

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - April 2020

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

April is Autism Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

In a time of uncertainty one thing is certain, the Broadmoor staff remains committed to providing the highest quality of educational services to their students and their families. The following is a testimony to their dedication:

- Since the Stay at Home Order has been issued the, Early Intervention Staff has completed over 125 visits with families using technology. While a handful of families have opted to wait until the COVID-19 crisis is over to resume Early Intervention services, the majority of our families want to continue to receive services using technology. Children continue to be enrolled in our program using parent interviews and virtual observations in order to qualify for services.
- Preschool, School Age, and Adaptive PE teachers, and their support staff, have conducted over 40 live Zoom classrooms with their students and families. Over 90 instructional videos have been uploaded to the Broadmoor Home Connections, YouTube channel. The content includes: circle time, reading books, singing songs, treasure hunts, cooking classes, physical fitness, and relaxation videos. One hundred and forty families received educational materials from teachers to use at home. These supplies were either picked up by families, delivered to homes by our staff, mailed, emailed, or sent through the remind app.
- For students with more significant disabilities, teachers are simply reaching out to support families with suggestions for a typical school day routine; that include positioning, music time, or just being a caring and familiar voice for the caretaker.
- Lastly, the Broadmoor staff have had over 100 successful conversations with families, providing support, guidance, and compassion needed during these challenging times.

Individuals at the JCR Imagine Program continued to stay busy the first two weeks of the month of March. On Mondays, a small group attended swimming at Broadmoor pool, on Tuesday mornings enjoyed music therapy with Groovy Garfoose, small group outings on Wednesday afternoons, and to end the week, worked out at Broadmoor on Friday afternoons.

March began with many of our individuals at the VGC attending a musical play, "Oklahoma" at St. Mary's in Mentor. It was very well done and the individuals enjoyed meeting the cast after the show. The individuals continue to enjoy interactive story time. This month we celebrated Dr. Seuss. On Thursdays, we began to swim every week in the Broadmoor pool, and quite a few of the individuals were excited about getting in more swim time with their VGC staff.

Read Across America was celebrated on March 2 by Broadening Abilities in partnership with Mentor Public Library. Books were selected by individuals and given to them courtesy of the library. It was a day of making choices, reading stories, and learning lesson from our books.

The support program areas within Community Outreach have stepped up during the COVID-19 crisis and have made some very positive impacts in continuing to provide support to the program areas while strengthening relationships with individuals served, their families, and Provider partners in the community. All the while, the message is and continues to be one of unity.

Our Public Relations and Marketing Department has been busy with social media getting out information about COVID-19, links to resources, and communications from our Superintendent on the status of our programs. They have assisted Broadmoor teachers with virtual learning videos for the students, Facebook Live sessions with Recreation for weekly crafts, reaching out and partnering with the Fine Arts Association to begin weekly virtual Music Therapy and Art Therapy sessions for individuals living at ARC and JCDC, exploring additional Music and Art Therapy virtual sessions to be offered to individuals residing in the community, and working with volunteers who are sewing masks, to name just a few.

Our Provider Support Program has been extremely busy working closely with our Provider partners in the community to offer additional support and information related to COVID-19 resources. Many discussions with Providers have occurred over the past few weeks revolving around preparedness planning, sharing and borrowing of ideas, and ensuring that Lake County is as prepared as possible going into the end of April and the expected peak of COVID-19 cases. To supplement those discussions, a new Provider Support page dedicated to COVID-19 information and resources was added to our website for all Providers to access. Also, in collaboration with our Director of Nursing, a PowerPoint training supplemented with video, is in production to be added to the Provider Support page that not only provides good and practical information on the Coronavirus, but also provides necessary information on appropriate use of PPEs, such as how, and in what order, to safely put on and take off gowns, gloves, masks, etc.

The Recreation Department launched the Boredom Buster packets at the end of March, where activity packets were sent out to individuals and made available on-line. With the introduction of the packets came the introduction of our new Boredom "Buster" mascot. You never know when or where you will see Buster who just loves to drop off prizes to those who send in their completed packets! Weekly Facebook Live craft classes have started and been met with enthusiasm. We are getting more and more pictures of individuals and their completed craft projects which have been getting shared on Facebook and the interest and participation is growing every week. Exercise videos (Getting Ripped with Rec) are in production and individuals will be encouraged to exercise and stay healthy by staying active while staying home.

Departmental Program Enhancements/Updates

Broadening Abilities purchased four recliner chairs from Levin furniture to meet the relaxation and leisure needs of the individuals.

Special Events

Most of the individuals at the JCR Imagine Program, participated in an Easter craft with the Rec Department on March 6. They really enjoyed making their craft!

The JCR Imagine Program's, Pieces of Imagination, sold their dog treats at the Home and Lifestyle Expo at the Great Lakes Mall on March 7. They sold a lot of treats and it was a great event to participate in for a second year.

Broadening Abilities enjoyed celebrating Fat Tuesday with delicious French toast with syrup and orange juice to drink. Virtual Mardi Gras parades on smart boards were fun to watch for the individuals. A Spring Jam was celebrated in the Broadmoor Gym with our friends at Willoughby Branch. Billy J disc-jockey spun the hits that we all like to hear. Dancing, socializing, and having snacks made the day very fun.

Agency Resources

The Deepwood Industries (DI) Board voted to continue paying their employees. The first check went out, paying DI employees from March 21 – April 3, 2020, paying average wages.