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Providers Can Earn Add-On to Their Reimbursement Rate

On July 1, 2018, DODD began offering the Training and Longevity Add-On Incentive for experienced direct care staff, who also have completed approved training. An Add-On rate is an amount “added-on” to the regular rate of reimbursement available for certain services. This Competency-Based Training and Longevity Add-On adds \$0.39 per fifteen-minute unit, to the regular reimbursement rate for routine homemaker/personal care or HPC services. Eligible providers can bill only at this higher rate for routine HPC.

Direct service providers interested in obtaining the Add-On rate must meet the following two conditions to be eligible.

- **Two years of paid full-time or equivalent (4,160 hours) of experience providing support to people with developmental disabilities.**

Stay Organized with MyFiles

Store all of your training certificates in one place with MyFiles, a new feature of DODD MyLearning.

- **Completion of 60 hours of applicable training.**

Upon completion of 60 hours of applicable training, independent providers will submit both their proof of training completion and proof of experience to the department for verification, through the Provider Services Management or PSM application, uploading all supporting documentation before submitting for review. Current independent providers of routine homemaker/personal care services may complete the Add-On application, at no cost, through the Provider Services Management system, or PSM. (Please note, if your application includes adding other services, a fee may apply.)

The rate modification can be found on the intent tab of the application, under the Homemaker/Personal Care Services drop-down category, just below the service Homemaker/Personal Care.

No re-certification or re-application is needed to maintain the Add-On rate.

Once obtained, the direct service provider remains eligible indefinitely and can be billed through any employer. Agency employees who later become independent providers may follow the process for independent providers and apply for the Add-On with proof of training and experience.

For billing, a provider will add the \$0.39 Add-On amount to the input rate of the claim.

For example, an Independent provider who is qualified for the Add-On serving 1 person on the **IO Waiver** in Clark County: the regular HPC rate for independent providers is \$4.36/unit. The provider **adds \$0.39** to the unit input rate and bills **AQC at \$4.75/unit**. A **Level One Waiver** provider would bill using **code FQC to add \$0.39** to the unit rate.

For specific details about the required experience and applicable training, go to: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/Training>

A Day in the Ring

This year, the Brown County Junior Fair in cooperation with the Brown County Board of DD added a special event “A Day in the Ring.” This special event showcased the talents of special needs youth and adults from the county as they paired up with a Junior Fair show 4-H buddy to show their animal.



With less than a month before the Fair, Amanda Brannock, SSA at Brown County Board, had heard about it being done in Clermont and Adams counties and approached Lena Bradford, Superintendent, about holding this event. Lena loved the idea but thought they couldn’t do it in 2018. They contacted the local extension agent and 4-H educator, Christy Clary, who contacted the local Junior and Senior Fair Board offices. They also loved the idea and wanted to do it at the 2018 Junior Fair.

Each SSA at Brown County Board of DD nominated three “honorary exhibitors” from their caseload to participate in A Day in the Ring. A monetary dona-

tion from the local Eagles Lodge Aerie #2293 and matching donation from the Brown County Board paid the way into the fair for that day for all honorary exhibitors and either a parent, guardian or care taker.

The honorary exhibitors arrived at the fairgrounds at 9 a.m. on September 27. These 22 individuals were paired with 4-H buddies who taught them all about their animal – how to feed it, care for it, brush it, etc. At 10 a.m., the 4-H buddies and honorary exhibitors made their way into the ring to show their animal. A judge talked with each exhibitor about their animal. Each honorary exhibitor received a t-shirt and was awarded a medal. Brown County Board has heard



nothing but great feedback about the event and have had several volunteers contact them about helping next year. With more time to plan, it is hoped that the event can be expanded to other 4-H animal departments and continue for many years to come. The event judge shared that Brown County was the fifth county to host A Day in the Ring type of event.

Gallia County Board

GCBDD celebrated DD Awareness Month by hosting several community events. Throughout March we had well over 100 county leaders visit our building and celebrate with us! Additionally two Guiding Hand students

attended a Commissioners Hearing where March was proclaimed DD Awareness Month in Gallia County.

➤ *The Gallia County Sheriff is greeted by a Guiding Hand student.*



Backpack Buddies Competition

Classes at The Early Childhood Center at Lawrence County Board of DD have monthly competitions against each other in donations to the Backpack Buddies organization. Backpack Buddies helps to provide food and other items to children in Lawrence County every week. A prize of \$50 goes to the winner each month to be used for items in the classroom. Each month has its own theme with Soup-Tember in September, and Sock-Tober in October (requested items are socks to be delivered to families in need.) Classroom 5 won the competition in September with 130 food items donated. These items went to Backpack

Buddies holding pantry and then delivered to over 300 children in Lawrence County. The competition started over in October to see who can bring in the most socks. Jodi Hunt from Backpack Buddies said during her pick up at the Early Childhood Center, that socks at this time of year are a popular item and in some cases, a desperate necessity for families in the area.

➤ *Jodi Hunt from Backpack Buddies picks up a crate of food raised by a classroom at the Early Childhood Center in South Point, Ohio.*



HB 115—Communication Disability Self-Identification

House Bill 115 went into effect. The Bill allows an individual with a medically diagnosed communication disability who drives or regularly has someone with a communication disability in their vehicle, to voluntarily enroll in a database that connects to the Law Enforcement Agencies Data System (LEADS). If pulled over, police officers will be notified of a communication disability when they enter the license plate number into the computer system. This infor-

mation will assist the officer and reduce any potential misunderstandings or communication problems. No personal medical information is disclosed but a medical provider must sign the verification form.

For more information you can contact Russell Blank at 614-995-3820 with questions. Additionally, you can contact: Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities 150 E. Campus View Blvd.,

Suite 300
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Contact Phone: 614-438-1203
Contact Website: <http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Information/Communication-Disability-Law>



SOCOG Welcomes New Staff

SOCOG has welcomed several new staff members since the October 2017 newsletter.

SOCOG's newest staff member, **Courtney Davis** joined us on October 22 as Special Projects Manager. She previously worked in human re-



sources at Franklin County Board of DD for more than three years. She was an independent provider for eight years and an admission manager for Nurtur, LLC-Aveda Institute of Columbus for three years. Courtney has a bachelor's degree in business management from University of Rio Grande and an MBA from Evans School of Business, University of Rio Grande. Courtney resides in Circleville.



Noah Hiles joined SOCOG in December 2017 as a custodian. He previously worked as a summer employee in the maintenance department for Chillicothe Parks and Recreation in 2016 and 2017 and for Goodwill Industries in 2014 and 2015. Noah is a graduate of Chillicothe High School and resides in Chillicothe.

Whitney Horsley joined SOCOG in August 2018 as an SSA working for Pike County Board. She previously worked as an SSA for Scioto County Board for more than five years. She

also has been employed as a support manager for Scioto Residential Services for two years and a program assistant for a day habilitation agency in Cincinnati. Whitney has a bachelor's degree in biblical studies and psychology from Cincinnati Christian University. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Portsmouth.



Lana Matthews recently joined SOCOG as SSA Supervisor at Jackson County Board. Previously she worked as an SSA at Jackson CB for six years. She also has worked as a community skills instructor for Buckeye Community Services and direct support professional for Scioto Residential Services. Lana has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Shawnee State University. Lana and her husband, Ben, reside in Wellston, OH.



Nathan Powell joined SOCOG in July 2018 and works as an SSA Assistant at Scioto County Board. He previously was a teacher at Northwest

Local Schools in McDermott, OH, a personal aid at Southern Ohio Educa-

tion Service in Portsmouth, OH, as well as interned at Scioto County Board, and Mended Reeds. He also volunteers as a tutor and activity leader at the 14th Street Community Center in Portsmouth. Nathan holds a bachelor's degree in social studies and history and resides in Lucasville, OH.

Sam Schweickart joined SOCOG in



August as a self-advocate at Brown County Board. A graduate of Fayetteville-Perry High School, he currently is a student at Southern State with the goal of becoming a history teacher. Previously he worked at Walmart and volunteered at a homeless shelter. Sam is a voice impersonator and is interested in voice acting.

Deborah Skaggs joined SOCOG's representative payee staff in January 2018 after almost 30 years of employment with the Social Security Administration in sev-



eral roles and at several locations. Her various roles included assistant district manager, office supervisor, systems coordinator, claims representative, service representative and developmental clerk. She started out in Naples, FL, then went to Columbus, OH and spent the final 24 years in the Chillicothe office. Deborah resides in South Salem, OH.

Karol Specht joined the representative payee staff at SOCOG in April 2018. A board certified RN, Karol previously

New staff continued...

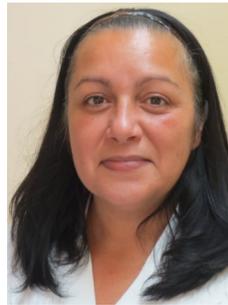


worked as a telehealth RN case manager for Optum Health for one year and Alere Health for seven years. She also worked as a hospice

nurse for two years for Wexner Heritage Village Zusman House in Bexley, OH, and one year for Fairhope Hospice and Palliative Care in Lancaster, OH. Karol has an associate's degree from Hocking Technical College in Nelsonville, OH. She and her husband Stephen reside in Chillicothe.

Shara Spellman joined SOCOG in March 2018 as an investigative agent. She currently covers Athens and Vinton counties. Previously she was employed at Integrated Services for Behavioral Health for three years and

Woodland Centers, Inc, for two years. Shara received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Rio Grande. She resides in Albany, OH.



Lauren Wade joined SOCOG in September as a receptionist at Lawrence CB. Lauren is a graduate of Rock Hill High School in Ironton. Previously, she has worked at Bath and Body Works and has volunteered for Meals-on-Wheels, Emmaus Respite and Resource Center Café and The Dressing Room of The Neighbor-



hood. Lauren is a resident of Ironton, OH.

Cera Wymer moved into a new position at SOCOG in April 2018. She was an SSA Assistant at Scioto County Board since 2014 and accepted an SSA position at Pike County Board. Prior to joining SOCOG, she was employed by Scioto Residential Services from 2003 to 2014 holding several positions including Service and Support Coordinator, Support Manager and Direct Support Professional. Cera earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and human services at Southern new Hampshire University, Manchester, NH. She and her family and reside in Wheelersburg, OH.



Announcements/Acknowledgments

- Congratulations to **Lawrence County Board** for achieving a 3-year accreditation.
- Congratulations to **Pike County Board** for achieving a 3-year accreditation, the maximum possible term, from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) after going through a comprehensive state review in July.
- **Melissa (Bertrand) Gray** (Investigator) and Bobby Gray were married on April 25th, 2018 in Las Vegas, Nevada where they honeymooned including a visit to the Grand Canyon area. Bobby is employed as an

Area Plant Manager at Lehigh Hanson Aggregates. The Grays reside in Gallipolis, Ohio.

- **Kevin Davis**, Superintendent, Athens County Board of DD was named 2018 Red Cross Hometown Heroes' Workplace Hero, which is sponsored by the Ohio University College of Health Sciences and Professions.
- This year's **PCBDD Business Awards Night** was held on October 10th at Cooks Creek Golf Course. The event highlighted employment success throughout Pickaway County, and honored those dedicated to Employment First! (Pictured: Interns

Taylor, Rylynn and Halona with instructor Michelle Bochard .)



- **Congratulations to Ross County Board of DD/ Pioneer Center service and support administration, county providers and mental health partners** for receiving the 2018 Team Award and Coordinating Center of Excellence at the NADD State of Ohio IDD/MI Annual Conference.

Project Stir Training Opportunity

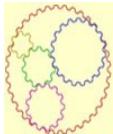
Adams and Scioto Counties will be hosting the Project Stir Training on November 12, 13, and 14 at Shawnee Lodge State Park. For registration, please contact OSDA, Dana Charlton at 614-562-1375.

For more information about Project Stir visit www.osdaohio.org.

The training is open to anyone in Ohio. Funding grants are available.

PROJECT STIR includes:

- Knowing Yourself
- Communicating Assertively
- Problem Solving and Negotiating
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination
- Being Part of the Community



Southern Ohio Council
A Council of Governments

**27 West Second Street
Suite 202
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601**

**Phone: 740-775-5030
Fax: 740-775-5023**

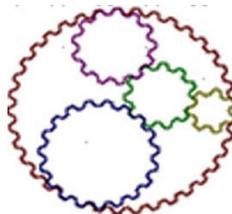
**Office hours - M-F
8:00AM-4:00PM**

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



October 2018