

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - July 2024

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

On June 18, three of our projects submitted for the 2024 United Way Day of Caring were completed. The Willoughby Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce and Lake County Development Council teamed up to tackle a cleaning and organizing project up at Recreation, a group from Lakeland Community College refinished six wooden work tables at Willoughby Branch, and K-J Fasteners visited us at VGC to engage with individuals in the Adult Habilitation program by playing games and enjoying a cook out together. Broadmoor School's Day of Caring project has been adopted by the Mentor Rotary and will be implemented later this summer to enhance the courtyard that they built a pergola for last year. Each year, we are so grateful to United Way for matching our projects with wonderful volunteer groups who accomplish these valuable projects!

The Annual Torch Run again bicycled through Mentor and Willoughby on June 25...celebrating Special Olympics and carrying the ever-burning torch! Police and fire departments from surrounding communities joined the Special Olympics cyclists from their starting point and made their way through the WB as they carried the torch through their route. Fans were there to cheer them on!

Thirty-nine infant and toddlers qualified for Early Intervention Services last month.

Broadmoor's School Age students went to the Miracle League Field and Adaptive Playground on May 23 for an end of the year baseball game and party. The park provided snacks and everyone had a wonderful time playing together and celebrating the end of another successful school year.

The Community Advocacy group met at Garfield Park on May 28 from 10 am – 11 am. The meeting began by going over what everyone did over the weekend. Larry said he just chilled and loved every moment of it. Alex shared that he was so excited for his upcoming trip to the Carolinas, and Lacey shared that she was going to Hawaii and could barely wait! Anton shared he was going to Croatia for over a month for a family member's wedding. It was a great start to our getting to know you advocacy meeting! We then went around and shared our answers on the 'All About Me' worksheets. We learned that mac and cheese was the most common favorite food! Lucy talked about her family and her love for her Mom. Many of the self-advocates brought books to donate to The Little Lending Library located at Garfield Park. They filled the little lending library to the brim! It was such a great act of kindness for our community.

On Wednesday, May 29, the LCBDD Aktion Club met at The Vocational Guidance Center (VGC) from 6 pm - 7 pm. The group prepared for one of their favorite volunteer events of the year, the Kiwanis Strawberry Festival! Aktion Club members signed up for shifts and discussed how they would pass out candy and be in the parade on Friday, June 14, to kick off the festival. They also made posters to carry in the parade. On Saturday, June 15, Aktion Club members would assist with keeping dining areas clean at the Strawberry Fest while selling 50/50 raffle tickets to benefit Kirtland Kiwanis and our Aktion Club. Aktion Club members also painted flowerpots during this jam-packed meeting to spread kindness and to brighten up rooms at our local nursing homes.

On Tuesday, June 4, a new connection was made in our Friendship Connection Program. The Friendship Connection process begins with an application and interview so that we can get to know the individual seeking a connection — their likes, dislikes, background, personality, interests, and where they live and work. This helps us determine the best match for their Friendship Connection. Friendship Connection is open to all LCBDD employees and individuals who are eligible to receive services from LCBDD. SuAnne and Ann will start their friendship connection with shopping or going to the movies very soon!

The first of two Deepwood Idol auditions was held on Saturday, June 8, at the beautiful Fine Arts Association. Fine Arts Director, David Malinowski, and Art/Music Therapist, Danielle, joined us as judges alongside our wonderful Deepwood staff, Liz and Erin. We had nine AMAZING acts audition that day, and our judges were impressed by the caliber of talent our individuals had to offer! The second audition is scheduled for June 15 with another nine acts auditioning at Lake Erie Colleges' Rickel Theater, with esteemed and valued partner of Deepwood, Dr. Davis, and LCBDD staff: Mary, Tracie, Cindy, and Johanna. Results of the auditions will be available no later than July 1—we cannot wait to see what acts advance to the big show on August 17!

Special Events

Willoughby Branch Habilitation Specialist, Nancy B., has started a club recently called “Nancy’s Furry Friends Club” where she introduces individuals to adopted animals that have special needs. She talks about these unique animals and how they receive care/treatment to live just like any other dog or cat and shares heart-warming stories about these very special animals.

In order to combat some of the hot weather days ahead, WB will be making homemade ice cream! Individuals will have the opportunity to learn what ingredients are in ice cream, how it’s made, and then the best part of all.....eating it.

Recreation Department held their monthly EI/Preschool Silly Fun Event at the Cleveland Zoo & the EI Department held their monthly community playgroups at Daniels Park and at Penitentiary Glen.

VGC has officially kicked off summer with many activities and lots of fun! VGC continues to keep busy with their routine activities of walking/Gross Motor with Deb from Recreation. They have attended classes at Lake Farmpark and take their lunch along. VGC is now back at the Senior Centers for Bingo, lunch, and ceramics. They celebrated National Cheese Day with one special casserole made by Dorleen, which is a cheeseburger casserole. They have participated in Deepwood Fun Days by wearing the fashion chosen for the month. Individuals have been out and about the courtyards enjoying the fresh air and sunshine.

Agency Resources

There were five proud Broadmoor graduates, all of whom are moving onto enriching adult service programming including the Spark Program, ViaQuest, and Advocating Aspirations in Willoughby. Thank you to all who collaborated to a smooth transition for each student.

Staff Development

LEEP Intervention Specialist, Wendy L., completed the Tobii Dynavox training that focused on computer access through eye-tracking/gaze technology software. She is the second member of Broadmoor’s staff to receive this formal certification.

The SSA's, QIDP's, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the new OhioISP trainings, which have been focusing on the OISP: Compliance, Community Life Engagement, and the Direct Support Professionals Voice.