board of  
Developmental Disabilities

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