

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - August 2025

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

On July 15, Investigative Agent, Jasmine M., presented information about the vital role of the Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood and its MUI Unit in the community at the Lake County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meeting held in the Village Room at the Mentor Public Library. The Lake County SART meets monthly to promote the continued improvement of a coordinated, multidisciplinary, and victim centered response to sexual assault. The purpose of SART is to help increase access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Units, enhance the evidence collection process, increase prosecution rates, promote greater understanding of services in the public sphere, stay up to date on best practices in the field, and collaborate with other members to identify gaps and improve responses to sexual assault in our community.

On July 29, 2025, the Community Advocacy Group gathered at the Vocational Guidance Center for a truly inspiring meeting focused on Wellness—and what a turnout! Over 30 passionate self-advocates joined us, representing many different private day programs, with some even taking time off work to be part of our meeting. The highlight of the day? A phenomenal presentation by Self-Advocate Sam, who absolutely wowed the crowd! Sam went above and beyond researching, preparing, and delivering a dynamic and engaging talk on the importance of wellness. The room was so captivated by Sam's presentation; you could hear a pin drop. He covered the importance of staying well, shared practical tips for maintaining wellness, and even led a fun and energizing stretch break to keep everyone moving. Sam also included interactive polls and questions to keep the audience engaged and involved throughout. Sam's passion and dedication truly lit up the room, and he's already looking ahead—hoping to share his presentation with the SSA Transition Youth Empowerment Group at an upcoming meeting. Way to go, Sam! Your voice, energy, and leadership are making a real impact.

Willoughby Works (WW) has had a busy summer so far: They had a torch run in June where the Special Olympics cyclists and Willoughby Fire and Police rode through the parking lot carrying the Special Olympics torch, and they were cheered on with posters and music. The Harley HOGS group – a club that rides Harleys came back to see everyone at WW!

WW collected various donations for the Back to School Bash and once again WW families provided so generously.

As part of the Agency collaboration with Council on Aging, WW created handmade cards so that they can be distributed to seniors in the community when their hot meal is delivered to the home – just another way to send a note, wish a Happy Birthday, or simply let someone know they are special.

Broadmoor's Staff Committee, together with the Transportation Department, met over the summer to finalize the plan for the introduction of Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) at the start of the school year. PBIS is a tiered framework used in schools to improve student behavior and create a positive school climate. It focuses on evidence-based practices to establish predictable, positive, effective, and equitable learning environments. The Broadmoor Bobcat Way is to Be Kind, Be Safe, and Try Your Best.

The 2025-2026 school year is the 60th school year that Broadmoor has been in operation! In 1965, Broadmoor School also had a basketball team called the “Green Machine,” which eventually became the Bobcats. Broadmoor is proud that they still play an important role in the community supporting individuals and their families. On Monday, August 18, there will be a kickoff to the school year to celebrate 60 years of Broadmoor School with a family-friendly event at the school.

Program Divisions	1965	2025
Infant Program (currently Early Intervention)	37	341
Preschool	24	84 (42 role model peers)
School Age (currently School Age & LEEP)	110	48

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 16, 2025, because Deepwood Idol is back and bigger than ever! With 13 incredibly talented contestants ready to shine, the stage is set for an unforgettable showdown. Who will rise to become the next Deepwood Idol? Our Idol Committee met on Thursday, July 10 to fine-tune every detail, and we're thrilled to announce this year's Mentor City Fest Parade theme: “Deepwood Rocks It!” Think of space, rockets, and out-of-this-world energy. The Idol weekend is composed of the float decorating party at 3 pm on Friday, August 15, parade day at 10 am on Saturday, August 16, at 10 am, and the Deepwood Idol Showcase at 1:15 pm. We can't wait to celebrate this stellar day with our community. We will surely make it a day to remember—LCBDD/Deepwood truly ROCKS IT!

Special Events

WW had a very special all-day event with the Eastlake Yacht Club and the entire building spent the day at their beautiful yacht club. Everyone went for a ride on boats graciously provided to us by the Yacht Club members and they also provided lunch for everyone. It was such fun that day! Thank you to Kara and the REC Department for arranging this fantastic event!

WW hosted another flag retirement ceremony, with American Legion Auxiliary #214 representatives present, as well as our very own Jay M. (retired Master Chief, Navy) and two other maintenance staff (also retired Navy) Pat K. and Ed W. Jay gave a very meaningful speech and Pat and Ed completed the process of retiring flags

The Deepwood Industries Board recently approved funds for some art classes with Stella's Art Gallery. WW hosted the first “Sip n Paint” with Stella's, individuals, and staff from Imagine came to join in the art class (don't worry, only sparkling water was enjoyed 😊). WW has their next art activity later this month. A huge thank you to the DI Board for providing this experience for WW!

Another HUGE thank you to the Deepwood Foundation who provided a visit to WW from TJ the Clown who made all kinds of balloon figures. Check out the DI Facebook page for all the very unique creations made by TJ the Clown.

WW's Summer Picnic was in July and it was another huge success thanks to the Recreation Department, and also one of our DI customers, Baker Bands. The Rec Department provided a dunk tank and some other fun outdoor games and cooked up a delicious summer picnic lunch – burgers on the grill. Rob from Baker Bands provided a nacho ice cream food truck as our dessert, which was DELICIOUS!

VGC is enjoying a wonderful summer! In the month of June and July, VGC visited the Larry Allen Tech Suite to view all the latest technology. Music therapy has started back up with the Fine Arts Association for the summer session. The individuals were out and about with Recreation and Community Integration enjoying the swim splash park, movies, Karaoke, story time, and celebrated Christmas in July.

The ICF would like to extend a thank you to the Deepwood Foundation for their sponsorship of summertime activities. The Individuals at ARC enjoyed a visit from Chris's Ice-cream Truck and a build your pizza from Fuoco's Pizza Oven and rides on the Euclid Beach Rocketship car. 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 Akron Zoo, adventures at Pioneer Water Park, and fun times at Preston's Hope.

Agency Resources

Broadmoor will be piloting the rollout of the use of the Oculus Virtual Reality headset that was donated to the Agency. Students will be using apps such as Bogo and Job Simulator that focus on nonverbal interaction, expressive communication, and task sequencing. A big thank you shoutout to Curtis E. from IT who offered a wonderful training on July 28 regarding its use and capabilities!

During the month of July, 54 children were evaluated/assessed and 45 were found eligible for Early Intervention Services.

Featured Success Stories

Willoughby Works will be offering another DI Employee of the Quarter Award and this quarter's winner is: Alex L. Habilitation Specialist, Peg B., had nominated him for this award. Congratulations to Alex! A DI Board Member will be coming out this month to acknowledge Alex for a job well done.

Staff Development/Training

The SSAs, QIDPs and team leaders are attending DODD's office hours regarding the OhioISP trainings. Summer training focused on the MUI updates and changes, CMS reporting for waivers, and additional questions added to the assessment.

The ICF Q-Management Team continues the OISP monthly training sessions with DODD.