



Summit County  
**CHILDREN SERVICES**  
*Building Families . . . Building Futures*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Summit County Children Services ■ 264 South Arlington Street ■ Akron, Ohio 44306

**For Immediate Release**

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**Summit County Children Services Announces Inaugural LEAP Class**

**AKRON, OH – August 2020** – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) has recently launched a new initiative to further develop leaders within the organization. The Leading in Excellence and Professionalism (LEAP) program was developed from feedback from support staff who desire advanced practice skills to prepare them for future leadership opportunities.

The LEAP program will engage participants in a variety of activities to advance their knowledge in key leadership areas such as communication, job skills, professional development, and employee wellness. LEAP will combine in-class learning with hands on experiences allowing staff to expand both current and newly developed skills. In addition, supplemental reading and other assignments will be given to enhance learning.

The members of the SCCS inaugural LEAP class include: Helena Blythe, Clerical Specialist, Heather Cikity, Social Services Aide, Shannon Ede, Administrative Assistant/Clerical Services Supervisor, Lois Juma, Social Services Aide, Katie Keele, Social Services Aide, Penny Myers, Clerical Specialist, Tricia Ligotti, Legal Support Specialist, Casandra Roberts, Social Services Aide, Elboni Slaughter, Social Services Aide, Kelly Sherman, Social Services Aide.

The participants chosen for this class represent many departments within the agency. The LEAP program will begin with a kickoff gathering on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The class will meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesday from 1-4pm through December 2020 when a graduation will be held.

To learn more about SCCS, please visit our website at [summitkids.org](http://summitkids.org).

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