



SCBDD STRATEGIC PLAN SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Report 1: July 2025

Report one represents efforts and accomplishments from January through June 2025.

Sandusky County Board of DD
www.scbdd.org

All-Staff In-Service Discussion

In March 2025, the SCBDD staff participated in an off-site staff development day. The morning session included a two-hour plan review and group work, which included discussions around the stakeholder survey themes and important highlights. Staff worked to brainstorm creative considerations and identify new opportunities to advance our mission and strategic plan initiatives for those we serve, our teams, and our community.

Technology Advancement

- Youth Respite and Technology Home:
 - Videographer services were obtained to develop two 360-degree videos. One was for the youth respite and technology home (Martin) to showcase assistive technology resources and the home's layout and resources. This video will be used for individuals interested in learning how technology can be utilized and incorporated into a home, and to share with interested parents what the home's layout and resources are when considering youth respite services. A second video was started to highlight the new SCBDD accessible playground and describe the many features and sensory items incorporated into the design.
 - Several new assistive technology items were purchased for the Martin home.
 - Two in-person tech tours were scheduled for youth, families, and providers in March and June. Additional tours were offered to focus groups and were scheduled upon individual requests.
 - The 'Tech' SSA offered personal tech tours for anyone expressing an interest in learning about technology and demonstrating how it can help people live more independently. This could be for someone who couldn't attend a group open house or for a more in-depth conversation or to discuss specific needs or interests. One was held in June.
- The technology lending library has been established and new pieces of technology were added. This resource has been used quite often. The Tech SSA has created a padlet of what technology is available as well as what is available through the SCBDD lending library, which is on the SCBDD website. Several SSAs have accessed the lending library for items such as medication dispensers, ring doorbells, Alexa Show, etc. This library allows people to trial the items to determine if it meets their needs before using waiver or personal funds to purchase. Recently, a family borrowed a seizure mat from the library before using FSS funds to purchase one for their child.

- Two family tech assessments were coordinated through the region one technology grant collaboration with Wood County DD Board.
- The Tech SSA has used the 3-D printer to make adaptive items to help individuals. Things that have been made include a zipper helper and a choice box. A presentation on the 3-D printer was coordinated with the EI department to learn more how it could be utilized for the EI service needs.
- The state OnSeen platform was implemented for individual service request profiles and provider searches. The QA/RN helped facilitate provider onboarding into the system. OnSeen is now used for all open service requests and provider searches.
- A new mobile SSID/VLAN was established for SCBDD owned cell phones to improve signal strength and reception.

Collaborative Outreach

- A county-wide educational outreach campaign was developed and launched in the second and third quarters. This campaign series utilized a half-sheet layout and highlighted various key service areas and was mailed to all Sandusky County households.
- Website design companies were researched and narrowed to an interview list with contract discussions occurring in third quarter.
- The social media plan with West CON COG launched with two videos completed for Early Intervention and school services.
- The preschool brochure was updated to reflect the new Step Up to Quality rating system.
- The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC):
 - The Community Connection Coordinator brochure was updated to include family engagement services.
 - The FEC released a newsletter spotlighting family engagement activities.
 - The FEC offered two family-inclusive training sessions on swim safety for children with Autism.
- The Investigative Agent held the first local stakeholder MUI review. Twenty-seven providers attended, representing six independent providers and nine agency providers. The sessions focused on identifying trends and enhancing prevention planning.
- The QA/RN reinstated quarterly provider meetings to promote collaboration and featured keynote speakers, relevant topics, and trainings.

Employee Excellence

- The Keeping Families Together grant helped support:
 - A Community Connection Coordinator and a youth respite staff enrolled in a seven-month training course for Parenting Coach certification through the JAI Institute.
 - An additional \$10,000 grant was awarded to SCBDD for crisis intervention training. Funds will support SCBDD employees and youth respite home staff to attend a local training to better support youth with complex needs, which will occur in the third quarter.
- The Family Engagement Coordinator and a Community Connection Coordinator completed the Ohio SIBS training and adopted the new curriculum.
- The School of Hope Supervisor attended the two-day Franklin Covey Leadership training offered through NPESC.
- The preschool calendar for academic year 2025-2026 was changed for students to attend Monday through Thursday. This allows preschool staff to attend additional professional development opportunities on Fridays with other NPESC and district staff.
- A newly promoted SSA Manager has been working with Dr. Kitty Brandal on leadership and managerial skill development.
- The initiatives committee coordinated multiple employee appreciation events in March.

Service Opportunities

- For several years SCBDD has identified a need for ‘extended Early Intervention’ services and has strategized on when to pilot such a service model. In June, one Developmental Specialist began working with two children between the ages of three and five who had not previously received Early Intervention services but had been referred to and determined eligible for SCBDD services. Also in this pilot model, families whose child received less than six months of Early Intervention support prior to the child’s third birthday would be eligible for an additional six months of services so long as their child is also not linked with SCBDD’s PLAY Project services. This will continue to be monitored to evaluate current capacity, service needs and opportunities, and potential adjustments, discontinuation, or long-term continuation.

- The After School Program that was offered by Unity Behavioral Health and supported through the Keeping Families Together grant, completed. A total of nine youth received support in the program's first year
- Through the Keeping Families Together grant and in conjunction with the After School Program grant with Unity Behavioral Health, one employee completed the training and certification process to assess and diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- A nine-week pilot program was started at the youth respite home for transition aged youth. This summer program was designed for youth ages 15 through 22 and emphasized independent living skill and employment skill development, and community integration. Eight youth enrolled in the program. The provider, Hand N Hand, developed this program based on identified needs and service opportunities and they spotlighted some of their activities and growth to the families during lunch and ice cream social.
- The Community Connection and Family Engagement Coordinators visited Healing Trails to explore their service model and opportunities.
- The School of Hope planned and participated in a joint activity with the GLCAP's Fremont Senior Center. This allowed students from the school to engage with seniors.
- The BGSU psychological services contract increased the student internship hours for the upcoming contract term. This will allow for more individual counseling time.

Facility Resources

- The SCBDD accessible playground and surface was completed, and bench swings were repainted. An ice cream social kicked off the completion and summer use. A Family FUNction event was also hosted on the playground.
- The accessibility restroom trailer was utilized at the playground events and at Grove Fest to improve inclusivity.
- The Sandusky County DD Council hosted its spring dance, which was widely attended by youth, families, adults, and providers.
- Final building design plans and budget approval occurred. Preparations were made for a third quarter construction start.