

The Scoop

August 15, 2018

Richland Newhope superintendent meets with Ohio Senate president



In a regional gathering of state lawmakers and county board of developmental disabilities (DD) superintendents on Aug. 3, Richland Newhope Superintendent Michele Giess met with Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof, R-Medina, to discuss disability policy ahead of the upcoming two-year state budget process.

The regional meeting, which was held at the Medina County Board of DD offices, drew superintendents from the Ashland, Holmes, Medina, and Richland County Boards of DD.

Supports for Ohioans with developmental disabilities are funded by a combination of local, state, and federal dollars. Much of the state's portion of that funding is decided every two years during the biennial budget process, during which lawmakers draw up the state's two-year spending plan. The 2020-21 state budget will be written in the first half of 2019.

“This was a great opportunity to connect with Senator Obhof and to share important issues involving the DD Board,” said Giess.

Giess and other board superintendents also spoke to Obhof about several other DD-related topics, including state funding for DD programs and the ongoing statewide shortage of direct service professionals (DSPs) to care for people with developmental disabilities in home and community-based settings.



A message from DODD

If you work or live with an Ohioan who has developmental disabilities, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Director John Martin has a message for you:

<http://bit.ly/2JWtDkJ>.

Fun at the fair

Hundreds of people visited Richland Newhope's booth at the Richland County Fair Aug. 6-11.

Staff, individuals, and volunteers manned the booth and distributed informational material and other items. We also had several disability awareness activities. Those who “tried on a disability” received a Newhope logo temporary tattoo.

Thanks to everyone who manned the Richland Newhope booth as well as those who stopped by to say hi!



August Employee of the Month

Name: Troy Smith

Position: Individual Consultant (IC)

Employed since: Dec. 2, 2013

Nominators Comments: “Troy does an amazing job with the individuals he works with. He is passionate about getting them more involved in the community or looking for ideas of how or where they could become employed. He does a wonderful job supporting and letting them make their own choices. He is always willing to help out wherever needed. He volunteers to help with Newhope Charities, People First, and Project STIR. He goes above and beyond his normal job duties by making extra time within his job for self-advocacy. He doesn't complain about having the extra things to do along with his regular job.”

Employee of the Month Comments: “I would like to thank those who recommended me as Employee of the Month, though I don't feel worthy. I am thankful towards my wife for understanding when I need to leave for a few days at a time for Project STIR or work some of the weekend. She knows my heart and has supported me every day. Also, thank you to my supervisor, Michel Smith, for her help and guidance through the different obstacles I face at times with this job. I have thoroughly enjoyed my job as an IC here at Newhope. My passion has always been to help others and



focus on what's important to them. As a father, I try to put myself in the shoes of the parents I work with as if my child received services. I think having that perception in this line of work helps others feel comfortable and opens them up as to what they may want in their life or their child's life."

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

38 Years – Vicki Carr

35 Years – Leo Prince

32 Years – Julie Litt

30 Years – Lin Moyer

20 Years – Connie Lawrence

18 Years – Jim Schaub, Lynn Wilson

14 Years – Jane Imbody

13 Years – Greg Grambush

11 Years – Kara Thompson

10 Years – Brandy Grove, Ilona Johnson

9 Years – Lesa Dumas

6 Years – John Bradley, Joyce Briggs, Melissa Cole

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