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Raising Awareness



Throughout the month of March, county boards in Ohio raised awareness about disabilities. Many sent representatives to the Ohio Statehouse on March 12, 2024 for the opportunity to meet with state lawmakers.



Top photo: Champions for Rights, providers and Vinton DD staff marched in downtown McArthur to celebrate DD Awareness Month.

Right photo: Adams County Board Advocate TJ McClellan attended DD Advocacy Day at the Ohio Statehouse.



Bottom photo: The Pickaway County Board held their first art show with the Circleville ArtsaRound Gallery and Pickaway County Library. Over 70 guests attended the reception.

Staff Anniversaries Recognized at SOCOG

At SOCOG’s December staff meeting/training, two staff members were recognized by Executive Director Kelly Rosler for special anniversary employment dates. Each was awarded a plaque of recognition.



Investigate Agent Kathy Sharp was honored for her impressive 20 years of service.



Quality Services Supervisor Kendra Roosa has served in several important roles during her 10 years of service.

New Faces at SOCOG

As the services and work grows at SOCOG, so does our staff. The following people have joined our staff in recent months.

Benjamin Holmes Investigative Agent

To fill a growing need for IA services in Lawrence County, Benjamin joined our team in October of 2023.



Andrea Valdes Outreach Secretary

Scioto County continues to focus on Outreach programs and brought in Andrea as full-time secretary for the program in November of 2023.



Kelly Meyers MUI Coordinator/IA

SOCOG is happy to have Kelly Meyers back in our IA department. She returned in January and is currently serving Meigs County.



Taylor Arledge SSA Assistant

Taylor is the newest SSA Assistant serving at the Ross County Board of DD joining us in February. She is completing her degree at OU-Chillicothe.



Tammy Grigson Secretary

Tammy fills a new role as the secretary at Vern Rife School in Scioto County. She started work in February and brings with her a wealth of experience.



Sarah Claytor Representative Payee Lead

With changes being made to help the SOCOG Payee Department grow, Sarah was hired in March due to her banking knowledge and her experience as an independent provider.



Superintendents Mike Pelcic and Deb Bucilla Recognized by SOCOG before Retirements



Mike Pelcic, Pickaway County Superintendent and Deb Bucilla, Superintendent of Fayette and Highland County, retired at the end of 2023. Both were honored at the November SOCOG board meeting and were presented with plaques commemorating their service to SOCOG.

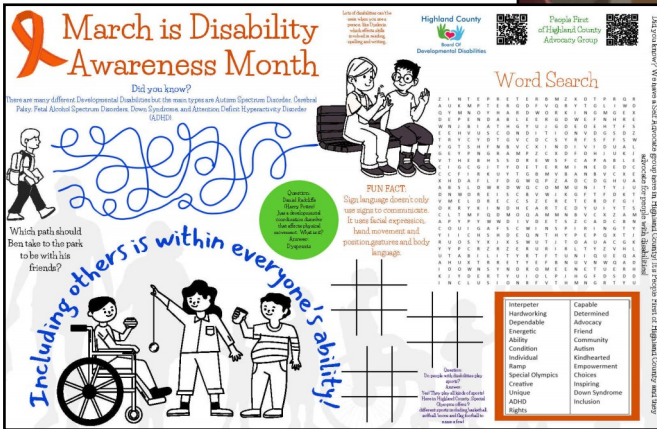
OACB Shares Information on Waivers



Monica Juenger and Steve Tucker attended the Region IV Superintendents meeting at the SOCOG office to provide an overview of waiver modernization work and the conversations with DODD and Deloitte regarding the goals and models being proposed for a new wavier allocation methodology. Pictured from left to right: (Front row) Marie Wilbanks, Kelly Rosler, Crystal Double, Melinda Kingery, Kyle Lewis, Larry Gray; (Back row) Myra Mathews, Lori Moore, David Uhl, Nick Elliott, Steve Tucker, Liz Lafferty, Julie Eastes, Amy Beeler, Kay Davis, Jill Squires, and Monica Juenger.

Celebrating DD Awareness Month

Perfect Placement: For DD Awareness Month, the Highland County Board of DD placed special placemats at area restaurants with activities and information about disabilities and services.



People First: The Ross County DD Month Art Show featured more than 175 pieces of art from Ross County individuals. Ninety percent of the artwork sold at the show to benefit the artists and the Pioneer School Booster Club.



Declaration: The Gallia County Commissioners declared March as DD Awareness Month. Gallia County Board of Developmental Disabilities serves approximately 250 individuals. The proclamation stated, "The most effective way to increase this awareness is through everyone's active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution." The Gallia County Board of DD's theme for this year is "Every Ability Counts". Pictured from left are David K. Smith, Commissioner; Penny Smith, PALS; Melinda Kingery, Superintendent GCBDD; Cathy Tucker; Mark Holtgreven; Q. Jay Stapleton, Commission President; and Leslie Henry, Commission Vice President.

DD Awareness Month con't



People First: The Fayette County advocacy group (F.A.C.T.) attended the People First of Ohio Advocacy Conference. They learned about charting a life course and serving on county boards.

Bee the Change: The board staff were shining BRIGHT for Clinton County Developmental Disabilities Awareness Day!



Crowning Event: Over 500 people attended the Brown County Night to Shine.

Hardwood Heroes: The Scioto County Board of DD hosted its 11th annual Hardwood Heroes Celebrity Basketball Game. Their Special Olympics team came out victorious over the celebrities.

Finding Something “Special” on the Court and in the Pool

Special Olympic teams from Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Pickaway Counties completed in winter sports including swim, bowling, and basketball. Non-competitive cheerleading was offered in several counties for basketball events.



Special Olympics con't



Special Olympics
Ohio

SOCOG TRAINING SCHEDULE 2024

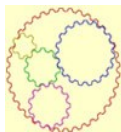
Medication Administration Refresher 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Annual Provider Training 11:00 am - 5:30 pm
May 28
August 27
November 26

Medication Administration Training 9:00 am - 5:30 pm
May 15-16
August 14-15
November 13-14

First Aid/CPR 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
August 2
November 1

Insulin Injection Refresher 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
September 5

To register for trainings, visit www.socog.org/trainings/register-pay-online or call 740-774-5030, option 4.



Southern Ohio Council
A Council of Governments

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Office hours - Monday-Friday
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Southern Ohio Council of Governments was formed in March 1996 and began services in March 1997. The Council was created by Superintendents of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities in southern Ohio. The Council is a government entity created under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code, representing 14 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The Council provides administrative supports for County Boards in Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties.

We're on the web at
www.socog.org

SOCOG Mission Statement

- Do things together we can't do effectively and efficiently alone
- Offer members a trusted source of external expertise and feedback

April 2024