



SANDUSKY COUNTY BOARD OF DDSTRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Report 1:
January – July 2026

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

- School of Hope: no updates for this period.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - Our Technology SSA spoke at People First on March 18th and May 27th and presented on assistive technology, remote support, and Tech Ambassador opportunities.
 - In June, several SSA's, the SSA Director and SSA Manager attended a virtual meeting hosted by We Thrive Together. WTT received a grant from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to help support the Tech Ambassadors reach all County Boards in efforts to share their tech experiences and develop other Tech Ambassadors. The SSA's were able to gain a better understanding of low tech vs. high tech and identify some possible individuals to serve as a Tech Ambassador for Sandusky Co.
 - Two opportunities were hosted on April 14th and 18th for individuals, families, and staff to tour and try items at the Tech House. A total of 10 people came during the two days.
 - The Technology SSA assisted SCBDD by engaging in another partnership with Wood County Board of DD (WCBDD) for a Technology First Grant. This partnership can provide up to \$5,000 towards tech to enhance our Tech Lending Library. This grant also provides SCBDD with the opportunity for Tech Assessments with WCBDD team. Additionally, the grant allows the Technology SSA to participate in the Ohio Technology First Community of Practice Subgroups, which she attended in April and July. On May 26th the two boards reviewed SCBDD's tech lending library inventory and explored options for additions.
 - The Technology SSA provided four tech assists to SSA's/individuals/families during the first half of 2026.
 - The 3-D printer was used to create a medication pill assist device for an individual.
- Agency
 - Multi-factor authentication was implemented on all outlook accounts.
 - A shared calendar was created in Outlook for the use of the gym so events can be coordinated more efficiently between departments.
 - All network switches were purchased to replace the old and outdated, and all new wireless access points were purchased to replace the current and add new ones to the new construction areas.

- New smartboards were ordered and installed in three conference rooms. Older, but still operational models were repurposed to two school locations.
- Smart TV's were ordered for new smaller conference rooms which allows the laptop user to screen cast during meetings.
- Preparations commenced to eliminate Remote Desktop Services, which is cost savings to the board.
- Discussions to switch phone carriers commenced.
- Security camera system and updated cameras were installed and resulted in better resolution and viewing coverage.
- The Core switch was eliminated and built directly into the firewall.
- All shared Microsoft accounts were eliminated.
- The old IT room was decommissioned.
- New inventory software secured.
- Paper records were actively digitized and stored in the electronic database.
- The new website was launched.

COLLABORATIVE OUTREACH

- School of Hope: No updates for this period.
- Youth and Provider Services:
 - To increase community awareness and referrals for Early Intervention (EI) services, the County Board has established strategic sponsorships with local recreation partners that provide year-round, high-visibility outreach to families. These efforts include banner placement at the Fremont Recreation Center, rotating EI advertisements on in-house TVs and inclusion in monthly email communications through the YMCA. Also, multi-site banner placement at the Bellevue Recreation Center, along with sponsorship of a youth baseball team named "Early Intervention" featuring website information.
 - Letters were sent to all pediatricians and physicians serving children in Sandusky County. The letter included outreach and referral information for EI.
 - Expanded community outreach through a partnership with Migrant and Seasonal Head Start to increase awareness of EI services among migrant families with eligible children.
 - The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) strengthened community partnerships with local libraries by participating in story time events and outreach visits, while increasing family engagement through promotion of sensory-friendly activities.
 - FEC partnered with Clyde High School's varsity baseball team to coordinate and host the first-ever baseball clinic, creating a new opportunity for children and

families to build social connections and participate in inclusive community activities.

- Agency
 - The newly redesigned website was completed, allowing for increased accessibility and offers a streamlined array of services and information, and now meets the new federal accessibility requirements.
 - The collaborative launch of the Sandusky County guardianship board commenced. Stakeholder partners include the Probate Court, North Central Behavioral Health Board, and SCBDD. A Director was hired and slated to begin in August to advance the initiative and service opportunity. Both the Superintendent and SSA Director serve as advisory board members representing SCBDD.

EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

- School of Hope
 - The school attended an all-school staff training course on Culture (Focus 3).
 - QA/RN coordinated with Sandusky County Public Health to host and provide Stop the Bleed training for all School of Hope (NPESC) staff.
- Youth and Provider Services
 - The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) attended STIR training as a peer support and completed Triple P Level 2 Stepping Stones Selected Seminars training. This seminar focused on parenting children with disabilities and providing families with positive support and strategies. FEC will utilize training to provide education to families served.
 - The Director started the OACB 2026 Executive Development program in January.
 - A vacant EI Service Coordinator position was filled.
 - One Community Connection Coordinator (CCC) completed training in Trauma Informed Care over the course of 8 months through Finding Hope Consulting with Mary Vicario. CCC obtained a Trauma Responsive Care Certification upon completion.
 - Part 2 of the Team and Community Training series was presented by Capstone Business Solutions, with 26 attendees including SSAs and local agency provider staff from six different agencies.
 - The Department of Children and Youth (DCY) EI Regional Consultant joined the EI team meeting two times during strategic review period to provide support and training.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - One SSA Manager started the OACB 2026 Executive Development program and graduated from the 2025-2026 Leadership Sandusky County class in May.

- Agency
 - Two managers graduated from the 2025-2026 Leadership Sandusky County class series in May.
 - Preparations commenced to hire a second SSA Manager.
 - The PLAY Project Consultant role was restructured and prepared for hiring, which was spurred by stakeholder feedback and conversations

SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

- School of Hope:
 - A professional photographer came to the school and provided a 'Cap and Gown' senior sessions for high school seniors and preschoolers.
 - A new field trip to the Toledo Zoo was added.
- Youth and Provider Services
 - Adult Self-Advocates joined the January session of YEL and provided a presentation to youth about self-advocacy.
 - Policy and procedures were updated to include Extended Early Intervention (EI) services. Eligible children may receive Extended EI services during the summer months until preschool special education services begin. Eligible children who received fewer than six months of EI services before aging out may also be eligible for up to six additional months of Extended EI services.
 - The Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) continued to host Wiggle Wednesdays at the Fremont YMCA.
 - An Early Childhood Pilot Program was implemented to provide developmental support and parent coaching for children ages 3–10 while the PLAY Project Consultant position remains vacant. The pilot continues to be evaluated to determine long-term effectiveness and future service needs.
 - QA/RN collaborated with local agency providers to support a multi-county talent show event. This initiative brought together providers, individuals served, county board members, and community members in a shared, inclusive space at the Strand located in downtown Fremont. The event welcomed over 100 attendees and served as a meaningful opportunity to build connections across agencies, celebrate the talents of individuals served, and reinforce a unified provider network. This collaboration reflects our continued commitment to creating opportunities that promote engagement, partnership, and community inclusion.
 - QA/RN coordinated Picnic, Play & Connect in the Park, bringing together 10 provider agencies, approximately 150 individuals, and staff to promote socialization, inclusion, and meaningful community partnerships.
 - Expanded the provider network by identifying an HPC provider who was new to Sandusky County to serve an eligible youth, supporting the strategic goal of increasing service options for youth.

- The youth respite provider offered its second summer transition program designed for transition aged youth. This year's program was called "Launch Lab" and had a total of 6 youth participating in the 8-week program. Sessions offered hands-on experience focused on independence, workplace skills, money management, and confidence building.
- Service and Support Administration (SSA)
 - We continue to offer counseling opportunities with the BGSU student intern.
 - We have individuals using two mental health providers that have not provided services in our county and/or have not been used. This has provided additional service options for individuals. Some of these offer in home and virtual options, which has been beneficial for some individuals. One of these providers also offers medication management, which has been helpful.
 - Station MD has added mental health services. SSA's are discussing this option with individuals on their caseload to see if it will benefit them. Since this cannot be billed to a Medicaid waiver yet, SCBDD began researching contract options with Station MD or through the COG.

FACILITY RESOURCES

The construction project broke ground in July 2025. New additions for the administrative and school wings were completed in early May which allowed the administrative wing to move into the new 'B wing' and lobby areas. The EI team moved from the school to the training room while exited B wing offices were renovated prior to the EI team moving in. At the conclusion of the school year, all items were boxed and stored off-site at no cost in a vacant building owned by the county, which allowed for demolition and construction to commence in the existing school wing. The project continued to go very well and ahead of schedule.

Multiple items have been purged throughout the construction process either through disposal, gov deal sales, or gifting them to Sandusky County providers for ongoing service usage.

ADDITIONAL NOTES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The all-staff meetings continued in 2026 on the Wednesday following each board meeting. Agency-wide updates are provided, a time for questions and answers, and a brief educational moment occurs at each meeting. Attendance and reception remained positive.

- During the March all-staff in-service day, a 'speed dating' session was held with employees to gain perspective and input on the current strategic plan initiatives. A separate report captures the sentiments collected on this day.
- While many county boards are facing fiscal emergency challenges, SCBDD remains fiscally strong. In addition to the state's required annual cost projection submission, SCBDD completes this task independently semi-annually and reviews it with the entire board.