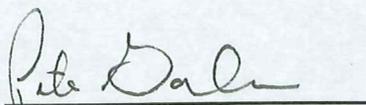
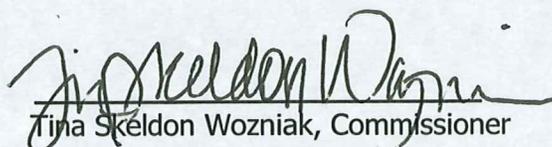
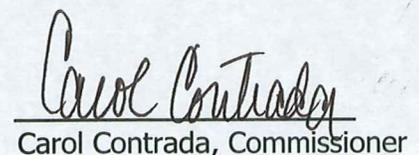


Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** In 2008, U.S. state and local child protective services received 3.3 million reports of children being abused and neglected, and approximately 1,740 children died as a result of abuse and neglect, and
- WHEREAS,** In 2010, Lucas County Children Services received 4,487 new allegations of child abuse and neglect affecting 6,851 Lucas County Children, a five percent increase from 2009, and
- WHEREAS,** There were five child deaths in Lucas County since April 1, 2010 as a result of neglect and street violence: three children drowned, ages 7 months, 14 months and 3 years old; and two 16-year olds succumbed to street violence – the Annual Child Memorial will take place on April 29, 2011 at 11:30 a.m. at Children Services Office at 705 Adams, and
- WHEREAS,** Child abuse is one of our nation’s most serious public health problems. Studies have documented the link between the abuse and neglect of children and a wide range of medical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral disorders including depression, alcoholism, drug abuse, severe obesity, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, exposure to high risk behaviors, and the need for special education services; and
- WHEREAS,** Some of the risk factors for child abuse are when a parent abuses alcohol or drugs, is isolated from their social network, has difficulty controlling anger or stress, appears uninterested in the care, nourishment, and safety of their children, or has serious economic, housing, or personal problems; and
- WHEREAS,** The surest defense against child abuse is a well-informed, strong, healthy family. To help educate and strengthen families, members of the community can offer their time and guidance to parents and children who may need assistance; and
- WHEREAS,** We recognize the primary prevention efforts of the Children’s Trust Fund Committee of the Lucas County Family Council with the “Strengthening Families” Initiative which is focused on building the capacity of child and family serving organizations to promote the development of protective factors in families; and the work of the other community partners such as the Child Abuse Task Force, Yell and Tell, and St. Vincent Mercy Health Partners. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Board of County Commissioners, Lucas County, Ohio does hereby proclaim and recognize the month of **APRIL 2011 AS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH IN LUCAS COUNTY** and encourage all our citizens to join with us in dedicating their energies to cherishing Lucas County’s children and helping them grow, free from physical, emotional, and sexual harm.


Pete Gerken, President


Tina Skeldon Wozniak, Commissioner


Carol Contrada, Commissioner