



Summit County
CHILDREN SERVICES
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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Role Announced to Support and Guide Foster Families

AKRON, OH – February 2024 – Summit County Children Services (SCCS) is excited to announce a new support role serving foster and adoptive families. The Northeast Ohio Regional Training Center (NEORTC) Caregiver Coach will guide families fostering through SCCS and other public child welfare agencies in Northeast Ohio and help them navigate the challenges that come with raising a child in a new and unfamiliar home.

Taking on this role will be Patricia Hill. Having worked with SCCS previously, she has a background of over 30 years of Child Welfare experience working in both private and public sectors. She received her bachelor's degree from Kent State University and a master's degree in public administration from The University of Akron.

Ms. Hill shared her dedication to the role. "As the Caregiver Coach, I'm here to provide that little extra support, training, and skill building that families who are providing care may need." She will be responsible for working with caregivers fostering for public child welfare agencies within the fourteen (14) counties in the Northeast Ohio Region including Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Holmes, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne. Ms. Hill is determined to help caregivers advance their skills and contribute to improved outcomes for families, children, and the agencies involved.

"Fostering provides safety to children while the biological parents work toward finding help, healing, and treatment," said SCCS Executive Director Cassandra Holtzmann. "Having a coach they can count on that's committed to supporting them, will help these foster families to not only succeed, but thrive." That is exactly what the NEORTC Caregiver Coach position aims to accomplish.

NEORTC, housed on the campus of SCCS, has been providing high quality, culturally responsive, family-focused training for caregivers and other child protective staff since 1986. As part of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP), NEORTC provides a multitude of trainings to promote mastery of the complex knowledge and skills needed to assure protection and permanence for abused and neglected children in Ohio.

For more information on SCCS, visit the website at www.summitkids.org

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