

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - August 2024

DODD

Following an extensive compliance survey conducted by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in June 2024, LCBDD was awarded the highest level of County Board Accreditation. Accreditation was awarded effective upon current Accreditation's expiration date of November 1, 2024, and remains effective through October 31, 2027.

The Survey Team commended the LCBDD for all programs, services, and efforts, and specifically noted the following initiatives and programs felt to be above and beyond minimal compliance:

- Tech Suite developed and opened by the County Board where people can explore various tech through scheduled tours or by booking a weekend overnight stay (overnight visits available starting in Fall of 2024)
- Recreation Department Program growing through provider network support and outreach to help more people get involved in meaningful activities
- SSAs have a family culture and go above and beyond to support one another
- SSA Training and Mentorship Program effective and specialized SSAs have added depth to what the County Board can offer (e.g., Mental Health, Transition, Community Life, Employment Navigation)

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Preschool and Early Intervention families attended a picnic with the Recreation Department in July at a splash park in Painesville. Families enjoyed chicken nuggets provided by the Broadmoor Family Network, and were able to play and enjoy connecting with each other.

Broadmoor School Staff came in two days in August to work with the State Support Team 4 to develop Broadmoor School's framework for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This will be a yearlong process before full implementation building wide; however, it will be grounded in the expectation to Be Kind, Be Safe and Try Your Best.

The Willoughby Branch (WB) collected items for two community entities during the month of July, the School Supply Drive and the Natural History Museum. School supplies were then dropped off to a location for collection and the individuals were very excited to be a part of that volunteer activity. We also collected old towels and sheets for the rescued animals at the Natural History Museum and those animals will now be much more comfortable in their homes thanks to the generous donations from WB.

The CES Department staff and managers volunteered at the United Way on Friday, July 26, sorting clothing and books as well as moving boxes for the Back to School Bash as a way to work together while giving back to the community.

We greatly appreciate our partnerships with local media outlets that facilitated a wealth of articles throughout July and early August. By doing so, we reach many community members who do not follow us on social media or who might not have an awareness of our supports and services. We secured media coverage for Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, Deepwood Idol (pre-

event), Judge Larry Allen Technology Suite, United Way Day of Caring, and Deepwood Foundation Grants for 2Q2024 across The News Herald, Lake County Tribune, Mentor Buzz E-News, and News Channel 5 WKYC (only for the Torch Run) for a total of 12 placements.

On July 11, 2024, the LCBDD Transition Services and Recreation Departments hosted an Ice Cream Social for eligible students, ages 14-22. Individuals and their families were invited to join in an outdoor event including an ice cream bar with a variety of toppings, water balloon toss, sensory area (sand play, bubbles and sidewalk chalk) outdoor games and the ever-popular dunk tank! In total, 28 participants and family members enjoyed the event and had opportunities to socialize, meet the recreation and transition team, eat ice cream treats, and overall have a family-friendly and fun evening. The LCBDD Transition and Recreation Departments host quarterly family-engagement activities to encourage agency participation for youth who are eligible for LCBDD services. We are looking forward to our upcoming Fall Festival in September!

The Community Advocacy group met at Chagrin River Park on July 30. Lake Metroparks Lieutenant Walsh came to the Advocacy meeting at Chagrin River Park and shared about the parks and park safety. He taught the group about deer and showed different antlers found in the many parks. The self-advocates enjoyed the engaging experience! We are thankful for our wonderful partnership with Lake Metroparks!

Special Events

August 20 is the first day of school for Broadmoor's School Age and LEEP students. Preschool students will start on August 23 after students complete individual orientation & screenings with classroom staff.

It was National Motorcycle Day in July so we had folks from a local Harley club called the HOGS (Harley Owners Group) ride out on their Harley's to the WB and they gave us quite a show! Revving their engines and allowing individuals to look (but not touch ☺) the Harley's. We plan on having another motorcycle group out to WB in the near future because the individuals had such a great time.

Our annual summer picnic at the WB was held on a beautiful summer day, and they had a BBQ picnic theme: BBQ chicken sandwiches, macaroni salad, chips, and cake pops for dessert. We were able to be outside and play some summer games for our picnic day. Some other fun activities during July were make your own Sundae Day, and of course Christmas in July with everyone showing off their red and green.

Kristen M. was celebrated for her two-year work milestone at the Ohio Living Breckenridge Village! We are grateful for businesses like this that support and celebrate all employees. Jake J. was CES Employee of the Quarter for always going above and beyond to help his Job Coach and his coworkers. He is a good example of an employee who goes the extra mile! Jake works at Laketran and the Mentor and Wickliffe Title Bureaus.

The ICF would like to extend a thank you to The Deepwood Foundation for their sponsorship of summer activities. The Individuals at ARC enjoyed a visit from Chris's Ice-Cream Truck and a build your pizza from Fuoco's Pizza Oven. Thanks to Michael Zuren, Lake County Treasurer for the Birthday Club Celebration and the Christmas in July party. Those who make ARC their home enjoyed these events along with picnics under the pavilion, a visit to the Cleveland Zoo, adventures at Pioneer Water Park, and fun times at Preston's Hope.

In July, VGC enjoyed shutdown and came back to a whole host of activities. Individuals spent their time strolling Orchard Hills, walking in the park, going to Lake Farmpark for a picnic lunch and movies at Atlas. They also enjoyed a BBQ cookout and Milkshake Day!. VGC is winding down summer time and getting ready for the football season. After pre-season, individuals will begin the football picks of the week. We all have been wearing the fashion chosen for the month supporting Deepwood Fun Days. Individuals have been out enjoying the courtyards, fresh air, and sunshine.

Departmental Program Enhancements/Updates

The ICF Program is pleased to announce that the Activity Rooms located on 2 CD are furnished and ready for all the individuals to enjoy. The activity areas include a Zen room, Arts and Crafts room, a Salon, a Game room, a music room, a coffee shop, and a Big Screen Theater area.

Staff Development

Investigative Agent Craig S. was chosen from a large pool of potential candidates and subsequently participated in a 10-week program at The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. This program was designed to provide an inside look at what goes into death investigations. In addition to learning about topics such as drug chemistry, toxicology, trace evidence, epidemiology, and forensic pathology, Craig attended an autopsy. This was an incredible opportunity for Craig to network with other professionals and investigators and share knowledge with the rest of the MUI team on cutting edge technology and best practices.

The SSAs, QIDPs, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the new OhioISP trainings which have been focusing the OISP: the Direct Support Professionals voice and tips for success for person-centered planning.