

# Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## Superintendent's Report - March 2024

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

While we continue to perform very well across all of our social media platforms, we wanted to share that we surpassed 5,000 on Facebook this past month! With every post, we share important information about County Board services and community collaborations that enrich the lives of the individuals we serve. The abilities, successes, and stories of the individuals we serve are being seen by a larger audience than ever.

CIP Lori R. and Willoughby (WB) Director, Johanna P., took several WB individuals to the Willoughby Chamber of Commerce's Annual Luncheon held at St. Noel's Banquet Center. It was a great experience for them to hear from local businesses and to listen to speeches from local mayors and a school superintendent.

There were 26 children who qualified for Early Intervention services during the month of February. The EI team have coordinated EI playgroups that our providers will be attending. There will be two playgroups per month starting in March.

The Broadmoor Early Childhood Department is collaborating with the Fine Arts Association to develop consistent programming for children receiving services in Early Intervention.

Broadmoor students that have visual impairments were included in the QUOTA registry through the OCALI AT&AEM Center. For each qualifying student this year, Broadmoor will be receiving \$488.53 in federal funds for accessible classroom materials.

Ohio's Alternate Assessment testing window opened February 27. Broadmoor students in grades 3, 4, 6 and 7 are being assessed in English language arts and Math, students in grades 5 and 8 are being assessed in English language arts, Math and Science and those in LEEP will be assessed in English language arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Testing ends April 19.

LCBDD/Deepwood was represented at Lake Catholic's Service Fair on February 1. Community Relations Manager, Ashley Cozzens, had spread awareness about all of the amazing services LCBDD provides and talked with students about volunteer opportunities. The LCBDD table was a hit because everyone had a connection with Deepwood in some way or someone special in their life has a developmental disability. Students seemed eager to volunteer with our wonderful organization! We are thankful Lake Catholic High School included us in their Resource Fair, and we are planning to collaborate with them in the near future.

At the February 7, 2024, Extended Managers' Meeting the special guest was End 68 Hours of Hunger founders Tracy Stanek and Meredith Everett. We learned that End 68 Hours of Hunger puts nourishing food in the hands of school children to carry them through the weekend (approximately 68 hours between their last and next school lunches). Each bag of food costs \$10 each and provides two breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners for a child, with some left over to share! Since having Tracy and Meredith, LCBDD staff have volunteered, one session consisting of unloading the truck which was

hard work, but for such a great cause! LCBDD staff plan to coordinate a food drive with End 68 Hours of Hunger in the fall to help increase their inventory for the school year.

On February 9, 2024, LCBDD collaborated with Painesville Baptist Church for their 2024 Winter Wonderland Ball (formerly known as Night to Shine). The magical evening consisted of a beautifully decorated dance floor, crowns, and corsages/boutonnieres for all who attended, limo rides, a karaoke jam out room, and pictures with their favorite Frozen Disney princesses, which were graciously sponsored by the amazing Deepwood Foundation. The fun-filled night was capped off with a massive balloon drop on the dance floor for all to enjoy. The Community Relations Manager traveled to Lake Erie College and Painesville Baptist Church in January in preparation for the event as well. She worked with the volunteers for this event to raise awareness about individuals with developmental disabilities and how to best assist them on the night of the event, and reminded the event volunteers that the individuals attending the Winter Wonderful Ball are just like you and me ---they want to have fun and dance the night away! This event was wonderful and we cannot wait to be a part of it next year!

The LCBDD Branch of the Kiwanis Aktion Club held their monthly meeting in February. Eleven Aktion Club Members attended and put together care packages for Project Hope for the Homeless consisting of toilet paper, Chap Stick, tissues, and deodorant.-Project Hope is desperately seeking all items at this time. Aktion Club members hope to drop off the items at their next Aktion Club Meeting. Aktion Club members received their Aktion Club shirts so now they can be official when they are out and about doing the greater good in Lake County! We are so proud of our Aktion Club and their dedication to their communities. The next Aktion Club Meeting is scheduled for March 27 from 6 pm-7 pm (location TBD).

### Special Events

The Annual Chili Cook Off took place at the end of February with 10 chilies from various program areas within the Agency. We had five judges: three firefighters and the fire chief from the Willoughby Fire Department., the Captain of the Mentor Police Department and DI Board Member, Mitch Berman. And the winner is.....Andi B. and Johanna P! LCBDD loves our chili cook off and we are thankful for everyone who participated. Events like this foster a great work environment of camaraderie and some fun competition within our program areas.

The Recreation Department and the EI/preschool departments held their monthly Silly Fun Saturday event at Penitentiary Glen (eleven families attended).

Crossroads started its annual unit on Feelings and Emotions for Broadmoor students as part of the Adapted PE/Health curriculum.

Broadmoor's LEEP students thoroughly enjoyed their Enrichment Trip to see the movie, 'Trolls' at the Diamond Center Theater. They used money raised through their Pizza Wednesday Program for their tickets and snacks.

LCBDD, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and Lake County Treasurer, Michael Zuren, hosted a Job and Resource Fair and Hiring Event on March 7 at the Lake County Administration Building. Over 80 job seekers, with their support staff, benefited from the participation of seven community resources and eight employers. One of those employers being Meijer, which held onsite interviews. Reports indicate that four job seekers were extended job offers during the event with other

businesses reporting that they met viable candidates and planned to follow up after the event. We are sure that this event 'Opened Doors' for both job seekers and Lake County employers!

The Pathways to Careers Program at Auburn Career Center held an event on March 7 to celebrate the completion of another round of classes. Both students and student mentors were recognized. New to this round was a culinary course taught by Ryan Wagner of Ohio Living Breckenridge Village a community partner and employer. Students taking this course had the experience of touring Ohio Living Breckenridge Village, as well as, putting their skills to use preparing and enjoying a meal at the facility. The next round of courses is already scheduled for the month of April. LCBDD is proud to be a partner in this remarkable program.

VGC continues to keep busy with our routine activities of walking and swimming. VGC just started music therapy with Fine Arts. We celebrated February with a Valentine's Day theme that came from the Food Service Department. They supplied treats all month and decorated each individuals' lunch bag. We made chocolate and white covered strawberries, and other treats. We celebrated Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday with fat boys, king cakes, and paczkis. Individuals enjoyed the Orchestra and Movie Day with Recreation. Banjo Dave and his Band came in and played fun folklore hoe down music for all to sing along. We had a Super Bowl party with Dorleen's gourmet sliders that was a hit. Individuals went with Community Integration Professionals to participate in a Magic Show and a Scavenger Hunt at the Willoughby Library.

### Staff Development

The SSAs, QIDPs, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the new OhioISP trainings which have been focusing on Technology, the Internal Review Process, and Hot Topics.

### Featured Success Stories

Andrew's mom, Danielle, shared the benefits of receiving Speech and Language Pathology (SLP) services through Early Intervention (EI) with Shirley P. through the LCBDD/Deepwood. Read below to learn more of their story:

"We started early intervention for speech therapy shortly after Andrew turned two years old. He was behind on his expressive language and had a hard time communicating his wants and needs (except to talk about dada or doggies!). With our therapist's help, we learned new ways to play and to interact with our son that would give him the words he was looking for. We always looked forward to our in-home appointments and we quickly saw progress from Andrew. Now, he reaches all of his goals and milestones. We can't thank the County Board and Ms. Shirley enough for helping Andrew grow!"