

# Lake County Board of DD/Deepwood

## Superintendent's Report

June 2026

### Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

On May 27, 30 Broadmoor preschoolers graduated and are transitioning to kindergarten for the 2026–2027 school year. Twenty-six students will return to their local school districts, while four will remain at Broadmoor to continue their journey as Bobcats in our Kindergarten Program.

Broadmoor School's Graduation Ceremony took place on May 28. Four LEEP students earned all required academic credits, along with two Education Seals. Students celebrated this important milestone surrounded by family and friends. Keynote speaker and Board Member Kim Stenger shared inspiring words of encouragement as graduates prepared to begin the next chapter of their journey. Congratulations to Ethan, Evan, Reese, and Wesley on this outstanding achievement!

Our May Advocacy Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at Willoughby Works. We were thrilled to have such a wonderful turnout! It was great to see individuals attending independently, as well as representation from several day programs, including ViaQuest, Patty's People First, and Willoughby Works. Your continued engagement helps make these meetings welcoming, inclusive, and impactful for everyone involved.

In recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month, we were honored to have Amanda from Signature Health join us as our guest speaker. Amanda shared valuable insights on a variety of important topics, including understanding mental health conditions and their impact on individuals and families. She also discussed ways we can work together to reduce stigma—especially through open, respectful conversations and by fostering a culture of acceptance and support.

Additionally, Amanda emphasized the importance of early intervention and access to treatment, and she provided helpful information about available mental health resources, including support groups and crisis services. Her message also highlighted the importance of practicing self-care and building strong, supportive connections within our community to reduce feelings of isolation. Finally, she encouraged us all to continue advocating for improved mental health policies and services. We are very grateful to Amanda for sharing her knowledge and for helping guide such an important conversation.

The Lake County Aktion Club held a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse on Wednesday, May 27, from 4 - 6 pm. The Dine and Donate fundraiser to benefit the Lake County Aktion Club raised \$575 from donations through the dine and done and the gift card raffle. We were so happy to see so many individuals we serve, LCBDD staff, and friends of Deepwood at this fun event!

LCBDD and the Deepwood Foundation hosted a wonderful Volunteer Appreciation Event at The Charlton Abbott on June 3, 2026, from 4 – 6 pm. It was a beautiful evening dedicated to celebrating our incredible



**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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volunteers and recognizing the 2026 winners of the Andrea Poklar-Byrne Service Award. The program featured a heartfelt introduction by our Board President, Judge Gibson, setting the tone for a truly meaningful celebration. LCBDD was proud to present its award to SuAnne Gubanyar in recognition of her dedication and service to the individuals we support. The Deepwood Foundation honored Sonja Maier and Jill Gibson for their unwavering commitment to the mission of the Foundation. Guests enjoyed lovely music, delicious food, and sweet treats, but what made the evening truly special was the opportunity to celebrate the people who make such a lasting impact through their generosity and compassion. To all of our volunteers, thank you! Your time, energy, and kindness mean more than words can express.

Willoughby Works (WW) was once again a "ride thru" point for Special Olympics Cyclists along with Willoughby Fire and Police! WW individuals and staff were outside to cheer them down Willoughby Works Lane.

CES acquired a new Group Employment Site: Manhattan Deli. CES will be able to employ four individuals, five days a week from 8 am – 2 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity!

Imagine individuals finished up another season of volunteering at 68 Hours to End Hunger and will start back again in August. We are looking to quote another job with Bright Beginnings and continue working with Steris, TLC, Supply Tech, and Nova Manufacturing. We continue to do beach clean at Mentor Headlands, when it's not raining!

VGC activities for the month of May started off with a Cinco De Mayo celebration (thanks to Food Service), also celebrated National Nurses Week, May birthdays, and National Hamburger Day with a cookout. A group enjoyed the nice weather with a walk through Penitentiary Glen. A few individuals went to a Captains' baseball game, and several individuals went to the park for a picnic lunch. Individuals made Mother's Day plants to send home. Individuals enjoyed weekly Story Time with Theresa. VGC had a going-away party for one of the individuals who recently moved.

ARC individuals have been enjoying the warm weather by getting out shopping at some stores (Walmart and Target). Individuals have gone to breakfast and lunch on the weekends. Throughout the month the individuals have went out for ice cream and enjoyed in-house movie nights. More recently individuals have started planting herbs and vegetables in their garden at ARC. We celebrated some individuals' birthdays with cake and ice cream.

At the end of May, Recreation supported 65 Special Olympic Athletes as they travelled to Columbus for the 2026 State Summer Games. Athletes proudly represented Lake County across five sports (volleyball, bocce, track and field, powerlifting and tennis) and brought home a number of medals including gold for the



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volleyball team and six other gold medals (track and field, and tennis), 22 silver medals (bocce, track and field, powerlifting, and tennis), 24 bronze medals (bocce, track and field, and powerlifting), and recognition for 54 placements at fourth – seventh place. Some athletes even had the opportunity to meet Governor Dewine and take a photo with him. Congratulations to the athletes on their wonderful achievements!

Two Lake County Special Olympic bocce athletes, Karen S. and Tara T. were chosen to represent the state of Ohio at the 2026 USA games in Minnesota happening on June 20 – 26. Best of luck to the ladies as they seek gold for Ohio!

### Special Events

WW had a Kentucky Derby Party in honor of the Derby. All the individuals got to create their own horse's name and enter it into a race – and of course there were prizes to be had. WW celebrated Nurses' Day for their very own Chris F. Thank you for all you do at WW, Chris!

Imagine attended several community events that presented an opportunity to sell their homemade dog treats: Pamper You and Your Pooch and also Yappy Hour with Mentor Chamber.

### Agency Resources

During the month of May, 31 children were evaluated, and 22 were found eligible for Early Intervention services. The majority of these children were assigned to Developmental Specialists (11), followed by Speech Therapy services (9). One child was assigned to Occupational/Physical Therapy, and one child was connected with another specialized provider based on individual needs.

### Staff Development/Training

Early Intervention Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) participated in a professional development training at the Cleveland Clinic focused on evidence-based strategies to support feeding skills in children from birth to five years of age.



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