

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - February 2021

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

The Imagine Program remained busy the month of January by making their Pieces of Imagination Dog treats and filling orders. They also continued to volunteer by double bagging lunch bags for End 68 Hours of Hunger.

All Broadmoor School Intervention Specialists administering the Alternate Assessment test this year completed all required Ohio Department of Education preparatory training modules.

A Broadmoor Preschool Instructor will be representing LCBDD/Broadmoor School on the SST4 Regional Literacy Leaders Network. This network looks at ODE updates, State plans for literacy, professional development, and professional practices.

A Broadmoor Early Childhood Supervisor has been invited to be a part of an Early Learning and School Readiness focus group for Ohio Department of Education to review materials to support the implementation of the revised Preschool Special Education Rule, when it is approved.

A Broadmoor School Age Supervisor participated in Mentor Public Library's virtual Big Idea Book Club where the chosen book was Disability Visibility, by Disability Rights Activist, Alice Wong. It was an anthology of first-person accounts of life with a disability.

CES moved from its location at VGC to a new facility on Tyler Boulevard with the JCR Imagine Program on January 8. Thanks to Maintenance for making the move and transition so seamless!

Willoughby Branch (WB) continues to move forward with community online collaborations. We have set the framework for library, reading clubs, and senior programs. With the changes due to COVID, we are slowly but surely getting there!

Department Program Enhancements/Updates

The Broadmoor School Preschool staff attended Essential Components of Emergent Literacy Instruction, as part of their professional development.

Broadmoor School and Cleveland State University will once again be teaming up to allow students to participate in informal Music Therapy sessions with this year's practicum student. Two Preschool classes and one School Age class will have weekly, virtual visits from chosen CSU students overseen by their supervisor. This is the fifth year of this very beneficial partnership.

School pictures through MK Photography are being rescheduled for the Spring, so they can be taken outside to ensure adherence to all COVID safety measures.

Special Events

Together with a district Vision Specialist, the Broadmoor School Age Supervisor is compiling information for the annual QUOTA registry of students with visual impairments. All qualifying students will receive funds to purchase materials specific to their needs in the classroom.

CES individuals returned to work on January 25 at both the Mentor and Wickliffe Title Bureaus after two months off due to the changing of their COVID protocols.

On January 11, CES individuals working at the JCR Imagine work location increased their hours worked with the inclusion of the Deepwood Industries/CES "side" of the new facility.

Willoughby Branch had a special OSU vs BAMA day, Browns & Steelers party, National Strawberry Ice Cream Day, and even a National Kazoo Day. We continue to work, learn, and evolve at the WB!

VGC individuals are excited to begin the new virtual session of music therapy with Groovy Garfoose. Most individuals seem to do well with the virtual setting through Zoom and get a kick out of seeing their friends, as well as themselves, on television. It has opened many more opportunities to engage with others. We are now taking part on Tuesdays in exercise with the Recreation Department, as well as, Arts & Crafts and Music Bingo with the help of the Community Support Specialists. We also continue to visit with others through FaceTime and look forward to the day that we visit with people in person, without COVID restrictions.

Broadening Abilities found every reason to celebrate in January and February, despite the cold weather. Individuals celebrated Martin Luther King by learning about what MLK stands, and also learning about the importance of having a dream. National Hat Day was celebrated with homemade Browns Hats which were worn to cheer the Browns to victory. National Puzzle Day was a fun day to do a puzzle and show off our piece of the puzzle and how it relates to connecting with each other. National Pizza Day was celebrated with a few slices of pepperoni pizza and a pizza craft with individually selected cut outs of favorite toppings. President's Day was celebrated with a paper craft of Washington and Lincoln and a lesson about our history. Finally, in celebration of Valentine's Day, BA went back in time to play homage to Disney's *The Lady & The Tramp*. Watching the movie and having a pasta lunch made our Valentine's Day even sweeter!

Agency Resources

Early Intervention completed 24 evaluations with 22 of the children being eligible for Ohio Early Intervention Services.

The IT Department prepared 14 student iPads and 9 agency laptops for electronic administration of Ohio's Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities at Broadmoor School.

The IT Department is assisting Broadmoor School with preparing all necessary devices with updated program requirements for Alternate Assessment electronic test administration.

Willoughby Branch has become a "regular" on the Recreation Department's virtual exercise program. Every area is now able to see the class on a big screen in their areas; therefore, continuing to abide by

COVID-19 standards. This has made an incredible impact on individuals and brings back some WB fun!

Featured Success Stories

Charlie "Kevin" M. received the WB Employee of the Quarter. He was nominated for his continued strong work skills, kindness to others, and his continued positive attitude.

COVID Vaccinations

As soon as Governor DeWine announced Ohio's vaccination roll-out plan, our Administrative Team worked relentlessly with our ICF Pharmacy Partner (CVS) and the LCGHD to schedule on-site or drive-thru vaccination clinics for all eligible individuals and staff identified in Phases 1A and 1B of the State's plan. All interested Phase 1A individuals living in congregate settings (either ICF or community) and their staff were vaccinated at on-site or travel clinics.

Phase 1B individuals with qualifying developmental disorders were vaccinated at a drive-thru clinic on February 5. Kudos to our SSA Department's monumental outreach to over 600 eligible individuals offering information and opportunity to be scheduled for the drive-thru clinic. This remarkable outreach effort was topped by amazing dedication and fortitude as our SSA staff volunteered on-site at the drive-thru clinic, on an extremely frigid day to assure that individuals were greeted and assisted by a familiar, smiling (masked) face!

Also, in recognition of the selfless dedication of our Broadmoor Staff who have been providing in-person instruction since the August start of the 2020/21 school year, the LCGHD provided an on-site vaccination clinic...the first Phase 1B school staff in Lake County to be vaccinated!