



NEWS FROM THE SENECA COUNTY OPPORTUNITY CENTER

A publication of the Seneca County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Our Mission: To improve the lives of persons with disabilities



SCOC advocates traveled to Synergy Conference to learn life and leadership skills

SCOC Calendar

- Nov 7 All programs 2 hour delay (staff report)
- Nov 11 Veterans' Day (program closed)
- Nov 26 PM-Parent Conferences
- Nov 27 AM-Parent Conferences (school closed)
- Nov 28-29 Thanksgiving Break (program closed)

Board Members

- Erin Simmons, President
- Arrin Allen, Vice President
- Jim Oliver, Secretary
- Frank Lengel
- Joe Moore
- Kim Radison
- Michelle Smith

Contact Us

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Early Intervention
419-447-7674

Early Childhood Center of Fostoria
419-436-0797

Service and Support Administration
567-938-2381

Find us on Facebook and
instagram!



Letter from Lew by Lew Hurst, Superintendent

I wanted to say THANK YOU to all the staff at the Seneca County Opportunity Center that make service and supports possible for those individuals and families throughout Seneca County.

As I walk the buildings and see the personal interaction with students and adults with developmental disabilities, I can not be any more proud of the staff that make this great organization. Guests have told me on many occasions that they can see the love that staff have for those that we serve in our buildings. The individual growth of the students and adults has been a blessing to observe.

You truly are fulfilling our mission of Improving the lives of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities. Whether it's Early Intervention, Service And Support Administration (SSA), the School of Opportunity, Adult Services, Residential Services, the CAS Department, Transportation, Community Employment, Custodial or the Fiscal department, all our staff have a passion for those we serve. I can not thank you enough for the role you play within our organization.

Hoot in the Park 2024

On October 10th, the Seneca County Opportunity Center (SCOC) had their non-scary Trick or Treat Trail through Opportunity Park for kids 10 and under. The event offers a way for those with developmental disabilities, local businesses and community members to connect and engage together.



The Seneca County Opportunity Center, ACT Council and Aktion Club thank you for your participation in this year's Hoot in the Park. Without the generosity of the sponsors and community members who volunteered their time and talents the event wouldn't be possible.

Hoot in the Park is sponsored by the Opportunity Center's ACT Council and the SCOC Aktion Club. ACT stands for Advocates Coming Together for the Seneca County Opportunity Center (SCOC). It's a group of parents, siblings, & persons with developmental disabilities that helps provide support for quality programming at SCOC.

Make sure to mark your calendars for next year's Hoot in the Park on Thursday, October 9th, 2025.

Aktion Club Induction

The Seneca County Opportunity Center's Aktion Club held its annual installation of officers and new member induction. The club welcomed the new members and installed the 2024-2025 Aktion Club Officers: President—Josh Meyers, Vice President— Kayla Young, Secretary— Janice Smith, and Treasurer—Sean Allison. Aktion Club added new members: Jamie Huffman, Tom Steinhauer, Ely Larick, Steve Scifers, Taylor Fortney, Patty Banks, Seth Miller, Ruben Villarreal, and Samantha Barrick.



School Update: Playset



On Friday, October 18th the Seneca County Opportunity Center hosted a Dedication Ceremony alongside the Reinhart family for the new indoor playset that's in the School of Opportunity.

The playset is in dedication to Rita Reinhart-Sullivan who was a strong advocate for her daughter Kelly and contributed to SCOC's mission of improving the lives of those with disabilities. Kelly's sister and Rita's daughter Jennine Kramer came up with the idea with Superintendent Lewis Hurst to build an indoor playset for students to have a meaningful outlet to channel their energy and creativity.

SCOC thanks the Reinhart Foundation for their incredible generosity. SCOC also thanks ACT Council and other families who donated to the project. The playset is completed and in use as of October 29th.

Seneca Arrows Basketball Schedule

Thursday, Dec 5 AWAY	Marion Co (Both teams) 2387 Harding Hwy E, Marion, OH
Tuesday, Dec 10 AWAY	Sandusky Co (Both teams) 1001 Castalia St. Fremont, OH
Thursday, Dec 12 AWAY	Ottawa Co. (Varsity ONLY) at Camp Perry
Tuesday, Jan 7 HOME	Marion Co. (Both teams)
Tuesday, Jan 14 HOME	Sandusky Co. (Both teams)
Thursday, Jan 16 HOME	Ottawa Co (Varsity ONLY)
Saturday, Jan 18 HOME	Wyandot Co (Varsity ONLY)
Saturday, Jan 18 HOME	Henry Co. (Varsity ONLY)
Friday, Jan 24	<i>Arrows Winter Ball Dance (6-9pm)</i>
Jan 19-30	Possible Tournament Games (Varsity ONLY)
Feb 3&4	Area Tournament (Varsity ONLY) @Van Buren
Fri-Sun March 7-9	State Tournament (Varsity ONLY) @OSU

Muffins and ME

This month, the School of Opportunity invited families in for a sweet muffin treat and crafts. Students made crafts which included a photo of them. Thanks to the families who came to visit!



SSA Guided Implementation Training

This month, the Service and Support Administrator (SSA) Department participated in a Guided Implementation series presented by Barb Sapharas from the Family Resource Network of Ohio. This eight-session series provided an overview of Charting the Life Course and Person-Centered Thinking. It delved into how the principles, tools, and skills are integrated into practice and offered guided exercises on using 13 different tools and principles. The goal of the training was to better understand how to empower individuals and families to plan for their futures and take charge of their lives.

Since completing the training, the SSAs have utilized these tools to help medical professionals understand the needs of individuals who are apprehensive about treatment, assist people in identifying the supports available to them when they believed they had none, and aid families and aging caregivers in completing future needs, planning, and more.

SSA Director Natasha Nichols states, "The more tools we have to support people, the better we can provide services. We are grateful to Barb and the Family Resource Network of Ohio for allowing us to continue our growth and for helping us identify how we can build upon this foundation of skills for years to come."

If you want more information or resources on this or any Charting the Life Course topics, please visit <https://frnohio.org/>.

DSP of the Month of September and October

Every month, ACT Council and SCOC Board Members plan to recognize a DSP. Direct Support Providers support people with disabilities and help them live, learn and work in their community. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a DSP contact Karen Frank, Provider Liaison, at 567-938-2381 ext 1010 or email kfrank@senecadd.org.

DSP of the Month of September: Shawna Omlor



Shawna works for ECI and was nominated by two people who she provides support for. When asked to explain why you feel this person deserves to be recognized and what they admire about them Shawna's nomination reads that "She cares about us and likes to plan fun activities for us to do. Shawna does a lot for us."

DSP of the Month of October: Tracy Halbeisen



Tracy is an independent provider and was nominated by Josh Meyers, who she provides services for. On the nomination, Josh wrote that she's a great provider who teaches him life skills. A few examples include cooking, cleaning, and completing daily tasks.

SCOC Welcomes New Employee



Kirsten Rodabough
Sub Nurse
Hometown: Sycamore
Favorite season: fall

We Are Hiring!!

If you or someone you know would be interested in a job please check out our website listed below to see open positions or check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.senecadd.org/general-9>

Check out our DSP video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bhjud9EzSOU>

Instagram page: [@senecacountyopportunitycenter](https://www.instagram.com/senecacountyopportunitycenter)

www.senecadd.org