

Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

Superintendent's Report – November 2025



Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Early Intervention & preschool families participated in a Trick or Treat experience at VGS hosted by our Recreation Department. Approximately 20 families participated, making it a delightful & engaging experience for all.

Early Intervention continues to strengthen community connections through monthly Story Time at Mentor Library, which this month welcomed 10 families, and the return of its Adaptive Dance Class with the Fine Arts Association, attended by approximately 14 families.

The Spooky Harvest Walk was held on October 31 at Broadmoor School. A heartfelt thank you to the Mentor Police Department, Broadmoor Family Network, Deepwood Foundation, and the dedicated staff of the Lake County Board of DD for making the event such a great success!

On October 21, Broadmoor Picture Day with MK Photography took place and the smiles were so heartwarming.

Swimming and basketball games kicked off in October, bringing excitement and energy to Broadmoor! The basketball team remains undefeated, and the gym now proudly displays banners celebrating the 2026 Broadmoor Graduates, courtesy of the Broadmoor Family Network.

On November 6, Broadmoor hosted its annual Open House and Resource Fair, which was well attended and a great success. A sincere thank you to all who participated and helped make the event meaningful for all who attended.

Community Employment Services of Deepwood Industries continues to partner with community organizations and recently secured a three-year contract with Laketran for the cleaning of the fleet, as well as a second three-year contract to clean the facilities. These agreements will allow for many individuals served to hold meaningful jobs at a partner agency.

Auburn Career Center (ACC) is holding another round of Pathways to Careers classes in December. The classes are Material Handling which will cover the basics of OSHA and will help individuals who are interested in working in an industrial environment and Culinary Customer Service which will offer practice in front and back-of-house skills. We are grateful for the willingness of the ACC administration and teaching staff to continue this program outside of the parameters of the state grant that was received a few years ago.

Willoughby Works (WW) collaborated with the American Legion Auxiliary #214 to create buckets of supplies for Forbes House. Forbes House is a 24/7 Domestic Violence Shelter for



Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

EMPOWER individuals with developmental disabilities to ENGAGE in activities that
ENRICH their lives and contribute to their community.

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those in need in Lake County. We had buckets filled with laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, some hygiene supplies and blankets. We made 20 buckets total!

Empower Sports is coming to Lake County in 2026. The Open House on October 23, 2025, was a touchdown! There was a conditioning activity and then a football throwing challenge to win official merchandise from The Cleveland Guardians and Cavaliers. We are hoping to begin basketball with them in January 2026, and it will be open to individuals with developmental disabilities ages 5 and up. We cannot wait to have another way for the individuals we serve to access fitness/sports and make social connections in the new year.

On Tuesday October 28, 2025, the Community Advocacy group met at VGC to talk all things National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (NDEAM). They had a guest panel of individuals independently employed in the community consisting of Tanisha, Tom, and Sam. They all presented bios of themselves and answered questions regarding different aspects of community employment. There was a partner activity and asked mock interview questions to get a feel for an interview for community employment. A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful guest panel—Tom, Tanisha, and Sam—for sharing their experiences in the workforce. We truly appreciate their openness in discussing both the triumphs and challenges of working in the community. Their stories were inspiring and insightful. The next meeting is November 25, 2025, and the discussion will be about independent living tips.

Aktion Club had their October Kickoff meeting on Wednesday October 29 to start the new fiscal year. They had five new members attend the meeting and sign up for the year. The members showed up to impress wearing their Halloween costumes, and during the meeting we signed over 230 Thanksgiving cards to go in the bags of every senior citizen served through the Meals on Wheels nutrition site located at the LCBDD campus. We also announced the opening of the Aktion Club leadership roles and requested members think about if they are interested. The next Aktion Club meeting is Wednesday, December 3, for their Helping Other Holiday Party where they will complete a service project for the Ronald McDonald House, sign another batch of holiday cards for our friends receiving meals from Meals-on-Wheels, and members will declare if they are interested in a leadership role in the club. Aktion Club is also still collecting pop tabs.

On November 12, 2025, we have another meeting in the Empowerment through Connection Advocacy series focusing on Grief and Loss Over the Holidays. Grieving the loss of a loved one is never easy—especially during the holidays so we hope to offer a supportive space to share one's feelings, honor their loved one's memory, and connect with community resources to help navigate the season. This session will begin with an opportunity for all attendees to share any feelings they may have regarding their grief and dealing with the upcoming holiday season and will end with a craft they can take home with them to bring them a little bit of peace during the hard times.





The final Footloose Friday of the year is scheduled for December 5, 2025, at Painesville Township Park from 6 pm-8 pm. The theme of this year's holiday dance is Ski Lodge Vibes- think crackling fireplaces, cozy flannel, pine-scented air, and lots of laughs and dancing with friends! We are hoping to continue this wonderful partnership with Lake Metroparks into 2026.

Special Events

In celebration of Halloween and to create some "spooky" fun Willoughby Works had Spooky Sensory buckets and a mummy wrapping contest during the month of October. We ended the month with a Halloween Dance, and all could come in costume. The staff at Willoughby Works decided to have a themed Halloween costume party and we all dressed as characters from The Wizard of Oz. Stay tuned for photos on our DI social media!!

Willoughby Works also recognized National Fire Safety Week and throughout October we had various fire safety classes and trivia for individuals to participate and learn about fire safety.

VGC individuals are attending music therapy with Fine Arts. The individuals have been out with Recreation and Community Integration enjoying walks in the park, the movies, Karaoke, and story time. Banjo Dave and friends visited VGC and played their Folklore tunes. On Halloween, individuals dressed in their best costumes and visited down to A-Bldg where they enjoyed Trick-R-Treating and getting their pictures taken. VGC is now moving into the season of "Thanks" of Hallothanksmas!

Agency Resources

During the month of October, 33 children were evaluated and 22 qualified for Early Intervention Services. Primary Service Provider assignments are as follows:

- Developmental Specialists 54.5%
- Speech Therapists 27.3%
- Occupational and Physical Therapists 18.2%

Staff Development/Training

In November, the SSAs, QDDPs, and Team Leaders will be attending Regional Gatherings a presentation on accreditation review tool changes, top county board citations, and general compliance discussions from DODD Accreditation Managers. The QIDPs and ICF will be attending the ODH Field Managers meeting to review ICF regulatory requirements, process, and expectations for surveys, especially as it relates to the OhioISP.

