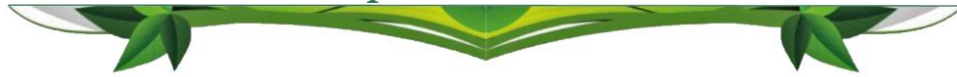


Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - June 2025

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

The Early Childhood Department has finalized collaborative programming with both Mentor Public Library and Morley Library in Painesville. Mentor Public Library will offer monthly story time sessions for children enrolled in Early Intervention and Preschool programs. Additionally, Morley Library will provide quarterly programming specifically designed for the Early Intervention population.

At the May 19 Board Meeting, Mentor High School senior Monica Garza presented her impressive Senior Project, which explored the effects of music on children with significant disabilities in one of Broadmoor School's LEEP classrooms. Her research revealed a positive correlation between music and increased student engagement, along with a noticeable reduction in negative behaviors. Monica's work highlights the powerful role of music in supporting diverse learning needs.

William Ross, Executive Director of the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) organization, visited Broadmoor School to collect the aluminum cans that were diligently gathered and crushed by students and staff in the LEEP Program. Mr. Ross expressed his sincere appreciation, noting that each pound of recycled cans generates 55 cents, and it costs approximately \$600 to send one child to Camp Phoenix—a special camp for children who have sustained severe burn injuries.

EI Staff members have successfully completed the following specialized trainings to enhance their support for children in Early Intervention programs: AFIRM (Autism Focused Intervention Resources and Modules) SORF (Systematic Observation of Red Flags for Autism).

Two individuals who receive County Board services (Gabi and Cade) participated in the performance organized by Hearts for Music at the 2025 Jubilee of Persons with Disabilities in Rome, Italy. In addition to this exhilarating experience, Cade had the opportunity to take part in the WEWS Channel 5 coverage (<https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/this-local-orchestra-makes-history-after-performance-at-the-vatican>) with Recreation Specialist Ellana Fishwick on Memorial Day, as well as, coverage in local press, such as The Lake County Tribune article on May 30 and across social media.

We hit a new record on our Facebook social media platform! The post announcing the Broadmoor School 2025 graduates received **more than 1.1K likes** (182 comments and 34 shares), contributing to an engagement score of 36K. It's great to see our community so invested in the services at Broadmoor!

Willoughby Works (WW) collected CDs and books for the Madison Library's Book Fair, as another way to give back to the community.

The Community Advocacy group met on May 27, 2025, at The Vocational Guidance Center. We were thrilled to see an impressive turnout, with over 30 self-advocates in attendance. This diverse group included representatives from seven different private day programs, as well as individuals who took

time off work to participate. Given that May was Mental Health Awareness Month, our discussions centered on strategies to navigate challenging times. We also identified the key people in our lives whom we turn to for support and confide in during difficult moments. In the second half of the meeting, the advocates engaged in a reflective exercise by completing a questionnaire titled, "Why I am Awesome." Those who felt comfortable, shared their responses with the group. This activity revealed many insights about our fellow self-advocates and highlighted numerous commonalities among us. It was a powerful reminder that, despite our differences, we share many similarities and are not so different after all. Our next advocacy meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025, and will focus on internet safety.

Aktion Club members were incredibly busy in May 2025! In honor of May (being designated Older Americans Month), Aktion Club members volunteered for Senior Day at The Great Lakes Mall, where they warmly greeted attendees and handed out coffee and muffins. The next day, on May 21, Aktion Club members continued their volunteer efforts at United Way. They dedicated their time to sorting donated clothing for children and adults, preparing for the much-anticipated Back to School Bash scheduled for August. This event aims to provide essential clothing and supplies to families in need, ensuring that children are well equipped for the upcoming school year. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and hard work shown by Aktion Club members during the month of May.

On May 23, 2025, 150 individuals—including families, staff, and volunteers—gathered for an Under the Sea Jamboree at Painesville Township Park. The event, part of the Footloose Friday series, was a splash of creativity and fun, with attendees wearing imaginative costumes like mermaids, deep-sea divers, fishermen, sea captains, and more. The night kicked off with pizza, setting the stage for an evening of dancing and fun. The atmosphere was awesome, thanks to the incredible support from Lake Metroparks, Revolution Pizza, and DJ Billy "J" Full Spectrum Entertainment. The next Footloose Friday event is on August 1, 2025—it's sure to be another spectacular evening!

Special Events

VGC had an exciting May! They ended their Spring Music Therapy session and will start up again in mid-June. VGC celebrated Cinco de Mayo by enjoying music and Dorleene's famous taco casserole. Individuals are using the Translator Pens to read some books and magazines. Banjo Dave and his band came in to sing their favorites songs. VGC participated in Advocacy sharing, what makes us special. At the end of May, VGC had their first annual BBQ cookout with Grill Master Charlie. In June, VGC will be visiting the Larry Allen Tech Suite.

Families gathered for a delightful picnic at The Rockefeller Greenhouse as part of the Recreation Department's Silly Fun Saturday event. The day was filled with laughter, connection, and memorable moments in a beautiful garden setting.

This year's Broadmoor Preschool Graduation was a heartwarming event, with over 200 family members and friends in attendance to celebrate the achievements of our 30 graduating children. Thanks to our valued collaboration with The Fine Arts Association, the ceremony was held in their beautiful auditorium, providing a memorable and meaningful setting for this special milestone.

Broadmoor School Age and LEEP students wrapped up the school year with joyful end-of-year picnics. The celebrations were filled with delicious food, enthusiastic family participation, and plenty of fun, as students, families, and staff came together to honor another successful and memorable year.

Broadmoor School proudly celebrated the graduation of five students this school year. The event was a heartfelt occasion, with over 70 friends and family members in attendance to honor the students' accomplishments and cheer them on as they move forward into their next chapter.

In celebration of Nurse's Day, individuals at WW created handmade cards to place in frames so that our very special nurse, Chris F., could receive a personalized message about just how wonderful she is and how much she is appreciated at WW!

In the month of May, WW provided an opportunity for individuals to show their talents. They dedicated an afternoon to have individuals perform in the cafeteria and show their stuff – we had singers, dancers, and even an individual who creates 3-D art that can be worn as jewelry. So many talented individuals!

To celebrate the Kentucky Derby, WW had their own Willoughby Derby – complete with a race track, horses, and trophies. Of course no animals were harmed for this event.

Agency Resources

The month of May saw a significant increase in activity for our Early Intervention. A total of 29 children were evaluated, with 23 qualifying for services. Referral numbers have also surged, with 61 referrals received in April and 75 in May. Currently, we have over 100 children in the process of determining eligibility, marking the highest influx of referrals we've experienced since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic—and in fact, this surpasses even those levels.

Featured Success Stories

Amanda and Mike, parents of 31-month-old Violet, describe how EI has supported their daughter's development since infancy and provided them with the tools and confidence to help her thrive. Through the coaching model and dedicated support from Developmental Specialists, Violet has made remarkable progress and become a joyful, fearless toddler.

<https://lakebdd.org/2025/05/violet-is-in-full-bloom-with-the-help-of-early-intervention/>

Our Earners and Learners Program is coming along very well – we have an individual who is going to be working at a CES location (Laketran) two days a week due to his success with this program. Congratulations to Ray D! We wish you success as you move along the employment path. Ray will continue working at WW the other three days – so they will continue to support him and others through their personal work experiences.

Staff Development/Training

The SSAs, QIDPs, and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the OhioISP trainings. May's training focused on the behavior support rule, restrictive measures, HRC, and how to incorporate behavior support strategies within the OISP.