



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

lakecountyohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 12, 2026

County Contact: Summer Torok
440.350.2220
summer.torok@lakecountyohio.gov

Lake County Commissioners Proclaim March 2026 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, March 12, 2026– Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions due to a lifelong impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas. About one in six children in the U.S. have a developmental disability or other delay. To highlight and empower these individuals and their contributions, the Lake County Board of Commissioners, at their March 12, 2026, meeting, has proclaimed March “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” in Lake County.

Throughout the years, thousands of people with developmental disabilities have been supported by their families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers and again this year, the Board of Commissioners are encouraging everyone in the Lake County community to engage with others to provide vital support and resources to these incredible people. One of the most effective ways to increase awareness is through active participation in community activities that will enrich their lives by showing how much they are supported.

"Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month intensifies our outreach to strengthen community awareness and encourage inclusion in all aspects of our great Lake County community," said Elfie Roman, Superintendent of the Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood (LCBDD). "Our theme 'Kindness Clicks in 2026' reflects the idea that kindness creates meaningful connections that strengthen our entire community. Every positive action, whether offering support, sharing a resource, giving encouragement, or providing an opportunity—helps build a community where all abilities are valued. When kindness becomes a habit, inclusion becomes a reality. We ask our community to capture these clicks of kindness and share photos of the moment with us on social media using #KindnessClicks2026."

"Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to celebrate the talents, strengths, and contributions of individuals with developmental delays," said Commission President Morris W. Beverage III.



From the left: Commissioner John T. Plecnik, Elfie Roman, Sam Majoros, Commissioners Morgan R. McIntosh, Morris W. Beverage III.

III. "Lake County is strongest when every resident feels supported, included, and empowered to participate fully in community life."

"We are proud to recognize the important role individuals with developmental disabilities play in our community," said Commissioner John T. Plecnik. "By continuing to raise awareness and remove barriers, we can ensure that every person has the opportunity to live, work, and thrive here in Lake County."

"Awareness leads to understanding, and understanding leads to stronger communities," said Commissioner Morgan R. McIntosh. "By recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring every individual in Lake County has the opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed."

The Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood is located at 8121 Deepwood Blvd., Mentor, Ohio. For more information or questions about community resources or the services offered, contact them via phone at (440) 350-5100 for assistance.

###