

Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities



Superintendent's Report - April 2021

Community Awareness/PR Opportunities/Collaborations

Read Across America partnered with Broadmoor Preschool to offer a virtual evening story time to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday. There were 25 participants logged into the event to listen to Green Eggs and Ham. After the event, families had a Dr. Seuss craft to complete together. Students who either attended the event or completed the craft received a Dr. Seuss themed prize bag. Also, grandparents from around the WORLD virtually joined each preschool classroom to celebrate Grandparents' Day. Students sang songs and were able to share a special art that they made for their grandparents.

Riverside Leadership Class provided Broadmoor preschool students with bunnies for Easter. Each student received a hand decorated bag with a small stuffed bunny.

Broadmoor School's Developmental Specialists were able to meet with the CWRU Psychology Master's Degree students to talk about the field of Early Intervention and the Developmental Specialist Certification Program. Students at CWRU are able to add the DS Certification as part of the Master's Degree.

The SSA Department, together with Broadmoor's LEEP staff, coordinated a virtual Transition Night for parents of students aged 14 years and older. Topics discussed were: the continuum of Agency services throughout the process, what ongoing supports can be expected, and the many opportunities that will be available following graduation.

The Imagine Program continues to volunteer for End 68 Hours of Hunger by double bagging lunch bags that are used to provide lunches to many school-aged children in the community.

Big news for the Imagine Program! At the beginning of March, we started working on a new job for Bright Beginnings. Individuals at Imagine have currently packaged 3,536 home health kits that are then shipped out to various locations in Ohio.

DD Awareness was celebrated throughout the month of March at Broadening Abilities (BA). As a reminder of our special month, each individual received a tie-dyed "Deepwood Strong" t-shirt to wear proudly. T-shirts were graciously provided via our fundraising account and generous donors. Proceeds benefit the Frontline Appreciation Fund spearheaded by the Willoughby Branch/Community Integration.

Birthday cards were created at BA for Owen Caswell, an 11-year-old Mentor boy whose birthday wish was to receive 1,000 cards for his birthday while recovering in the hospital from Multi Inflammatory Syndrome. Broadening Abilities provided over 30 cards. Additionally, Easter cards were made for our wonderful retired veterans who reside in the area nursing homes and assisted living residences in Lake County and the Greater Cleveland area. The cards will be delivered by the American Legion.

Department Program Enhancements/Updates

The Ohio Department of Education's Preschool Licensing successfully completed their annual visit to Broadmoor Preschool on March 2, 2021.

All Broadmoor School families were offered the opportunity to have a virtual conference with their student's teacher to discuss the progress their child has made this year.

Special Events

Broadmoor's Student Advocacy for Everyone (SAFE) group discussed "The Real Me," which gave students the opportunity to discuss how they are unique and compare their likes and dislikes.

On March 25, the Imagine Program had their March DD Awareness Event. We watched a movie, had a pizza party for lunch, and did a chalk puzzle piece craft. Everyone really enjoyed the day!

The Willoughby Branch (WB) has had an active March with both DD Awareness happenings and events that were a typical part of our calendar year before our limited access to the community. In honor of WB, prior DD Awareness functions, we attempted to keep up some of the annual traditions yet on a level that was not Agency wide:

- Chili cook-off: Raised \$210 toward WB habilitation funds, which are funds that can be used building-wide for special events or purchases.
- Bake Sale (with the chili cook-off) raised \$75.
- The Pasta Fundraiser raised \$250 for habilitation funds.

When we can return to in-person functions, we will be able to have the funds to bring them back!

On March 19, WB had 16 participants for Willoughby's Got Talent (our replacement for Deepwood Idol), and all were Zoomed to VGC and BA. The individuals loved being able to see each other again!

WB's Spring Fling on March 18 took the place of the Annual Family Picnic. This year we all planted seedlings that are all growing within their areas in small planters. We will be replanting all the flowers to the outside of the building on WB's Earth Day in April.

WB participated in the ODDD Awareness and Advocacy Day to encourage individuals to become more active, confident, and active participants in their assigned communities.

BA individuals experienced virtual activities via smartboards and I-Pads. Sensory Zoom story time, Willoughby Fine Arts art class, Dancing Wheels, and Groovy Garfoose music therapy were enjoyed by all. Individuals also enjoyed crafting, painting, music listening, sensory awareness, planting herbs, making daffodils, tea time, Irish Music Day, a visit by Buster from Recreation, a craft with Recreation, and many walks outside.

BA individuals especially loved celebrating some national food events. In honor of these events, we had a bowl of wedding soup with turkey meatballs from Zoup for National Turkey Soup Day, as well as, waffles from the Waffle House on National Waffle Day. Both food items were delicious!

Individuals at the VGC celebrated Dr. Seuss Day with virtual story time every Friday throughout the month. We continue to participate in a variety of virtual events according to each individual's interest.

These events are put on by different groups in the community and offer a variety of experiences in music, arts and crafts, exercise, learning opportunities, travel, dance, reading, and games. Throughout the month, we also enjoyed special snack and lunch days involving cookouts and a soup day, as well as, Oreo flavor tasting and Individual Pie Day. We also experienced some nice weather and were able to begin some outdoor activity.

Agency Resources

Early Intervention completed 26 evaluations with 23 of the children being eligible for Ohio Early Intervention Services.

Featured Success Stories

Megan Green and her daughter, Arianna, were featured this month on Broadmoor's website for the gains Arianna has made while starting the Early Intervention Program. She has been working with a Developmental Specialist and has seen great improvement with the activities that have been shared with them.

A few VGC individuals placed in the Deepwood Virtual Art Contest: Emmalynn Sieber – 2nd place, Xavier Gipson – 3rd place, and Chrissy Spears – with an Honorable Mention. Congrats to everyone who participated!

On Feb 1, CES individual, Randy Gregory, was awarded DI's Employee of the Quarter Award for his exceptional work skills.

In February, two CES individuals returned to work at EMI after nine months off due to the changing of their COVID protocols and safety planning.

In March, one CES individual gained two more days at EMI after only having returned back to work for two weeks. Also, another CES individual returned to work at Food 4 Thought after 10 months off due to the changing of the employer's COVID protocol and safety planning.