



SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD OF DDSTRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Report 2:
July – December 2025

Mission:

We Serve for a Lifetime.

Vision:

By listening to those we serve, we are dedicated to offering a lifetime of meaningful support to help each individual live their best life.

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT

The area of technology and advancement with individuals and families who use board services continues to be an area of struggle and slow progress. While the ambassador model and lending library have not been worked on yet, there are other areas of development during this time.

- School of Hope
 - Transitioned from paper to electronic enrollment forms using the Final Forms platform.
 - Staff received training and began using the Magic School AI Platform. This innovative educational platform is designed to assist staff through artificial intelligence tools to enhance teaching and learning experiences. Magic School is a data privacy and security compliant tool that is approved by the State of Ohio. Users can access AI assistance in writing IEP goals, lesson plans, educational aids, and much more. During this same staff in-service, they received training on Canva, which will assist in various school communications and educational resources.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - Our Technology SSA has discussed the Tech Ambassador role with the SSA department and has inquired about names of individuals who may be interested in further conversations and discussions. She also met with the Special Olympics and Self-Advocacy Coordinator and a scheduled to present the Tech Ambassador opportunity during the November People First meeting.
 - Tech tours at the respite home have continued.
 - Tech equipment has been purchased, lending is occurring, and additional equipment continues to be explored.
- Agency
 - A 360 video of the playground was completed. This video showcases each interactive play station/equipment on the playground and provides a summary of each piece.
 - Social media plan with West CON COG developed 2 videos for SSA and Sandco Sweeties.
 - Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for email is in the testing phase with 2 employees activated.
 - The IT Room Server racks were consolidated from 3 racks down to 2.
 - Document scanning equipment was updated.

COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH

- School of Hope
 - The collaboration with the Birchard Public Library and the preschool classes continued for this school year. However, this year, the classes go to the library every other month alternating when the library comes to the school.
 - The preschool class schedule changed from the historical Tuesday through Friday to Monday through Thursday. This better aligns with area school schedules and allows staff additional professional development time with other educational agencies.
- Youth and Provider Services:
 - The Quality Assurance/Registered Nurse (QARN) continued coordinating provider meetings with various topics and guest speakers sharing important information. Attendance has been great and communication and networking continuously increasing. From these discussions, the idea was formed to periodically have joint events for the Adult Day Supports (ADS) providers and attendees. The QA/RN coordinated the first event at African Wildlife Safari in Port Clinton for some Halloween fun. Sandco Industries hosted the next event at their newly remodeled ADS location for a 'Holiday Bake Off' event with five ADS providers attending.
- Agency
 - Staff attended several community outreach activities in the fall.
 - Relationships with newspaper contacts were established and strengthened to promote SCBDS articles. SCBDD press releases were once again picked and printed in the 4th quarter of 2025.
 - Lion & Panda was selected as the website redesign firm. Redesigning discussions and work have commenced.
 - County wide educational outreach continued into the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2025 with the half sheet mailers highlighting service areas and SCBDD facts.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

- School of Hope
 - The school supervisor received the ServSafe Manager Level 2 certification, which provides certified staff redundancy in food service training requirements.
 - Staff implemented Zones of Regulation to help students better understand, identify, and manage their emotions and behaviors.
- Youth and Provider Services
 - The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) completed training and obtained certification on one area of the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P),

strengthening staff capacity to provide evidence-based parenting education on topics such as positive parenting, raising confident and competent children, and building resilience in children.

- One Community Connection Coordinator (CCC) and one youth respite home provider enrolled in the Jai training. This seven-month parenting coaching certification program is designed to help parents and caregivers build stronger relationships at home.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - SCBDD coordinated and hosted a provider and SSA employee training. Thirty-eight provider leadership staff along with the entire SSA department and board leadership attended this training with David Small. The focus was on: delivering and overseeing high-quality community-based waiver services, covering the definition and authorization of community supports, documentation and SSA oversight expectations, strategies for meaningful inclusion, innovative approaches to community engagement, fostering true belonging, and applying these concepts through practice scenarios. Great feedback was received afterwards with areas of future follow-up opportunities identified.
 - Counseling services in conjunction with the BGSU psychology intern student continues.
 - A connection with a Columbus based provider occurred. This provider specializes in serving individuals with dual diagnosis needs, developmental disabilities and mental health. They offer a wide range of supports including counseling, medication management, and Medicaid waiver services such as Homemaker Personal Care (HPC).
- Agency
 - Two new managers signed up and began the 2025-2026 Leadership Sandusky County class series.
 - Salary survey analysis was completed and recommendations for proposal was submitted and approved by the Board.
 - AI reporting was used to provide employee demographic information to health insurance carriers to recruit 2026 health insurance rates.
 - Staff certification dates were uploaded to two databases to assist staff in tracking their certification renewal dates.

SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

- School of Hope: The school increased their enrollment from 33 students in spring 2025 to 40 students for fall 2025. The school continues to be a vital educational option for Sandusky County residents and partners.
- Youth and Provider Services
 - Services were expanded through a pilot of extended Early Intervention (EI) supports utilizing a current Early Intervention (EI) Developmental Specialist. Ten

families were offered continued support to address emerging needs for children ages three through five. This pilot also supported children outside this age range whose needs exceeded services currently available through partner agencies.

- FEC began offering monthly engagement opportunities for families with children receiving EI services. These sessions provide a consistent time each month to support connection and engagement among caregivers and their children. These sessions are called 'Wiggle Wednesdays'.
- The Academy for Direct Support Professionals provided a train-the-trainer model designed to strengthen support for youth with complex needs in August and October at the board offices. EI, Community Connection Coordinators (CCC), provider relations, respite provider staff, along with community partner staff from Family and Children First Council (FCFC) and a behavioral health agency participated in the training. This was supported through the Keeping Families Together grant funds.
- Youth respite services expanded to seven days a week, with overnight respite offered every other week.
- The youth respite provider launched a successful pilot project for a summer transition program designed for transition aged youth. The eight-week program ran twice weekly for a four-hour session with eight youth. Each week focused on specific life skills topics, including social skills, relationships, community navigation, future planning, employment interviewing, money and time management, responsibilities, nutrition, and mental/physical health. Participants had the opportunity to apply these skills in real world settings through community outings to places such as stores, gyms, and banks. The program received positive feedback and demonstrated meaningful outcomes. The provider is now exploring opportunities to enhance and enhance this service further.
- Provider support funds were used to support a new youth provider in Sandusky County to obtain certification as a Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Instructor. This new provider also agreed to begin in-home services for a youth and family in need.
- The Investigative Agent coordinated a one-day training in collaboration with the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCCEDD), Fremont Police Department, Connections Recovery Services, and SCBDD Self-Advocates. Training topics included: disability overview, people with disabilities and the criminal justice system, policing and individuals with mental health conditions, law enforcement facts, communication and behavior, teaching people with disabilities, scenarios, and county board resources. Twenty-two officers participated from various Sandusky County Police departments.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - The Superintendent and SSA Director presented on employment challenges and successes at the annual Ohio Association for County Board's winter conference. While the presentation did not result in increasing employment outcomes, it did allow for some honest conversations and shared experiences across the state.

FACILITY RESOURCES

The construction project broke ground in July 2025. Initial work included tree and brush removal, a construction laydown area, and retention pond. New construction for the administrative and school wings began in August. The existing administrative offices were tied into the new addition in the fall, which included discontinued use of the front entrance, board conference room, and removing exterior windows. Further projects also included filling in the swimming pool and demolishing the large training room area. Several office moves were required to continue progress. In addition to the anticipated construction project commencement, an ongoing issue with problematic plumbing was addressed in a separate project to rectify sluggish flow and backflow issues. The start of the project has gone very well and relationship with the various contractors and subcontractors have been very positive.

In preparation for the construction and during various transition stages, multiple items have been purged either through disposal, gov deal sales, or gifting them to Sandusky County providers for ongoing service usage.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- North Point Educational Service Center (NPESC) hired two new aides and one school age teacher for this academic year. This academic year commemorates all educational staff being hired and supervised by NPESC.
- An all-staff meeting was resurrected in August and is recurring on the Wednesday following each board meeting. Various agency wide updates are provided along with any questions posed. A brief educational moment is also provided during each meeting. Attendance and reception have been positive, so this will move forward. The only challenge may be the limited space to hold the meetings during construction. This will be an ongoing initiative.
- A county wide marketing campaign was coordinated with six mailers going to every resident. These mailers provided simple facts and information about the lifetime scope of services provided by SCBDD.
- An educational communication campaign was also coordinated for the November renewal levy. Various fact sheets were distributed and speaking engagements attended to share educational facts about the renewal levy.
- During a time when many county boards are facing fiscal emergency challenges, SCBDD remains fiscally strong. In addition to the required annual cost projection submission to the state, SCBDD completes this task and reviews it semi-annually with the entire board.