

## Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

### Superintendent's Report – February 2026



#### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

School Age and LEEP classes went to Round One in Mentor for their PE Enrichment Trips in January and enjoyed practicing their bowling skills together.

The Recreation Department arranged for a visit to the Mentor Fire Station for EI and Preschool families, and everyone also enjoyed another Silly Fun Saturday.

LCBDD collaborated with the Lake County General Health District in ongoing POD planning coordination efforts. A joint lunch meeting was held with about 17 members of both LCBDD and LCGHD to participate in a simulation game designed by the Ohio Department of Health to review operational details.

The Nursing Department donated medical supplies to support a student's home needs and also received donated items from Broadmoor School including hand sanitizer and bandages to support health and safety efforts.

Willoughby Works (WW) is “all in” with celebrating and supporting our CAVS by wearing CAVS apparel. WW is also paying attention to football teams to gear up for the Super Bowl. WW collaborated with Agency Fun Days by wearing blue to Combat the Winter Blues and fun hats for Hat Day (see DI Facebook postings for pics). WW made sure that the birds were still being fed in these frigid months by creating homemade bird feeders. Don’t forget to feed the birds!

VGC celebrated January birthdays along with a going away party for Teddy. Individuals also enjoyed music with Banjo Dave, had Music Therapy with the Fine Arts Association, and Karaoke with the Recreation Department. Individuals made a winter craft with the Craft Club, participated in reading with Theresa, crafts, and decorating for Valentine’s Day. Individuals stayed warm with a hot cocoa bar and several walks inside the building.

The SSA Resource Coordinator has been working diligently to expand community resources by making 56 referrals to various community programs/agencies in support of individuals seeking services from LCBDD/Deepwood. She also initiated the process for 2026 Keeping Families Together (KFT) Grant funding. KFT Funds can be utilized to pay for respite, summer camp, in-home supports, sibling supports, specialized training, sensory equipment and technology, transportation, after school programming, and much more. Utilizing KFT funds



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will help stretch FSS funding. In the interest of strengthening community engagement, the resource coordinator has collaborated with existing networks and has since joined Ohio's Self-Advocacy Collaboration, Family Support System Advisory Committee, and the Deepwood Foundation's Grant Committee.

On February 5, LCBDD brought together the Lake County Employment Network and Business Advisory Council for the first ever combined meeting. It was a huge success as there were 47 people in attendance! We had a mix of attendees that included; staff from LCBDD, various community partner agencies (Ohio Means Jobs, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Signature Health, Crossroads Health, AWT, and Medina County Board of DD), representatives from several local school districts (Broadmoor, Perry, Mentor CARES, Cardinal Works, Riverside, and Wickliffe), numerous employment providers (Goodwill, VGS, Harbor Career Connections, LEAP, H.O.P.E. Works, CLW, Deepwood Industries, HELP Foundation, ViaQuest) and a handful of local employers (Lincoln Electric, Universal Metal Products, Silco, Goodwill, YMCA, Winking Lizard, and Stakes Manufacturing). There was great collaboration and sharing of information/ideas on how we can all support those eligible for LCBDD services.

SSA will be hosting a training on February 23 that includes Team members from DODD's OISP, Community Life Engagement and Systems Navigator/Provider Support teams to present information on how to connect the dots between the OISP and the documentation. This will be a tri-county event for SSAs and providers from Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake.

### Special Events

Once again, this year WW will be putting on a play at Auburn Career Center in celebration of DD Awareness Month, and there were tryouts in January. Stay tuned for more details.

Brendan R. just returned from Special Olympics with two gold medals: one in Unified Slalom and one in Giant Slalom. Also, Megan T., Ray G., and Adam B. are going to state competition soon for Swimming.

Nancy B., WW Habilitation Specialist, retired after more than 25 years working for LCBDD. Congratulations to Nancy and good luck in her new endeavors!

In December, ARC enjoyed going to the Christmas Dance through DI at Painesville Park. ARC enjoyed decorating for Christmas festivities. Also, individuals enjoyed going to the movies and dinner afterwards. With the cold weather, individuals engaged in the activity rooms and had movie and craft nights. Individuals enjoyed celebrating birthdays and having pizza parties. On Sundays, individuals participated in attending church. Now that





the ARC floor remodeling is complete; all the individuals are back in their original rooms.

### **Agency Resources**

During the month of January, 22 children were evaluated and 16 were found eligible for Early Intervention services. Of those who qualified, five children were assigned to a Developmental Specialist, seven were assigned to a Speech Therapist, three were assigned to an Occupational and/or Physical Therapist and one child was assigned to another provider.

### **Featured Success Stories**

In January, a long-time resident, Teddy, moved to another ICF in Streetsboro to be closer to his family, and we wish him well.

### **Staff Development/Training**

LEEP 2 Intervention Specialist completed an Alternate Assessment (AASCD) training through SST4 to become a state test administrator.

School Age 2 Intervention Specialist participated in training for the use of Eye Gaze technology through Tobii Dynavox.



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