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## SOCOG's Payee Service

The Representative Payee Service of Southern Ohio Council of Governments now serves 58 clients from 7 counties (Athens, Brown, Highland, Jackson, Pike, Ross and Vinton) with an additional 7 clients pending. The service began in 2012 with a pilot project serving five initial clients to set up and fine-tune the process according to Social Security Administration requirements. In January 2014, 53 additional clients were accepted into the program.

The Payee Service manages the income and bill paying of individuals who cannot do so for themselves. Bank accounts are set up for each person into which their monthly income from

sources such as Social Security, SSI payments, Black Lung, wages and retirement are direct deposited. Bills for the individuals are sent directly to the Payee Service for payment. Payments are issued on behalf of the clients in a timely manner to cover bills such as housing, utilities, food, medical and dental expenses, personal care items, clothing, and rehabilitation expenses. The Representative Payee works with the individual's Service and Support Administrator/Case Manager to develop a budget to ensure that basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and medical care are met.

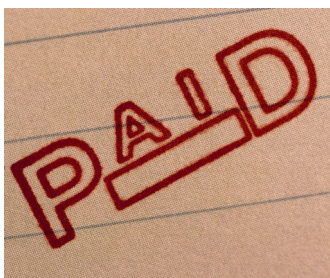
SOCOG charges a monthly fee of \$39 per month for services as set by the Social Security Administration. Additional clients are being accepted.

For more information, contact SOCOG at 740-775-5030, ext. 106.



### **Straub-Ortman New Rep Payee**

Marsha Straub-Ortman joined SOCOG in November 2013 as the Representative Payee. She comes to SOCOG well prepared for this newly established position. Marsha has previous experience in payee services, accounting/bookkeeping, budget preparation and client relations in addition to many other business related skills. Previous employers include Heartland of Jackson and Chillicothe Correctional Institute. Marsha has an associate's degree from Hocking College and bachelor's degree from Wilberforce University.



## Bradford Appointed to OACB Board

Lena Bradford, Superintendent of Brown County Board of DD, has been appointed to serve a two-year term on the Ohio Superintendents Association of County Boards of DD Board of Trustees representing region four. Her responsibilities as a board member include: attend and participate in meetings and committee work; oversee the business of OACB; carry out their vision, mission, and purpose; authority to employ the executive director of OACB; approve necessary positions and establish compensation; approve budget; strategic plan; and policies. The board meets at least six times per year. Bradford will serve on the board's Member Relations Committee (one of seven committees).

Bradford states "With all the changes occurring in the DD field, now is an exciting time to be a part of the OACB Board of Trustees. I'm proud to be a part of this diverse group of leaders, and I hope to make a difference."

Bradford has been Superintendent of the Brown County Board of DD since October 2006. She Previously (since May, 1999) was the Fiscal/Human Resource Director for the Brown County Board of DD.

# Provider Certification

Certification by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) is required for anyone providing homemaker personal care services under individual options and level one waivers. First time providers are certified for one year. Recertification is awarded for three year spans thereafter. All certification applications are completed online on the DODD website at: <https://dodportal.dodd.ohio.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

## Certification Requirements Initial:

- Verification of age: All provider applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- High School Diploma/GED: Except for persons who held provider certification or who were employed by a certified agency provider on September 30, 2009.
- State Identification: Valid driver's license or other government-issued photo identification
- Social Security Card: a copy is required to be submitted with your application
- Current report from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII).
- Valid American Red Cross or equivalent certification in First Aid and CPR
- Evidence of 8-hours training

## Renewal:

- Current report from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII). Please contact your local DODD

County Board to see if they offer or can refer you to local organizations that offer BCII and FBI criminal background checks.

- Valid American Red Cross or equivalent certification in First Aid and CPR
- Evidence of MUI and Client Rights training

## Monthly Trainings

SOCOG offers eight hours of training each month for providers, alternating months for new providers and established providers. The eight hours of training for new provider certification will be held May 28, July 30, September 24 and November 19 in 2014. The eight hours of training for established providers are offered on April 30, June 25, August 27, and October 29. If a provider only wants to take the four mandatory trainings (MUI, Rights, Positive Intervention Culture and Self-Determination), these may be taken any month as these trainings are required of both new and established providers. The other classes available on training day for established providers include a choice of Medication Administration Refresher or Being a Great Provider as well as Behavior Support-Noticing Increasing Signs of Agitation. **NOTE: Medication Administration Refresher is required annually after earning the certification. Please monitor your expiration date. Since the refresher class is only offered every other month, you may need to take the class early. After the expiration date, there is a 60 day**

*grace period to take the refresher class, HOWEVER, you cannot administer medications during the grace period. After the grace period, you will be required to retake the 2-day, 14 hour training to become certified.*

The cost for the full 8 hours for the new and established provider training is \$100 unless the established provider is taking the Medication Administration Refresher training which increases the cost by \$20. Providers save \$20 by taking the full day rather than paying for individual classes. Class fees may be paid by check or money order or in cash (at office). The training fees increase by \$10 if paid at the door. Payment also may be made by credit card on our website at [www.socog.org](http://www.socog.org).

Registration is required at least five days in advance and may be made by phone to 740-775-5030, ext. 103 or on-line if paying by credit card.

## Quarterly Trainings

In addition to the monthly training day for providers (new and established), SOCOG also offers First Aid/CPR and Medication Administration (2 day-14 hour class) on a quarterly basis. First Aid/CPR class will be held June 19, September 19, and December 18. Medication Administration Training will be held on June 12 and 13, September 3 and 4 and December 10 and 11.

Information about trainings offered by SOCOG always is available on our website at [www.socog.org](http://www.socog.org).

# Bridges to Transition

Bridges to Transition, a program helping students ages 14-22 transition from school to work, continues to grow. Dixie Lundquist, Coordinator, now has 78 young adults, ages 14 to 22, in the program plus four who recently became employed. Bridges has built a good working relationship with Scioto Downs, who hired two of the four students. It is hoped this positive connection will lead to the hiring of additional students in the future. Two other students have been hired by Walmart stores (one in Hillsboro and one in Grove City.) As more opportunities in the job market are becoming available, these young adults are thrilled to be working and earning their own money.

A job seeking skills class was started in Pike County that takes place at the Pike County career center twice a month. The students build resumes, practice interviewing, and learn about appropriate work behaviors so upon

graduation they are prepared for immediate employment. Currently, five students in job development in Pike County are ready to become employed. Bridges has several good connections in Pike County with businesses who are ready to provide employment opportunities when available.

Fayette County had its first placement with a student at St Catherine's nursing facility. It was a perfect match as these are the skills the student learned through his high school vocational program and Bridges was able to move him into employment using those skills.

The SOCOG branch of Bridges is beginning its second year for summer youth work experience and the teens who participated last year cannot wait to participate again. Most who participated last year had a very positive experience. In this second year of the summer youth program Bridges has

been able to expand the job sites as many employers have agreed to participate after hearing how well it went last year. "We've had several newspaper articles and many employers have contacted the various counties to become a part of the program. The relationships with employers continue to grow as we prove what these students can offer the community once given the chance," stated Lundquist. "The biggest barrier to employment is transportation as not every county has its own reliable public transportation system."

Bridges to Transition is a VRP3 contract with partnership between the Ohio Association of County Boards and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities. Lundquist currently coordinates four counties Pike, Pickaway, Highland and Fayette and is part of the Scioto Bridges program which includes Scioto and Lawrence counties.

## Announcements/Acknowledgments

- Kathy Sharp, Investigative Agent, was recognized for ten years of service at SOCOG in December 2013. A plaque was presented to her at the Holiday Staff Day.
- Justin Sharp, son of Kathy Sharp, graduated from the Ohio Fire Academy on April 4, 2014.
- Alexandria Goodwin, step-daughter of Jennifer Goodwin, Investigative Agent/Provider Compliance, will graduate from Groveport Madison High School on June 1, 2014. She will be attending Capital University in the fall.

## 2014 SOCOG Board of Directors

There were no officer changes for 2014 for the SOCOG Board of Directors. All officers were re-elected for another term and include:

- President: Scott Amen, Adams County Board
- Vice-President: Rick Marriott, Ross County Board
- Treasurer: Lena Bradford, Brown County Board
- Secretary: Rosalie Durbin, Gallia County Board
- Member-at-Large: Mike Pelcic, Pickaway County Board



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Fax: 740-775-5023**

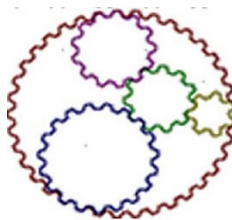
**Office hours - M-F  
8:00AM-4:00PM**

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 15 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities. The Council provides administrative supports for County Boards in Adams, Athens, Brown, Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties.



## **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 2014**