

# Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## Superintendent's Report - November 2023

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

With the support from the LCBDD Board, the Early Intervention Department added a new Developmental Specialist to the team (due to rising numbers). We are looking forward to working with Janeen W., who has been with our Agency for a number of years.

The preschool teachers at Broadmoor completed the Early Learning and Development Standards Overview Training. The state developed new Early Learning Standards which went into effect earlier this year.

MK Photography came to photograph Broadmoor students and staff for Picture Day on October 24. From their studio, Stephanie M., did a wonderful job capturing all of their big smiles.

Broadmoor's School Age Program delivered their first batch of western-themed neck warmers to be sold at the OX Shoppe in Thompson. A percentage of their sales will go into the purchasing of more materials for the next shipment, making this a self-sustaining business endeavor.

Broadmoor held its Creative Arts Fair on October 31. The display included collaborative class pieces and individual masterpieces. The artists were there to represent their artwork to all those who came to help celebrate their creativity.

Willoughby Branch Community Integration Specialists, Melissa B. and Lori R., with the help of some individuals created a Deepwood Idol scarecrow for the Wildwood Cultural Center scarecrow contest. With our social media presence and your votes hopefully lucky #13 will win the contest. Make sure you check out their Facebook page to vote.

The NDEAM Job and Resource Fair in partnership with the Lake County Treasurer's office was a great success with over 80 job seekers and 30+ support staff attending. The next Job and Resource Fair is scheduled for March 7, 2024.

The Collective for Inclusive Employment website is almost ready to launch. It will be a hub for all resources related to inclusive employment and job seekers with disabilities. Stay tuned!

We had a great time at the ImprovaGanza event on Saturday 10/21 at Broadmoor School. The Improvneers traveled to Lake County and showed us all of their warm up exercises, improv games, and skills. At the end of the workshop, everyone put on a performance of what they learned for their friends and family. Community members Brint and Glenn from Rabbit Run Theater along with LCBDD Board Secretary, Pam Martin, and Recreation Specialist, Ellana F., joined in on the workshop as well making it even more exciting and meaningful for all. Thank you Improvneers and everyone who made this wonderful workshop happen!

Many volunteers from across LCBDD/Deepwood, as well as community members including the Mentor Fire & Police Departments, Lake Metroparks, Broadmoor retirees, and the Broadmoor Family

Network made the Trunk or Treat event presented by the Broadmoor Early Intervention and Recreation Department a great success. In addition, LCBDD/Deepwood put on their annual Trick or Treat at the administration building for our wonderful residents. The admin team put on a spooky and fun event for the individuals we serve. We are so thankful for our LCBDD staff and community members who make these amazing events happen!

Broadmoor School held their Scholastic Book Fair from November 3 - 9. Broadmoor School contacted Community Relations to help acquire volunteers for this event, and LCBDD employees from all over the Agency joined in on the effort to make the Book Fair a success. Each day LCBDD employees volunteered from 9 am - 2 pm in two shifts, with two volunteers per shift. Community Relations Manager, Ashley C., was humbled and impressed by LCBDD employees' willingness to take time out of their busy day to make this event great for the students at Broadmoor School.

Members of our local Aktion Club, a community service group composed of LCBDD service eligible individuals sponsored by Kiwanis International, is celebrating our veterans the entire month of November. At their monthly meeting on October 2, 2023, they began by thanking County Board employees who are veterans by writing thank you cards to be hand delivered the week of Veterans' Day. The recipients of the cards were not only surprised, but also thankful for the Aktion Club's thoughtfulness and respect for Veterans. At the next Aktion Club meeting on November 29, 2023, the Aktion Club is collecting warming items to donate to The Sub Zero Mission, an organization that collects and delivers hats, coats, gloves, boots, sleeping bags, and other warming items to veterans in need in Northeast Ohio during the winter. Thank you to all who served including our Deepwood employees, family members, friends, and our very own LCBDD Board President, The Honorable Judge Allen.

### Department Program Enhancements/Updates

Broadmoor's EI Department attended the Early Intervention Forum where they learned about rule updates, tech-intentional practices, understanding intergenerational communication, and navigating the Autism Diagnosis in Early Intervention.

Amazon Echo Dots were set up in Broadmoor School's classrooms to help differentiate and enhance learning and to integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century tech skills. These types of devices help create "Technology-Enhanced Smart Classrooms" which can advance learning experiences and boost student engagement in Special Education environments.

### Special Events

Trunk or Treat - This event was put on by the Recreation Department and Broadmoor School for children in the Early Intervention Program and the Preschool Program. Staff from both the EI and preschool areas volunteered at this event, and it was attended by over 100 people.

School Age and LEEP students from Broadmoor enjoyed their Enrichment Trip to the Cleveland Zoo on October 26. Thank you to the Transportation Department and Nurse Liz Burnett for making it so the students could have such a wonderful experience.

This fall season couldn't start off without Gayle F's famous apple crisp. Gayle is one of our CSS staff here at Willoughby and again this October she created her delicious apple crisp for all to partake. Thank you so much to everyone for all the apple peeling involved ☺.

In the spirit of Halloween, a "Murder Mystery" play was created at the Willoughby Branch. CIP Melissa B. created a very special play and the individuals at Willoughby got a chance to show off their acting talents by playing all the characters in the play. It was such a blast and they even got a visit from retiree, Judy T., who also starred in the play and ended up committing the crime. Many thanks to Melissa and others for all of their organizational efforts to make this play such a success! Be sure to look on our social media platforms for pictures from that day.

Of course, Halloween cannot be celebrated at Willoughby without costumes and dance. Various staff dressed up as characters from Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (search social media for pictures). Very creative costumes! Of course the day was topped off with a dance DJ'd by our very own Allison B.

Dona T., Transportation Supervisor, was nominated by the Eastern Lake County Chamber of Commerce for a prestigious Bright Star Award at the Northern Ohio Area Chamber of Commerce's (NOACC's) Summit and Awards for her involvement and dedication to the Chamber and participating in its various events. She received this award on October 27, 2023.

VGC is in the spirit of HalloThanksMas! Individuals and staff came over to A-bldg for Trick-r-Treat and the individuals enjoyed themselves. They also decorated Halloween cookies. VGC continues their Walking Program with a total of 808.96 miles with TE coming in first place with 244.42 miles. Community Integration and Willoughby-Eastlake Library still presents sensory story time, and VGC enjoys celebrity readers from the Agency. Individuals enjoy Dorleen's Friday special luncheons. VGC took part in the Advocacy group held at the Center for Pastoral Leadership where they had fun interacting with friends. Music Therapy with Fine Arts continues with the theme of 'Time for Music.' We continue weekly football picks for the NFL and Ohio State. RH is in first place with 88 football wins. Our newest friend, David, popped in with his Banjo Dave Band playing music from all the eras. VGC is playing TRIVA and hosting Karaoke dance parties with Recreation, and other friends from the community. We love Thursdays as Chef Byron makes us special gourmet pizzas on our pizza days.

### Agency Resources

The Early Intervention Department was trained on the new Brittco System. Crossroads Health and LCBDD EI Department are working closely together to utilize this system.

Broadmoor School & Educational Service Center staff held their fall in-service day learning about MUI, updates on CPI learned at the most recent Trauma Training, and fostering resilience and self-care by using strengths of your coworkers.