

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2023

STARK COUNTY DECLARES APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, WEAR BLUE ON APRIL 12

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Commissioners Richard Regula, Bill Smith, and Janet Weir Creighton have declared April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Commissioners presented a proclamation on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 to Stark County Job & Family Services' Executive Director, Jerry Coleman, and Interim Deputy Director of Children Services, Tricia Mayle.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized to raise awareness about child abuse and strengthen families. Child abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting every segment of our community. In 2022, Stark County received 7,706 reports of abuse or neglect through the Division of Children Services' hotline. The reports resulted in 2,684 cases requiring assistance or intervention.

Children who have been subjected to abuse and neglect may develop long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects. Prevention and awareness efforts in our community can help children succeed by encouraging families to build safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

Stark County Job and Family Services has partnered with Project KARE to promote Wear Blue Day on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. Wear Blue Day encourages residents to wear blue to work, school, or a community event for child abuse prevention. Those who wear blue are invited to share their photos with Job and Family Services by emailing them to Rachel.Koller@jfs.ohio.gov or posting them to social media using the tag #StarkWearsBlue.

If you are concerned that a child is experiencing abuse or neglect, please call (330) 455-KIDS (5437) and ask to speak to a referral specialist. The line is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Stark County Commissioners issue proclamation to Job and Family Services. Left to right: Richard Regula, Commissioner; Tricia Mayle, Interim Deputy Director of Children Services; Jerry Coleman, Executive Director; and Bill Smith, Commissioner.

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