

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities

Superintendent's Report - September 2024

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

As technology continues to provide new ways to deliver health and human services programs and activities, it is vital to ensure that methods (critically, web and mobile) are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. In addition, it's critical to be in compliance with specific technical standards (the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA), which aligns with the standards published by the Department of Justice under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We are proud to announce that earlier this month, we launched the Accessibility Toolbar on www.LakeBDD.org and www.LakeCountyCollective.org.



The Accessibility Toolbar includes a variety of features, such as a screen reader, reading aids, fully customizable styling options (changes to font size, type and color), and on-demand live translation feature that boasts over 100 languages including 65 text-to-speech. Doing so enables those who face online access barriers to take an active part in our digital world. Website visitors are now able to customize their experience to best suit their individual needs by clicking on the launch button (shown above).

We had a fun filled weekend starting on Friday, August 16, with our Mentor City Fest Float building and decoration session. On Saturday morning, LCBDD/Deepwood individuals and volunteers participated in the Mentor City Fest Parade with our Flintstones themed float taking first place in the category of best use of the Theme 'Mentor Rocks.' Thanks to Elfie for her idea to go with the Flintstones/stone age in relation to the theme. Deepwood Idol then took place on the big stage at The Mentor Amphitheater bringing a huge crowd to watch the amazing show! It was such an incredible event and experience for all. All of the talent was amazing this year, but these were the top three performances of the day as voted by our esteemed judges: LCBDD Board President Joe Gibson, LCBDD Board Secretary Pam Martin, State Senator Jerry Cirino, State Representative Dan Troy, Lake County Commissioner President John Plecnik, Lake County Probate Judge Mark Bartolotta, and Lake County Treasurer Michael Zuren

- 1st place: Tanisha Carlgren
- 2nd place: Lani Engel
- 3rd place (tie): Scott Frisbie and Kevin Hutchins

A big thank you to all of the astounding performers, volunteers, and judges!

Broadmoor's In-service Day on August 19 was a great way to welcome back returning staff, introduce a few new folks and prepare for the new school year. MUI, Fraud, BBP, and HIPPA information was shared by agency IA's, the Director of Nursing, and the Director of Adult Services.

The first day of school for School Age & LEEP programs began on August 19. We are glad to have the students back in the building. Also, the first day of school for the Preschool Program began on August 23. This program has started the year at full capacity.

Through grants from the Deepwood Foundation and Lake Metroparks Foundation, the Broadmoor Preschool Program will be receiving personalized monthly lessons that provide hands-on experiences with nature. The programs will start in September.

On September 5, Superintendent Elfie Roman and Principal Liz Miller represented Lake County along with other agency representatives in Lake County to attend the Department of Children and Youth's first ever Kids Summit. The purpose of the event is to learn strategies on how to individualize and tailor supports to meet children and family needs and to learn and collaborate with other leaders across the State.

The following LCBDD departments have met the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities June 30 deadline of uploading 722 waivers and 33 ARC individuals that have their OISPs currently in DODD's Salesforce electronic system: SSA, ICF, and the ARC.

The Community Advocacy group met at VGC for their End of Summer Celebration on August 27 at 10 am. Volunteers from the SSA Department helped grill hot dogs, while the advocates planned their meetings for fall 2024. The members of advocacy had SO many wonderful ideas including possible trips to Patterson Fruit Farm, Garfield Park, and a local library. We discussed how our summers went and what we hope to do in the fall season. Once the hot dogs were ready, we enjoyed a hot dog lunch consisting of pasta salad, chips, and a cookie. We all sat and had lunch and enjoyed each other's company, it was a fun meeting! All of the advocacy members received Deepwood Idol shirts as a token of our appreciation for them. The next advocacy meeting is September 24 at Garfield Park from 10 -11 am.

Special Events

WB had their own Summer Olympics complete with summer games, crafts, and gold medals. Make sure to check out the DI Facebook page for photos of their Summer Olympics fun. Also, the WB celebrated "Dog Days of Summer" and everyone brought in pictures of their beloved pets to show and chat about.

Have you seen anyone from WB carrying their tie-dye bag? Individuals made their very own tie-dye bag so they can carry their lunch or other belongings in style. Everyone's bag was unique to them and very cool.

Preschool and EI families joined our Recreation Department for the Silly Fun Saturday Event- Ice Cream social. Approximately 13 families attended this event.

CES values the substitutes who work with all of our employees because we could not do it without them. We are celebrating those substitutes throughout the month of SUBtember with SUB sandwiches (thank you food service), SUBzero desserts, SUBmitted appreciation cards, and a SUBprise gift. CES hosted a summer picnic for clients of CES, JCR Imagine Program, and the Willoughby Branch and their guests on September 11, 2024, at Veteran's Park in Mentor. There were food trucks, games, and fishing with the Recreation staff, and a nature hike. Everyone had a great time hanging out together outside of work.

The JCR Imagine Program is holding an Open House on September 26, from 5:30 – 7 pm. Those attending will learn all there is to know about the Vocational Habilitation Program and everything that is offered for adults with Autism.

Deepwood Foundation graciously provided the Willoughby Branch (WB) with musical entertainment from none other than the Chardon Polka Band. WB was definitely rolling out the barrels and had a fantastic time!

VGC wrapped up summer with a huge tie-dye making activity with Community Integration and Recreation. The last party of the summer was a Luau hosted by our Food Service Department and the individuals had a blast! Now that is the beginning of fall, it means football and the individuals started their annual football picks. VGC is still spending much time outside to enjoy the cooler weather and sunshine.

Events from the ICF Residential Program:

- Individuals and staff participated in the Mentor City Fest Parade.
- The ARC Family Picnic was held on August 13, 2024. Thanks to the Dietary Department for setting up a feast that included the individuals and twenty-six family and friends.
- It was a sad day on, August 17, with the passing of Sandy Ames. Sandy lived at ARC for 32 years and will be greatly missed by all. A graveside service was held on August 20 with family, friends, staff, and peers attending.

Agency Resources

Twenty-six children were evaluated in Early Intervention with 21 children being eligible for Ohio Early Intervention Services in August.

Staff Development

The SSAs, QIDPs, and Team Leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the Ohio ISP trainings which have been focusing on Technology First, Rapid Response, and remote monitoring.

Congratulations to three of the Residential Shift Managers, Susan F., Amy D., and Sheritta S. for completing the year-long training for Front Line Supervisors Success Academy.

Featured Success Stories

Deepwood Industries Employee of the Quarter was Donna M., congratulations to Donna! She was given an award and t-shirt by DI Board Member, Mac Chafer, who personally delivered her award to her at the WB.