



Summit County
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MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Summit County Children Services Announces Inaugural LEAP Class Graduation

AKRON, OH – December 2020 – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) held a virtual graduation on Tuesday, December 15 for their inaugural Leading in Excellence and Professionalism (LEAP) class. The LEAP program was developed based on feedback from support staff who desire advanced practice skills to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. The 10-member class began last August and included participants from various departments within the organization.

The LEAP program engaged the participants in a variety of activities to advance their knowledge in key leadership areas such as communication, job skills, customer service, professional development, and employee wellness. The class offered virtual networking and engaging opportunities to allow staff to expand their current and newly developed skills. This LEAP class was the first completely virtual leadership program offered by SCCS due to the pandemic.

The members of the SCCS inaugural LEAP graduating 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 graduates invited friends, family and professional supports to attend and celebrate their virtual graduation. Welcome remarks were made by Julie Barnes, Executive Director of SCCS. “We see the LEAP program as an investment in you and your professional growth and development,” said Ms. Barnes.

The next LEAP class at SCCS is scheduled to begin in early 2021.

To learn more about SCCS, please visit our website at www.summitkids.org.

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