

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - June 2024

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Broadmoor Early Childhood Program is collaborating with the Fine Arts Association to hold adaptive dance classes monthly for children in Early Intervention & scheduled preschool programming for the 2024-2025 school year. The programming is funded by grants that the Fine Arts Association has secured.

Broadmoor's School Age and LEEP students had their final 2023-2024 school year session of Wood Working with the Mentor Rotarians on April 15. Instead of working on another project that day, the students and staff surprised them with thank you cards, hugs, handshakes, posters, and high fives.

Ohio's Alternate Assessment testing window closed on April 19. Eighteen School Age and LEEP students successfully tested in the areas of English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Math.

The Broadmoor School Graduation was held on Friday, May 17, with five graduates in the class of 2024. Dr. Katie Davis from Lake Erie College was the keynote speaker this year. Lake Erie College is one of Broadmoor volunteer sites for the LEEP Program.

The Broadmoor Preschool Program held its graduation celebration on Thursday, May 23. Twenty-five preschool students will be moving on to Kindergarten. Three students will remain at Broadmoor School for Kindergarten during the 2024-2025 school year.

During the month of April, 27 children qualified for Early Intervention Services.

For the month of April, the Willoughby Branch (WB) had two collections: United Way and Annie's Little Hope Train. Families and staff brought in so many different food items, hygiene supplies, paper products and even tents and tarps for Little Annie's Hope Train. Awesome job Willoughby Branch!

After the Solar Eclipse, WB staff collected used eclipse glasses to take to local libraries as they are collecting used glasses to send to other countries for their upcoming eclipse. Recycling is just another way of giving back, even if it's reaching out beyond local communities.

In the month of May, WB plans to have Sarah from the Museum of Natural History visit, and she will be bringing LIVE animals to show us what the museum does. In years past, she has brought a red-tailed hawk, a snake, a skunk, an opossum, and different bio facts of animals. We are excited to see what comes into the WB next!

On Wednesday, April 24, from 5 – 6 pm our LCBDD Aktion Club met at Project Hope for the Homeless to learn more about their program and to donate the care packages they had been making at the past few meetings. Each care package contained a roll of toilet paper, a package of facial tissues, deodorant, and chapstick. The club made over 50 care packages in hopes to improve the lives of 50 people in need. Once they arrived at Project Hope they took a tour of the facility and learned all about Project Hope and how they help individuals in our community on a daily basis. People are able to check into Project Hope for the night, if they do not have anywhere to go home to that night, and

receive assistance with job searches, finances, and so much more. Project Hope was so thankful for the care packages from our amazing Aktion Club!

The Community Advocacy group met at the LCBDD Vocational Guidance Center on April 30, 2024, from 10 am – 11 am. First, they watched a short video about volunteering, and then talked about it with the group. Charlie shared that volunteering is done without being paid, and to help your community. Shannon let the group know he likes volunteering because he gets to meet new people. Shannon also shared that he helps with Meals on Wheels, and later on today, he was going to Habitat for Humanity to volunteer as well! The club reviewed the Aktion Club flyer calling for donations for the Sub-Zero Mission Drive to help veterans and homeless people in need by donating new, unused socks, and let the self-advocates know donations can be brought to the next meeting. We are so proud of our self-advocates and how much they help their communities! The May meeting will be held at Garfield Park, and the club will focus on learning more about each other!

On May 2, 2024, The Kirtland Kiwanis Club had a recognition dinner at the Kirtland Community Center for all of their sub-committees, and invited self-advocates from the LCBDD/Deepwood Kiwanis Aktion Club to share all of the wonderful things they have been doing throughout the year. Aktion Club member, Karen S., attended with advisors Heather R. and Ashley C. Karen was asked to speak about all of the wonderful things she and her club have done over the past few months, and she let the audience know the focus this year is helping the veterans in our community. She shared that we collaborated with Sub Zero Mission to support homeless veterans in need throughout Lake County, collecting warming items and coordinating an unused sock drive, resulting in the Aktion Club collecting over 100 pairs of socks! The club showed their appreciation of the LCBDD/Deepwood employees by writing cards and hand delivering them for Veterans Day. She also shared that they are planning to volunteer at our club's favorite event of the year, The Kirtland Strawberry Fest. She loves being out in our community, mingling with old and new friends, while helping a great cause selling raffle tickets. We are so proud of our Aktion Club, and are so thankful for our Kirtland Kiwanis Club's unwavering support.

On May 3, 2024, we danced the night away at The Footloose Friday Dance Series at Painesville Township Park. This was our extra special event Flower Power: A 70's Themed Prom! Everyone showed up in their best 70s gear and received a peace necklace and glow stick bracelet as favors at the door. Our wonderful volunteers served a seated meal to all of the individuals, families, and caregivers consisting of pasta, garlic bread, salad, and a cupcake to top off the great meal. Everyone boogied the night away to all the 70s hits and posed for a photo in front of our groovy photo booth backdrop. We're excited for our next dance in the Footloose Friday Series on October 4, 2024, at Painesville Township Park from 6 pm – 8 pm.

Deepwood Idol is ramping up for the grand show on August 17! On Tuesday May 7, 2024, the official Deepwood Idol application packet went out to our individuals and families. Tryouts will be on June 8 at The Fine Arts Center from 10 am – 1 pm and on June 15 at Lake Erie College's Rickel Theater from 10 am – 1 pm. Deepwood Idol is confirmed for August 17, 2024, at 1 pm at the Mentor Amphitheater. LCBDD/Deepwood will also be represented in The Mentor City Fest parade this year at 10 am on August 17. The parade route begins at Veterans' Park and ends at The Mentor Civic Center. We hope to see you there!

Special Events

The Recreation Department offered two Silly Fun Saturday events, in April - they visited the Cleveland Aquarium and in May the Cleveland Zoo.

Early Intervention offered a play group in the community and five early intervention families attended.

On Monday, April 15, our Broadmoor Bobcats took on local coaches for the Annual Coaches Game at Mentor High School. The Bobcats once again took home the victory and the FUNdraiser brought in donations of over \$1,000 to support the Adapted Physical Education Program at Broadmoor School.

The Broadmoor Family Network hosted their first Parent Night Out event on Wednesday, May 8. Twenty parents signed up to decorate cookies with the owner of D is for Delicious cookie shop Denise Hagan. Through the cookie decorating, Denise shared her personal journey having a daughter with developmental delays.

In April, the WB celebrated the start of baseball season by wearing their favorite team shirt. Hopefully you were able to see some of the team shirts worn in April's E-News.

Willoughby had a pretty creative game: individuals and staff brought in a baby picture and they were displayed on poster board. Folks had to "name that baby" and the one with the most correct answers won a prize. Congratulations to DI employee, Jaime E., for having the most correct answers.

In May, the WB will be having a Memorial Day Picnic and also a shuffleboard tournament (the shuffleboard was painted on the floor in our Fun Zone by volunteers that came last year for the United Day of Caring).

WB celebrated the Kentucky Derby in early May by creating "derby hats" for the women and "derby ties" for the men. We set up a "horsetrack" outside in the grass and had horse races. Our "horses" were graciously provided to us by the Deepwood Foundation. Thank you to Tana and the Deepwood Foundation for letting us use them, it made this event all the more fun!

VGC has had a fun-filled fabulous April and May with many activities and lots of fun! VGC continues to keep busy with our routine activities of walking, crafting, Exploring Horizons with Melody (the intern from Recreation), Walking/Gross Motor with Deb from Recreation, and Music Therapy with Fine Arts. We are now back at the Senior Centers for Bingo, lunch, and ceramics. We celebrated April's Baseball Day with Food Service and had chili dogs. All have been wearing the fashion chosen for the month supporting Deepwood Fun Days. Individuals celebrated Cinco de Mayo with Mexican hats and attire with shakers and a taco casserole. We look forward to Banjo Dave and his band to come in at the end of the month singing and playing the old folklore songs.

On Thursday, May 16, 2024, we hosted our first Provider Outreach Party at Marous Brothers Construction from 5 pm-7 pm. This was a collaborative event facilitated by The LCBDD Provider Support Department and The Deepwood Foundation, in which 100 were in attendance. Attendees were served refreshments by volunteers from our SSA Department, and were able to browse various resource tables. The event was a success, and allowed us to nurture our ongoing relationships with our provider partners, while continuing to lead with a collaborative mindset as a key factor to continued success.

Staff Development

Early Childhood staff members completed trainings on Emotional Learning and Development and Parent Mental Health.

The SSAs, QIDPs, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the new OhioISP trainings, which have been focusing on how Direct Support Professionals can add expert information regarding individuals' services/outcomes in the OISP.

Featured Success Stories

The King family shared the success their daughter received in Early Intervention with their primary service provider, Krystie Balcer, SLP. You can read more about the gains Olivia made and the success of Early Intervention on the LCBDD/Deepwood website.

CES recognized four outstanding employees in the last month:

- ~**Nick B.** reached a five year work anniversary at his Ohio Living Breckenridge Village job.
- ~**Mike S.** has been cleaning Lubrizol for 12 years and received a company award to celebrate.
- ~**Dino P.** has decided to retire from his many years working in group employment at CPL but will continue to work independently at EMI.
- ~ Deepwood Industries named **Adam B.** Employee of the Quarter for CES for his flexibility, positive attitude, and the role he played in our successful transition to a new work site, Silco Inc.: We presented Adam with his award on May 8. While doing so, the owner announced that Adam was also the recipient of the Employee of the Quarter! Silco is an incredible employer who values a diverse workforce.