

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2024

STARK COUNTY DECLARES APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Canton, Ohio - Stark County Commissioners Janet Weir Creighton, Richard Regula, and Bill Smith have declared April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Commissioners presented a proclamation on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 to Tricia Mayle, Deputy Director of Children Services at Stark County Job & Family Services.

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 2023, Stark County received 7,970 reports of abuse or neglect through the Division of Children Services' abuse hotline. The reports resulted in 2,616 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 can help children succeed by encouraging families to build safe, stable, and nurturing environments.

If you are concerned that a child is being abused or neglected, 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 & Family Services. Left to right: Tricia Mayle, Deputy Director of Children Services; Commissioners Richard Regula, Janet Weir Creighton, and Bill Smith.