

Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

Superintendent's Report – April 2026



Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Broadmoor's LEEP Program created a partnership with Lake Erie College's PATH Premier Certified Riding Center for equine-assisted therapeutic riding sessions and vocational training opportunities. In addition to time spent with horses, their "horsemanship" responsibilities include tasks such as sweeping stall hallways, refilling food and water buckets and folding clean horse blankets. These tasks and experiences not only build confidence and vocational skills but also promote independence and connection through purposeful work.

Broadmoor Preschool graduation ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, May 27, with three separate ceremonies scheduled throughout the day. The Broadmoor LEEP Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 28, at 1:00 p.m. at Broadmoor School.

The March Community Advocacy Meeting took place on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at the Vocational Guidance Center (VGC). There was a great turnout, with individuals attending on their own, as well as representatives from several day programs, including both ViaQuest programs, Willoughby Works, Patty's People First, and LCBDD's VGC Program. This month, we focused on the Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities as we wrapped up Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. We watched a video about the Bill of Rights—read by people with disabilities—and followed along with our brochures. Afterward, we had a thoughtful conversation about which rights stood out the most and why. Nate shared how important it is for him to make his own decisions, while Anthony and Mike highlighted the importance of the right to earn money. To end the meeting, everyone made affirmation bracelets using words that inspired and empowered them. Some chose their own names, while others selected meaningful words that reflected their strengths. It was a wonderful and uplifting way to wrap up the time together.

In March, members of the Aktion Club gathered at Broadmoor School with a truly impressive collection—all the pop tabs they have worked so hard to collect over the past several years. To make the day even more special, Ashlie from the Ronald McDonald House (RMD) joined the group to help count and weigh the tabs, share more about the Program, and transport the donation back to the RMD. The results were nothing short of amazing! After weighing all the tabs, the Aktion Club collected an incredible 244 pounds. According to the RMD website, that amount translates to nearly 244,000 pop tabs, all of which will help



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.

www.LakeBDD.org



support families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children receive medical care. What an outstanding example of teamwork, generosity, and long-term commitment making a real difference in our community!

Aktion Club members also shared plans for an upcoming fundraiser that everyone can participate in. On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, from 4 - 9 pm, the Aktion Club will be hosting a Dine-In or To-Go Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse located at 6095 Commerce Circle, Willoughby, Ohio. During this time, 10% of all food purchases made at this location will be donated directly to the Lake County Aktion Club. So, if you're looking for a delicious reason to enjoy a night out—or an easy takeout option, this is a perfect opportunity to support an incredible cause. Bring your family, invite your friends, and enjoy a great meal while helping Lake County Aktion Club continue their meaningful work.

On March 26, 2026, LCBDD welcomed Advocate Skate Works for an inspiring and action-packed open house at Broadmoor School. Advocate Skate Works has made a remarkable impact by distributing over 15,000 pairs of brand-new shoes, thousands of pieces of clothing, and more than 1,000 skateboards to individuals throughout Ohio and along the East coast. By meeting immediate needs while also empowering individuals through skateboarding and meaningful community engagement, Advocate Skate Works continues to change lives and strengthen inclusive communities. The event kicked off with a warm and enthusiastic welcome from Travis Monroe, Director of Advocate Skate Works, who shared an overview of the organization, its mission, and why their work is so vital to the communities they serve. His remarks set the tone for an afternoon centered on connection, creativity, and belonging. Next, volunteers introduced themselves, sharing how long they've been skateboarding, what drew them to the sport, and their favorite places to skate. Many spoke passionately about the sense of freedom skateboarding provides, as well as the strong feelings of inclusion, self-expression, and community it inspires. Attendees were then treated to an exciting skateboarding demonstration, showcasing skills, and creativity in action. The event wrapped up with hands-on activities, including tie-dye shirt making and skateboard deck crafting, all provided by Advocate Skate Works. These interactive experiences gave everyone the chance to be creative, connect with one another, and leave with something uniquely their own. Overall, the event was a fun, engaging, and meaningful experience that perfectly reflected Advocate Skate Works' Mission of empowerment, creativity, and community building.





On March 24 from 4 – 6 pm, we wrapped up the LCBDD Art Walk with a special reception in Downtown Willoughby for the artists, their families, community members, and local business owners. It was a wonderful evening filled with connection, creativity, and celebration. Guests enjoyed charcuterie while taking in the beautiful artwork displayed throughout downtown, followed by heartfelt remarks from several speakers. We were especially grateful to hear from artists Haley and Maria, who shared what art and self-expression meant to them. As always, it was meaningful to hear from Superintendent Roman and Board President, Judge Joe Gibson, whose words reflected deep appreciation for the incredible individuals we serve. We are so thankful to be surrounded by such talented artists, supportive families, and an inclusive community. A heartfelt thank-you to all participating Downtown Willoughby businesses—especially The Viridian Bookshop for hosting—and to the Deepwood Foundation for their generous support!

VGC Started off the month with celebrating Dr. Suess Day by reading some classics. Make a Difference Day was observed with students from Memorial Junior High, playing games and doing a craft along with a pizza lunch. Individuals went on an outing to St. Mary's for a play. They also celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a luncheon. Individuals went swimming with the Recreation Department and played Bingo. These VGC monthly activities also took place: music with Banjo Dave, Craft Club, story time with Theresa, Music Therapy every Wednesday, and March birthdays were celebrated.

Special Events

The Recreation Department hosted Breakfast with the Easter Bunny for EI & Preschool Families with a huge turn out to eat and visit with our “hoppy” friend.

On Thursday, April 23, and Friday, April 24, the Broadmoor Family Network sponsored a Field Day for Broadmoor students. The event featured a bounce house, balloon animals, snow cones, and plenty of smiles and laughter for all who attended.

Willoughby Works (WW) had their DD Awareness Play, ‘Disability Rights are Human Rights’ and our very own Assistant Superintendent, Ann Mahler, introduced the individual rights that our actors/actresses recreated on the Auburn Career Center stage. Thank you to all who came out and watched the performance!

Make a Difference Day was celebrated once again with Shore Middle School students coming to WW to provide some fun activities for the individuals, another successful day with our surrounding community.





Willoughby Works had John the Bagpiper playing his bagpipes in celebration of St. Patrick's Day....the building was filled with music and dancing.

ARC residents attended the Bobcat vs Coaches Game. One individual went to the movies, shopping, and for lunch for her birthday. Some individuals went to Asa's Angels to pick up Easter baskets for the individuals at ARC. The individuals celebrated DD Awareness Month with Tom Todd and listened to music and danced. ARC also had a few individuals participate in a Spring craft and worked on an Easter craft plus dyed eggs.

Agency Resources

During the month of March, 33 children were evaluated, and 28 were found eligible for Early Intervention services. Primary Service Provider assignments were as follows: 19 children were assigned to Developmental Specialists, 6 children received services from a Speech Therapist, and three children were assigned to Occupational or Physical Therapists.

Featured Success Stories

There have been some very positive movements for some of our CES individuals: Another individual was moved over from Imagine to the Laketran Fleet to try group employment; two individuals who were in group employment at Stakes Manufacturing started two days a week in independent employment. CES now has five individuals who are independently and successfully employed at the Tabletop Linens location, and Silco is working on increasing our individuals' skills on machines at their site.

The Imagine Program sent out the first Nova shipment, and another shipment is ready to go. They are also working regularly on Steris and making dog treats when they run low. The Tour Lake County mailing work is starting again on a regular basis. The Individuals also work on volunteer opportunities with 68 Hours to End Hunger during down time.

Staff Development/Training

An Agency-wide training collaboration for Mentor Public Library staff is scheduled for Friday, April 24. Presenters from Adult Services, SSA, Behavior Support, Community Relations, and Children's Services will be participating in the session. The training will lay the foundation for supporting library staff in offering inclusive activities within Mentor Public Library settings and fostering potential future partnerships between our agencies.

