



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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Commissioners Recognize World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 8, 2023 – June 15, 2023 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On this day, communities across the United States and all over the world, including here in Lake County, will take time to highlight this important social issue affecting some of the most vulnerable in our society. “This is an opportunity for Lake County to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older adults and raise awareness to ensure security and dignity for all seniors,” said John R. Hamercheck, President of the Board of Lake County Commissioners.

It is estimated that 1 in 10 older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Even more alarming is that research suggests that as few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse ever come to the attention of authorities. Many seniors lack societal supports, making them more vulnerable to abuse and less likely to report maltreatment. “Lake County is not immune to the issue of elder abuse,” said Commissioner John Plecnik. “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day reminds us to look out for one another. When we come together, we can prevent elder abuse from happening.”

During 2022, the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services responded to over 450 calls concerning abuse, neglect or exploitation of seniors. Although these calls varied in nature, the one common theme was the mistreatment of a vulnerable member of our community. “The Lake County Department of Job and Family Services remains committed to investigating elder abuse and maltreatment. The social workers in our adult protective services division meet with older adults in our community to assess them for safety, advocate on their behalf and connect them to necessary resources. If anyone suspects that an elderly individual in Lake County is being abused, neglected or exploited they should contact our agency to report their concerns,” said Job and Family Services Director Suzanne Casar.

The Board of Lake County Commissioners support and recognize the importance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. During their June 8 meeting, the Lake County Commissioners graciously passed a resolution declaring June 15, 2023, as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Lake County. To promote awareness of elder abuse in Lake County, the second Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Walk will be held on June 15 at 11:45 a.m. beginning at Job and Family Services and concluding with a short presentation at the Lake County Administration Center. All are welcome to attend, and participants are encouraged to wear purple, the color designated for elder abuse awareness.

“Elder abuse will not stop on its own,” said Commissioner Richard J. Regovich. “Someone else needs to step in and help. If you think someone you know is being abused — physically, emotionally, or financially — say something.”

For more information, or to report concerns of abuse, neglect or exploitation, contact the Lake County Department of Job and Family Services, Adult Protective Services Division at (440) 350-4000.



From the left: Commissioner John Plecnik, Mary Udics, Suzanne Casar, April Haugabrook, Commissioner Richard J. Regovich, Commissioner John R. Hamercheck.

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