### Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

# Scioto County MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This memorandum of understanding (hereinafter MOU) to address child abuse and neglect is required by sections 2151.4210, 2151.4211, 2151.4212, 2151.4215, 2151.4216, 2151.4220, and 2151.4224 of the Ohio Revised Code and section 5101:2-33-26 of the Ohio Administrative Code. It is an agreement among **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** and community partners that delineates roles and responsibilities for referring, reporting, investigating, and prosecuting child abuse and neglect cases. The MOU also identifies procedures for collaborative service provisions needed to ensure child safety, permanence, and well-being, and the minimum requirements of screening, assessment/investigation, and service planning, to meet mandates included in children services legislation passed by the 134<sup>th</sup> Ohio General Assembly. Two primary goals of this MOU are:

- The elimination of all unnecessary interviews of children who are the subject of reports of child abuse or neglect;
- When feasible, conducting only one interview of a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect.

Throughout the state each County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS)/Public Children Services Agency (PCSA) provides the following services to their communities:

**Screening:** The capacity to accept and screen referrals of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency includes but is not limited to the following: Receiving referrals 24 hours/day, 7 days/week; Recording and retaining referral information; Following Ohio's screening guidelines based on Ohio Administrative and Revised Code and categorizing the child maltreatment type; Adherence to a protocol for making screening and differential response pathway decisions regarding referrals of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency within 24 hours from the time of the referral; Documenting case decisions; And assigning a response priority of emergency or non-emergency to any screened in report.

Assessment and Investigation: The capacity to investigate and assess accepted reports of suspected child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, includes responding to emergency reports within one (1) hour and non-emergency reports within twenty-four (24) hours; Conducting an initial Safety Assessment using a standardized CAPM (Comprehensive Assessment Planning Model) tool within the timeline prescribed in the Ohio Administrative Code; Completing a more in-depth CAPM Family Assessment including a clinical and actuarial risk assessment within forty-five (45) working days with the option of a fifteen (15) day extension for extenuating circumstances as prescribed in the Ohio Administrative Code; Working collaboratively with other investigative agencies when appropriate; Making traditional response case dispositions within required timeframes; Evaluating the

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 1 of 28

need for protective, prevention, or supportive services and/or court involvement; and documenting all activities and case determinations.

**Service Provision:** The capacity to provide services that ameliorate, eliminate, or reduce future child maltreatment and the conditions which led to abuse, neglect, or dependency, includes providing service planning and case management coordination; Identifying and stating the concern and behavior change(s) needed for reunification to occur through the use of the CAPM Family Case Plan; Monitoring the family's case progress, measuring service outcomes, re-assessing safety and risk, and evaluating permanency options by using the CAPM Case Review and Semi-Annual Review tools; And adhering to existing visitation, documentation, and case closure protocols.

### II. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY

# A. CDJFS/PCSA (If a combined agency or stand-alone PCSA)

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is the lead agency for the investigation of child abuse, neglect, or dependency in Scioto County. The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will coordinate and facilitate meetings, establish standards and protocol for joint assessment/investigation with law enforcement, cross-referrals, collection of forensic evidence, confidentiality, and training of signatories as required by statute. Child Protective Services staff and management will also participate in meetings and trainings as deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Director.

### **B. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The County Sheriff and each Chief of the local political subdivisions will have responsibility for: taking referrals/reports alleging child abuse and neglect from any source within their respective jurisdiction; Referring reports to Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services as soon as possible or within 24 hours for investigation of the circumstances; Determining whether allegations of abuse or neglect rise to the level of criminal conduct; Cooperating with Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services in a joint and thorough investigation when the information contained in the report lends itself to allege a present danger; Assisting Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services in hazardous situations where the provision of protective services or the investigation of child abuse or neglect is impeded; Coordinating with Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services on interviews with principals of the case when there are serious criminal implications; Notifying Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services of any legal action involving an alleged perpetrator of child abuse or neglect; Responding to Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services's requests for information regarding the status of the legal action; Providing police record checks for Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services as necessary or requested as permitted by law; Consulting with Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services prior to removal of a child from their home when

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 2 of 28

possible; Handling and coordinating investigations involving a child fatality or near fatality which may have resulted from abuse or neglect.

### C. JUVENILE COURT

The most senior Juvenile Judge in point of service of the county or their representative, selected by the Judge, if more than one, will be responsible for attending meetings concerning the MOU, entering into agreements with the other signatories of the MOU regarding the court's responsibility to timely hear and resolve child abuse, neglect, and dependency matters, signing the MOU, and updating the MOU or approving any amendment.

The juvenile court has a duty to exercise jurisdiction over adults and children to hear and decide matters as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code Chapters 2151 and 2152. The court is responsible for issuing orders regarding the care, protection, health, safety, mental and physical best interest of children. The Juvenile Judge shall ensure that due process of law is achieved; Hear evidence and issue findings of fact and conclusions of law as to any abused, neglected, or dependent child; Order timely and safe permanency dispositions for children; Preserve the family environment whenever possible while keeping the child(ren)'s health and safety paramount.

### D. COUNTY PROSECUTOR

The County Prosecutor shall report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** or appropriate law enforcement agency. The County Prosecutor shall represent **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** in legal actions to protect a child from further harm resulting from child abuse or neglect unless the Prosecutor has granted consent for the appointment of an In-house PCSA Attorney pursuant to Ohio Revised Code chapters 309 and 305.

The prosecuting attorney may inquire into the commission of crimes within the county. The prosecuting attorney shall prosecute, on behalf of the state, all complaints, suits, and controversies in which the state is a party, except for those required to be prosecuted by a special prosecutor or by the attorney general. The County Prosecutor is to determine, based upon the facts, whether criminal culpability exists and if enough evidence exists for a matter to be prosecuted. The prosecutor will be available to law enforcement and **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** staff for questions or assistance in the investigation of child abuse and neglect cases and eliminate the need for testimony at the municipal court level by allowing for direct presentation to the Grand Jury, when feasible, to minimize trauma to child victims. The prosecuting attorney agrees to aid **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** in protecting the confidential nature of children services records and investigations; As well as the special protection afforded to the identity of the reporting source.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 3 of 28

# E. COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB & FAMILY SERVICES [If not part of a combined agency]

 $\boxtimes$  Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.)

If the [Enter the name of the CDJFS here] is a separate agency from [Enter the name of the PCSA here], employees within the county agency are expected to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect to [Enter the name of the PCSA here] or appropriate law enforcement agency upon receipt; Collaborate with [Enter the name of the PCSA here] to assist families in caring for their children; Assure that children at risk of abuse and neglect receive protective services; Assure service coordination for families already involved with the [Enter the name of the PCSA here]; Promote ongoing communication between [Enter the name of the CDJFS here] and [Enter the name of the PCSA here] regarding mutual clients, including minors under the protective supervision or in the custody of the Agency and/or minor parents; Assist [Enter the name of the PCSA here] upon request in obtaining case or assistance group information regarding a family when the [Enter the name of the PCSA here] is assessing Title IV-E eligibility or completing an assessment/investigation of a child at risk or alleged to be abused; Assist [Enter the name of the PCSA here] in obtaining addresses and attempts to locate parents whose whereabouts are unknown, pursuant to OAC 5101:2-33-28; And where applicable and permitted assist [Enter the name of the PCSA] here] in locating suitable relatives or kin that may be available as familial support for the child(ren) or as a placement option.

#### F. LOCAL ANIMAL CRUELTY REPORTING AGENCY

The local animal cruelty reporting agencies are to investigate reports of animal abuse and neglect within the county and, pursuant to ORC 2151.421, report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect that may be observed during the commission of their duties to Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services or local law enforcement. The local animal cruelty reporting agencies are to utilize the Humane Agents authorization to remove children under emergency circumstances, if necessary. In those circumstances, they are to coordinate efforts with Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services and local law enforcement as soon as possible or within 24 hours. The local animal cruelty agency is a mandated reporter. As such, the agency will report suspected child abuse and neglect immeadiately to the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services

THE HUMANE AGENT AUTHORIZATION (ABOVE) HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE NEW TEMPLATE THAT IS STILL IN CLEARANCE.

G.	CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER (Must include if agreement with					
	CDJFS/PCSA exists. Option to skip this section if your agency does not					
	have a formal agreement with a children's advocacy center.)					
	☐ Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.)					

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 4 of 28

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) will establish internal protocols regarding the investigation of CAC cases, participate in training as needed, work jointly and cooperatively in their established role with the other team members in the investigation of CAC cases, and attend and exchange information when meeting with **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services**, law enforcement, and other signatories of this agreement.

# H. CLERK OF COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT (Optional per statute, but benefits to inclusion should be considered per county)

 $\boxtimes$  Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.)

The Clerk of County Common Pleas Court will collaborate with [Enter the name of the CDJFS/PCSA], County Prosecutor, and local law enforcement to establish standards and processes for the filing and acceptance of abuse, neglect, and dependency pleadings; Notice to the necessary parties; Service of process; How to send and receive communications from the Clerk; Defining acceptable methods of communication; Best practices for handling emergency/ex parte motions and orders which require the removal of children and need to be acted upon in an expeditious manner; Date and timestamp process and any cut-offs; Determine how and when to expect decisions or entries to be communicated; Provide periodic training for those involved in the investigation of child abuse and neglect and the signatories of this MOU; Be available to [Enter the name of the CDJFS/PCSA here] management staff or the Prosecutor should questions arise.

## III. SCOPE OF WORK

The key objective of this MOU is to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the provision of child protective services.

# A. Mandated reporters and penalty for failure to report

Persons identified as mandated reporters per Ohio Revised Code section 2151.421, while acting in official or professional capacity, shall immediately report knowledge or reasonable cause to suspect the abuse or neglect of a child in accordance with that section. Reports shall be made to the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services. The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services, within 24 hours of learning that a mandated reporter failed to report suspected child abuse or neglect, shall send a referral to the county prosecutor indicating the name, contact information and nature of the CA/N of the person who failed to report the suspected abuse or neglect. or a law enforcement officer.

The penalty for the failure of a person required to report any suspected case of child abuse and/or neglect pursuant to ORC section 2151.421 shall be a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The penalty is a misdemeanor of the first degree if the child who is the subject of the required report that the

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 5 of 28

offender fails to make suffers or faces the threat of suffering the physical or mental wound, injury, disability or condition that would be the basis of the required report when the child is under the direct care or supervision of the offender who is then acting in the offender's official or professional capacity or when the child is under the direct care or supervision of another person over whom the offender, while acting in the offender's official or professional capacity, has supervisory control. Failure to report suspected child abuse and/or neglect may also result in civil liability in the form of compensatory or exemplary damages.

# B. System for receiving reports

Reports of child abuse or neglect shall be made to Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services or any law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in Scioto County. If Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services contracts with an outside source to receive after-hour calls, a copy of the signed agreement shall be attached to this MOU which indicates that all reports with identifying and demographic information of the reporter and principals will be forwarded to a designated children services worker within an hour of receipt, confidentiality requirements will be met, and how the public is informed of after-hours reporting opportunities.

### MUST ATTACH WRITTEN AGREEMENT.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am until 4:30pm. Referrals are accepted during this time by calling the agency phone number 740-456-4164 or 740-354-6661. The agency will make these phone numbers available to the general public via the agency website, agency social media sites, through public relations material and on any advertising done by the agency as it relates to services provided by the agency.

An agency screener takes the information and then notifies the intake supervisor, or in his absence, another supervisor, who either screens the referral in or out. If the referral is screened out, it is documented in SACWIS as such and no further action is taken.

If the referral is screened in, the supervisor determines if the referral is an emergency or non-emergency and assigns the referral to the next available caseworker on a rotating basis. Then, based on the priority assigned, the caseworker initiates the investigation.

Although the agency is open until 4:30pm, any referral received after 4:00pm during the work week will be forwarded to the on-call worker and on-call supervisor for screening and assignment of priority. Referrals received outside the agency's normal operating hours, i.e., after 4:30pm, weekends, holidays, etc, an answering service is utilized

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 6 of 28

to take referrals. The after hours phone number to make a referral is the same as during normal hours, 740-456-4164 or 740-354-6661.

The answering service who took the call, notifies the on-call caseworker that a person wishes to make a child abuse and neglect referral. The answering service is to forward the referral information to the agency within one-hour of receiving the call. The answering service will ensure all identifying and demographic information provided by the reporter remains confidential.

The caseworker calls the reporting source back, takes the information, then consults with the supervisor. A supervisor is required to be on-call also, on a rotating basis, to assist caseworkers who are contacted outside the normal operating hours.

The caseworker consults with the on-call supervisor, who screens the call in or out, assigns a non-emergency or emergency designation and relays that information back to the on-call caseworker. Based on the decision made by the supervisor, the caseworker responds accordingly. If the referral is screened out by the supervisor, it is documented in SACWIS and no additional action is taken.

When a law enforcement officer receives a report of possible abuse or neglect of a child or the possible threat of abuse or neglect of a child, the law enforcement officer shall refer the report to the appropriate PCSA unless an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate PCSA being contacted concerning the alleged incident involving the child.

When Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services screens in a report of child abuse, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of the report, unless law enforcement is present and an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate law enforcement agency being notified of the child abuse.

When Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services screens in a report of child neglect, and an active safety threat is identified within the first seven days of the assessment/investigation, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency within the first seven days of the assessment/investigation. Unless an arrest is made at the time of the report that results in the appropriate law enforcement agency being notified of the child neglect.

# C. Responding to mandated reporters

When Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services receives a referral from a mandated reporter who provides their name and contact

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 7 of 28

information, **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** shall forward an initial mandated reporter notification to the referent within seven days. The notification will be provided, in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter shall include the information permitted by ORC 2151.421(L):

- Whether the agency or center has initiated an investigation of the report;
- Whether the agency or center is continuing to investigate the report;
- Whether the agency or center is otherwise involved with the child who is the subject of the report;
- The general status of the health and safety of the child who is the subject of the report;
- Whether the report has resulted in the filing of a complaint in juvenile court or of criminal charges in another court.

When Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services closes an investigation/assessment reported by a mandated reporter, The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall forward an outcome mandated reporter notification to the referent. The notification will be provided in accordance with the mandated reporter's preference. Information shared with the mandated reporter shall be that permitted by ORC 2151.421 to include a notification that the agency has closed the investigation along with a point of contact.

# D. Roles and responsibilities for handling emergency cases of child abuse, neglect, and dependency

# 1. PCSA's Response Procedure

When Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services determines that a report is emergent, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall attempt a face-to-face contact with the child subject of the report/ alleged child victim within one hour of the receipt of the report.

If Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services identifies an active safety threat at any point during the assessment/investigation, the caseworker or supervisor shall implement a safety response.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 8 of 28

In Scioto County, typically, law enforcement does not remove children themselves even though they have the authority. When a removal is necessary, law enforcement will remain on the scene until a PCSA worker arrives to take custody. In the event a law enforcement agency in Scioto County does remove a child and takes custody, law enforcement is to immeadiately notify the PCSA that a child has been removed and arrangements are then made by the PCSA to pick up the child.

In planned events, such as serving an arrest warrant or a search warrant and law enforcement knows children are present, law enforcement officials normally notify the PCSA in advance so a caseworker can be on stand-by. Then, if needed, the caseworker can respond to the scene once it is secured and assume custody of the child/ren.

In the event, a caseworker is out on an investigation, home visit or monitoring a safety plan and it becomes obvious the surroundings are unsafe for a child/ren, the caseworker will immeadiately remove themselves from the situation and notify law enforcement immeadiately that assistance is needed. The caseworker will remain on scene, if it is safe to do so, until law enforcement arrives on the scene. If it is unsafe for the caseworker to remain on the scene, the caseworker will exit the home and go a safe distance until the scene is secured by law enforcement.

In the event Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services knows they will be removing a child/ren from a home in advance, they will coordinate with law enforcement to safely remove the child/ren.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has a standing order from the Scioto County Juvenile Judge to remove a child/ren without first asking for permission from the Judge. Removals are coordinated between the caseworker and supervisor to make sure there is sufficient cause to do so. When practical, the agency attorney is notified as well. Once a child/ren have been removed, the normal court process takes over.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 9 of 28

In situations in which there is no child abuse or neglect occuring, but law enforcement is involved, i.e., runaways, delinquent, etc., Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services, will assist to the extent possible by phone, but will not come to the scene or go the police station or sheriff's department.

# 2. Law Enforcement and The Child Protection Center of Ross County Response Procedure

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services uses The Child Protection Center of Ross County (CPC) to conduct child abuse and neglect interviews, assessments and counseling to child/ren who have been victims of suspected child abuse and neglect.

When a case is known to the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services or to law enforcement, pre-determined arrangements have been made to coordinate and share the findings of the CPC interview or assessment. See section E below.

In the event the CPC independently has information on child abuse and neglect involving a child who lives in Scioto County, the CPC will follow the mandated reporting requierment and the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will follow the normal procedures that are in place to receive and screen reports of suspected child abuse or neglect.

# 3. Children in Need of Medical Attention Special Response Procedures

Children in Scioto County who need medical attention will be taken to Southern Ohio Medical Center at 1805 27th Street, Portsmouth Ohio, 740-356-5000. If a caseworker determines that a child who just came into agency custody needs medical attention, the caseworker will call for EMS. If safe to do so, the caseworker may also transport the child to the SOMC emergency room. At the emergency room, the caseworker will sign any necessary consent forms. If the child does not need care, once in agency custody, the agency will follow the ODJFS rules for scheduling the medical visit with a primary care doctor for children in the agency's custody.

If the child is already in foster care and placed with a foster parent residential facility or other child care setting, the foster parent, residential facility or child care setting staff will have all the necessary forms to have the child/ren treated either at the

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 10 of 28

emergency room or with a primary care doctor. Anytime a child in custody is taken to the emergency room or requires more than routine medical care, the foster parent, residential facility or other child care setting will immediately notify the agency.

If the child is not in the custody of the agency, but the agency is working with the family, with the parents' permission, a caseworker may assist the family in obtaining medical attention. This can be in the form of providing transportation or providing other services to the family to ensure the child/ren is receiving medical attention.

If a referral is received and after an investigation, it is determined that a child/ren needs medical attention and the parent refuses such treatment, the caseworker shall consult with the agency supervisor, administrator or attorney for direction. As a last resort, the agency will contact the juvenile judge, who has the ability to order treatment of the child/ren if all other remedies fail and the parents still refuse medical treatment for the child/ren that is recommended by a doctor.

# E. Standards and procedures to be used in handling and coordinating investigations of reported cases of child abuse and/or neglect

Methods to be used in interviewing the child who is the subject of the report and who allegedly was abused and/or neglected, alleged perpetrators, and other family members and witnesses/collaterals will be discussed and agreed upon in advance by the **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** and the corresponding law enforcement agency.

To the extent possible investigative interviews of children who are the alleged victims of reports of abuse and/or neglect where criminal activity is suspected, including reports of human trafficking, are cooperatively planned by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** and the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction.

Every effort will be made by the signatories of this MOU to prevent or reduce duplicate interviews of the victims or witnesses. When feasible, to reduce trauma complete only one interview with the alleged child victim/ child subject of the report. Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services agrees to be the lead agency in scheduling the time, place, and location of joint interviews as well as notifying all participants.

Before starting the interview, the participants will determine who is to be present in the room, who will be asking the questions, what areas are to be covered, and who will be the scribe for the interview. Audio and video recordings may be used when necessary.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 11 of 28

When law enforcement or the prosecutor's office interviews a participant in a criminal investigation and a representative of **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** is not present, the interviews conducted by law enforcement or the prosecutor's office may be used by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** to meet the agency investigative requirements set forth in rule. Law enforcement or the prosecutor's office will forward a written summary of the interview to **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** upon request.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services agrees not to proceed without the advice and consent of the prosecutor's office when a criminal investigation is being conducted concurrently. Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will not jeopardize a criminal investigation but will work with law enforcement to protect the safety of the child victim or witnesses. Law enforcement will be the lead agency in the collection of forensic evidence and will coordinate with the necessary facilities to obtain and store such evidence properly.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services uses The Child Protection Center of Ross County for interviews and assessments of children who may have been physically or sexually abused or suffered from neglect.

The Scioto County Sheriff's Office and Portsmouth Police Department have a Special Victims Unit which assists in the investigation of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse and severe neglect. The agency coordinates with the investigator when these types of reports are received and need to be investigated.

When the SVU investigator interviews perpetrators, within 45 days after the referral has been made to the investigator, the investigator will interview the alleged perpetrator and send a report to the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services. If this cannot be completed within the 45 day period, the SVU investigator will contact the agency and give a status report as to a time frame when the interview will be conducted. Every effort will be made to have the interviews completed within 60 days.

The procedures outlined above in Section E will be followed by the agency and law enforcement officials when conducting these child abuse and neglect investigations.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family, the Scioto County Prosecutor, the Scioto County Sheriff's Office Special Victims Unit and the Portsmouth Police Department Special Victims Unit meet on a bi-monthly basis to review policies and procedures as it relates to the above.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 12 of 28

Cases which do not involve law enforcement, that are handled strictly by the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services, will be investigated according to the time lines and procedures set forth by ODJFS. The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will, to the extent possible, interview the child victim only one time and prior to the interview, prepare and document the interview questions. Depending on any exigent circumstances, the child may be interviewed with or without the parents permission. The interview will be documented in SACWIS and if new information comes from the interview, which would indicate the need for law enforcement intervention, a referral will be sent to the proper law enforcement agency according to the terms of this MOU.

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall follow up with law enforcement to ensure timely assistance and to complete mandated assessment/investigation activities within the forty-five-day timeframe. The timeframe can be extended in special circumstances to a maximum of sixty days if law enforcement needs additional time, however, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services must make a disposition within the sixty-day timeframe.

F. Standards and procedures addressing the categories of persons who may interview the child who is the subject of the report and who allegedly was abused or neglected

The categories of personnel who may conduct interviews of children who are the subjects of reports of alleged abuse, neglect, and/or dependency are limited to the following:

- Casework and supervisory staff of Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services
- Law enforcement personnel
- County or city prosecuting attorneys, assistant prosecuting attorneys, in-house JFS legal counsel if applicable, and their investigative staff
- The Child Protection Center of Ross County
- Any other individual approved by the Director of Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services, such as a third-pary, independent person.
- G. Standards and procedures for Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services requests for law enforcement assistance

When the alleged perpetrator has access to a child victim, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services requests law enforcement to respond to their request for assistance within one hour or sooner. When the alleged perpetrator does not have access to the child, the agency will make the referral or ask for assistance within twenty-four hours.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 13 of 28

Every effort will be made to coordinate interviews and gather information in accordance with the procedures already outlined above in this MOU.

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services may request the assistance of law enforcement during an assessment/investigation if one or more of the following situations exist:

- An exigent circumstance exists.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has reason to believe that the child is in immediate danger of serious harm.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has reason to believe that the worker is, or will be, in danger of harm.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has reason to believe that a crime is being committed, or has been committed, against a child.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services worker must conduct a home visit after regular Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services business hours and a law enforcement escort is requested as a standard operating procedure.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is removing a child from his or her family via an order of the court and the assistance of law enforcement is needed as Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has reason to believe the family will challenge the removal.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is working with a client who has a propensity toward violence and the assistance of law enforcement is needed to ensure the safety of all involved.
- Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is working with a family that has historically threatened to do harm to PCSA staff.

## H. Specialized Investigations or Circumstances

To the extent possible, investigative interviews of children who are the alleged child victims/child subjects of the report of abuse and neglect where criminal activity is suspected, including reports of human trafficking, physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, child endangering, or the like, are cooperatively planned by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** and the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.

#### 1. Out-of-Home Care

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services conducts an out-of-home care investigation in response to a child abuse or neglect

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 14 of 28

report that includes an alleged perpetrator who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is a person responsible for the alleged child victim's care in an outof-home care setting as defined in rule 5101:2-1-01 of the Administrative Code.
- Is a person responsible for the alleged child victim's care in out-of-home care as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.
- Has access to the alleged child victim by virtue of his/her employment by or affiliation to an organization as defined in section 2151.011 of the Revised Code.
- Has access to the alleged child victim through placement in an outof-home care setting.

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services follows the procedures for conducting out-of-home care investigations as described in section 5101:2-36-04 of the OAC.

Reports of child abuse and neglect which occur in out-of-home care settings will be received, screened and investigated in accordance with section B, D and E of this MOU.

- 1. Within twenty-four hours of the screening decision, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will make contact with the out-of-home care setting or organization administrative officer, director, or other chief administrative officer, or if the administrative officer, director or other chief administrative officer is alleged to be the perpetrator, the board of directors, county commissioners, or law enforcement as applicable in order to:
- (a) Share information regarding the report.
- (b) Discuss what actions have been taken to protect the alleged child victim.
- (c) Provide information about the assessment/investigation activities that will follow.

# 2. Third-Party Investigations

 $\tilde{}$ 

In accordance with section 5101:2-36-08 of the OAC, **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** shall request a third-party investigation be conducted by a local law enforcement agency or a PCSA in a contiguous county when there is potential for a conflict of interest because one of the following parties is a principal of the report:

 Any employee of an organization or facility that is licensed or certified by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) or another state agency and supervised by the PCSA.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 15 of 28

- A foster caregiver, pre-finalized adoptive parent, adoptive parent, relative, or kinship caregiver who is recommended, approved, or supervised by the PCSA.
- A type B family childcare home or type A family childcare home licensed by ODJFS when the CDJFS has assumed the powers and duties of the county children services function defined in Chapter 5153, of the Revised Code.
- Any employee, or agent of ODJFS or the PCSA as defined in Chapter 5153. of the Revised Code.
- Any authorized person representing ODJFS or the PCSA who provides services for payment or as a volunteer.
- A foster caregiver or an employee of an organization or facility licensed or certified by ODJFS and the alleged child victim is in the custody of, or receiving services from, the PCSA that accepted the report.
- Any time a PCSA determines that a conflict of interest exists. The PCSA shall document in the case record if a conflict of interest is identified.

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall request that law enforcement serve as the third party when a report alleges a criminal offense. Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services must request the assistance of a third party within 24 hours of identifying that a conflict of interest exists.

Reports of child abuse and neglect which require a third party investigation will be received, screened and investigated in accordance with section B. D and E of this MOU.

3. Child Fatality- Suspected cause of death is abuse or neglect

**Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** is governed by ORC section 307.622 and must have a child fatality review board.

The Director of the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services is a mandated member of the Scioto County Child Fatality Review Board. The Administrator for Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has attended in the past and will continue to do so in the future. The Scioto County Child Fatality Review Board meets once a year, typically in November of each year to review the previous year's child deaths. The Child Fatality Review Board meeting is conducted by the Scioto County Health Department.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 16 of 28

4. Child Fatality- Death of a child in the custody of Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services follows section 5101:2-42-89 of the OAC following the death of a child in its custody.

In addition to following OAC 5101:2-42-89, the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will notify the Scioto County Board of County Commissioners and the Scioto County Prosecutor that a child in the custody of the agency has died. Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will cooperate with local law enforcement, the county prosecutor and ODJFS in conducting an investigation.

5. Allegations of withholding medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services follows the procedures described in section 5101:2-36-07 of the OAC for responding to these reports.

The withholding of medically indicated treatment is the refusal to provide appropriate nutrition, hydration, medication, or other medically indicated treatment from a disabled infant with a life-threatening condition.

Medically indicated treatment includes the medical care most likely to relieve, or correct, the life-threatening condition. Nutrition, hydration, and medication, as appropriate for the infant's needs, are medically indicated for all disabled infants; in addition to, the completion of appropriate evaluations or consultations necessary to assure that sufficient information has been gathered to make informed medical decisions on behalf of the disabled infant.

In determining whether treatment is medically indicated, reasonable medical judgments made by a prudent physician, or treatment team, knowledgeable about the case and its treatment possibilities are considered. The opinions about the infant's future "quality of life" are not to bear on whether a treatment is judged to be medically indicated. Medically indicated treatment does not include the failure to provide treatment to a disabled infant if the treating physician's medical judgment identifies any of the situations listed in OAC section 5101:2-36-07(A)(3)(a-d).

• The following hospital or Emergency Room will be utilized by the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services in which

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 17 of 28

treatment is medically indicated. If necessary, Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC) will transfer the child to a hospital that specializes in the treatment of children.

- Southern Ohio Medical Center, 1805 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662, Social Work Department.
- Scioto County Job and Family Services will identify and maintain current information regarding the name, date, title, and telephone number of facility's contact person for allegation involing alleged withholding of medically indicated treatment from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions.
- Reports of withholding of medically indicated treatment will be received, screened and investigated in accordance with section B. D and E of this MOU.

Allegations of child abuse and/or neglect constituting a crime against a child, including human trafficking, and require a joint

assessment/investigation with law enforcement

6.

Reports of child abuse and neglect, including human trafficking will be received, screened and investigated in accordance with section B, D and E of this MOU. Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will ensure child safety and not compromise child protective assessment/investigation while concurrently assisting law enforcement with the criminal investigation.

7. Reports of cases involving individuals who aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to a child or a ward of the juvenile court becoming dependent, neglected, unruly, and delinquent child

Reports of child abuse, neglect and dependency will be received, screened and investigated in accordance with section B, D and E of this MOU. The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will assist the Court or local law enforcement in cases in which the child is unruly or delinquent, but will not open an investigation unless there is specific evidence that abuse or neglect is contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of the child in accordance with screening guidelines prescribed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

8. Reports involving individuals who aid, abet, induce, cause, encourage, or contribute to a child or a ward of the juvenile court by leaving the custody of any person, department, or public or private institution without the legal consent of that person, department, or institution

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 18 of 28

Reports of this nature will be screened in or out by the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services after consultation with the county prosecuting attorney.

# 9. Receiving and responding to reports of missing children

Upon learning that a minor child has either run away from or is otherwise missing from the home or the care, custody, and control of the child's parents, custodial parent, legal guardian, or non-custodial parent **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** shall:

- Refer the reporter to the law enforcement agency in the appropriate jurisdiction.
- Contact the law enforcement agency for entry into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database if the child is in Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services] custody.
- Contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) if the child is in Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services custody.

Upon request of law enforcement, **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services**] shall provide assistance and cooperation in the investigation of a missing child, including the immediate provision of any information possessed by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** which may be relevant in the investigation.

Law enforcement shall notify **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services**] upon learning that a minor child who is alleged to be in the child services system or who is known or suspected to be abused or neglected has either run away from or is otherwise missing from the home or the care, custody, and control of the child's parents, custodial parent, legal guardian, or non-custodial parent.

# I. Standards and procedures for removing and placing children

### 1. Emergency

Emergency removal of a child from home is necessary when the child is at imminent risk of harm and in need of protection from abuse, neglect, or dependency.

An ex parte order may be issued with or without a complaint being filed. Prior to taking the child into custody the judicial fact-finder must make a determination that reasonable efforts were made to notify the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, or there were reasonable grounds to believe doing so would jeopardize the safety of the child, or lead to the removal of the child from the jurisdiction.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 19 of 28

Juv. R 6 orders can be issued in-person, by phone, video conference, or otherwise. Reasonable grounds must exist to believe the child's removal is necessary to prevent immediate or threatened physical or emotional harm.

Findings must be made that the agency either did or did not make reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of the child from their home with a brief description of services provided and why those did not prevent the removal or allow the child to return home, and if temporary custody is granted to the PCSA an additional finding that it would be contrary to the welfare and best interest of the child to continue in the home. If granted, a shelter care hearing must be scheduled the next business day (but not later than seventy-two hours) after the emergency order has been issued. If the ex parte motion is denied the matter must be set for a shelter care hearing within ten days from the filing date.

See Section D1.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 20 of 28

# 2. Non-emergency

Upon receiving a report alleging child abuse, neglect, and/or dependency, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services commences an investigation in accordance with the requirements of section 2151.421 of the ORC. If the final case decision rises to the level of court involvement, Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall approach the juvenile court and file a complaint alleging the child(ren) to be abused, neglected, or dependent per ORC 2151.27. The matter will be set for a shelter care/preliminary protective hearing expeditiously by the juvenile court.

Reasonable oral or written notice of the time, place, and purpose of the hearing must be provided to the parents, guardian, or custodian unless they cannot be found. The same parties are also entitled to notification that a case plan may be prepared, the general requirements, and possible consequences of non-compliance with the case plan.

The parties will be served with the complaint and summons to appear before the juvenile court. Unrepresented parties are advised by the juvenile court of their right to counsel. Counsel is appointed for children when abuse is alleged. A Guardian Ad Litem is appointed to all children subject of abuse, neglect, or dependency proceedings. A separate guardian ad litem may be appointed to minor parents or parents who appear mentally incompetent.

The judicial fact-finder must determine whether there is probable cause that the child is abused, neglected, or dependent; the child is in need of protection, whether or not there is an appropriate relative or kin willing to assume temporary custody of the child, reasonable efforts were made by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** to prevent the removal or continued removal or to make it possible for the child to return home safely, and for temporary custody orders to **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** that it would be contrary to the welfare and best interest of the child to continue in the home. All other temporary orders should be requested and considered at this time.

See section D1.

J.	[Optional Section(s)]
	Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 21 of 28

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services has an agreement with the counties which belong to the Southeast Ohio District Job and Family Services Directors Association, including Meigs, Gallia, Jackson, South Central and Lawrence Counties for the continuation of services in the event of a natural disaster or other event which closes the Agency for a prolonged period of time. Each county agrees to assist the other, to the extent possible, with PCSA activities, including, but not limited to assessment and investigations of child abuse and neglect.

The Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will follow OAC 5101:2-36-06 when reports of a deserted child are made.

### IV. TRAINING

Cross system training is to be provided to and a plan developed by all signatories of this MOU to ensure parties understand the mission and goals identified in this MOU and are clear about the roles and responsibilities of each agency. Periodic trainings events will be coordinated by **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** as the lead agency and notification of the trainings will be provided to the signatories of this agreement. By agreeing to participate in the county MOU process signatories express a commitment to attend training opportunities when presented.

Signers of this MOU agree to meet at least every biennium to review the MOU and make any adjustments. If it necessary to meet sooner, any signer of this MOU, may ask for a meeting by placing their request in writing and sending it to the Director of the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services.

### V. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.)

When a conflict occurs among county partners, the effect is often broader than the individuals directly involved in the dispute. As disputes are often inevitable this MOU must set forth the local process by which disputes will be resolved so as not to disrupt program effectiveness.

As the mandated agency responsible for the provisions of child protective services, the ultimate decision on how to handle abuse, neglect investigations lie with **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services**. Every effort will be made to take in to account other subscribers' requests and concerns relating to services.

Criminal investigations and prosecution remain the responsibility of the prosecuting attorney and appropriate law enforcement agencies. **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services]** will assist these agencies, but in no way, interfere or jeopardize a criminal investigation or prosecution.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 22 of 28

For cases which come before the court as it relates to decisions and orders, the Juvenile Judge's rulings are final.

In the event internal conflict resolution efforts fail and a statutorily required participant refuses to sign or engage in the MOU process the PCSA is to consult with the County Prosecutor to explore available remedies.

### NA

### VI. CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Any report made in accordance with ORC section 2151.421 is confidential. Both the information and the name of the person who made the report under section 2151.421 shall not be released to the public for use and shall not be used as evidence in any civil action or proceeding brought against the person who made the report.

Children services records are not public records and are exempt from Ohio's Sunshine Laws under ORC 149.43. Children Services records are confidential in nature and should be treated accordingly.

ORC section 2151.423 requires **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** to disclose confidential information discovered during an investigation conducted pursuant to section 2151.421 or 2151.422 of the Ohio Revised Code to any federal, state, or local government entity that needs the information to carry out its responsibilities to protect children from abuse or neglect. Likewise, law enforcement, **The Child Protection Center of Ross County**, and other entities are expected to release information to **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** for the purpose of carrying out its responsibility of protecting children from abuse and/or neglect.

**NA** The confidentiality provisions of this MOU will survive the expiration or termination of this agreement.

Information regarding the report and/or investigation of alleged abuse or neglect may be shared only when dissemination is authorized by OAC section 5101:2-33-21 and in accordance with the procedures outlined in OAC section 5101:2-33-21. The unauthorized dissemination of confidential information is a misdemeanor and is punishable by law.

In the event of unauthorized dissemination of information, the party who learns of the breach of confidentiality will notify the Director of **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** as soon as possible. The notification will be sent to the Director in writing describing the circumstances surrounding the breach. The notification will specify the confidential information released, who is responsible for disseminating the confidential information, how it was disseminated, and the parties who have access to the information without authorization. The Director of

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 23 of 28

Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services shall then refer this information to the prosecutor at their discretion.

### VII. TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

This MOU must be retained for a period of at least seven years per the state of Ohio records retention schedule. Please refer to **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** records retention policy for information on forms to be completed and processes to be followed for the destruction of records.

Consultation among the signatories will be done in person, whenever practicable. When an in-person meeting is not possible the signer may employ the use of alternative methods of communication including but not limited to MS Teams, Skype, Zoom, or telephone as agreed upon by all members. When **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** is seeking consultation with a signer of this memorandum regarding an active referral of child abuse and/or neglect and has met in person or spoken with another signer, **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** will make written contact with the appropriate agency by the next working day to request the needed information and make the referral in writing.

The required members shall review and evaluate the terms and conditions of the MOU every biennium. All required members to the MOU will sign the new or updated agreement. **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** is to submit the MOU to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval with enough time for any revisions to be made prior to December thirty-first of the year.

This MOU does not inhibit good faith compliance with a subpoena issued by a Grand Jury or in a criminal case. Dissemination of records pursuant to the State's discovery obligations is authorized. However, work product and other privileges are expected to be upheld.

Failure to follow the procedure set forth in the MOU by the concerned officials is not grounds for, and shall not result in, the dismissal of any charges or complaint arising from any reported case of abuse or neglect or the suppression of any evidence obtained as a result of reported child abuse or child neglect and does not give, and shall not be construed as giving, any rights or any grounds for appeal or post-conviction relief to any person.

This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulation. In the event any portion of this MOU is inconsistent with state or federal law, that portion shall be without effect as if stricken from the document and the remaining portion shall remain in full force and effect.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 24 of 28

VIII. SIGNATURES OF EACH PARTICIPATING AGENCY: The number of required signatures will vary widely by county. It will be helpful to have the signatures take up the entirety of 1 page so counties could use as many signature pages as needed."

The signature section authorizes the participating parties of the agreement to begin enactment of MOU protocols and activities. The participating members agree to follow the terms of this MOU and to meet at minimum once every biennium to review terms and conditions, evaluate if updates are needed, and sign a new or amended MOU

If any individual serving as a signatory changes mid-term, **Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services** is to provide the new required member with the current memorandum. The new member remains bound by the most recently approved version of the memorandum. Their signature is to be obtained and submitted on or before the next biennial review.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 25 of 28

A required member to this agreement may terminate their involvement in the MOU for good cause upon giving reasonable written notice to the other required members in this MOU. All parties to this MOU agree to give 30 days written notice.

Signers of this MOU agree to meet at least every biennium to review the MOU and make any adjustments. If it is necessary to meet sooner, any signer of this MOU, may ask for a meeting by placing their request in writing and sending it to the Director of the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services. The Director of the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will schedule a meeting within thirty days of receiving the request. A meeting will be held and any adjustments to the MOU will be discussed. Any changes to the MOU must be agreed to by all the parties. If an agreement cannot be reached, then the Director of the Scioto County Department of Job and Family Services will have the final say as it relates to child abuse and neglect activities and the county prosecutor will have the final say as it relates to law enforcement or the handling of criminal activity as it relates to child abuse and neglect.

JFS 01425 (4/2022) Page 26 of 28

# Signature Page

Tamela Moore Morton, Director Scioto County Dept. of Job and Family Services	10 31 2023 Date
David Thoroughman, Sheriff Scioto County Sheriff's Department	<u>/o-31-23</u> Date
Debby Brewer, Chief Portsmouth Police Department	<u>10-31-23</u> Date
Carl Compton, Chief New Boston Police Department  Alan Lemons, Judge Scioto County Juvenile Court	
Shane Tieman, Prosecuting Attorney Scioto County Prosecutor	<u>10/31/2023</u> Date
Dr. Darren Adams, Coroner Scioto County Coroner	1//9/2025 Date
Child Protection Center of Ross County	_///3/23 Date

IX. R	efusal to Sign  Not Applicable (if selected this section is not relevant.)
th m H <b>[(</b>	he Scioto County Job and Family Services attests they attempted to obtain the signature of all required participating agencies as set forth in Section II of this nemorandum and as mandated through section 2151.4210 of the Revised Code. lowever, the following agency(ies) or individual(s) refused to sign this MOU. Option to repeat the following block of information in the event more than the agency/individual refuses to sign]
Α	rate: [Enter date of refusal] gency, Name, Title: [Enter the name of the agency, required individual, and neir title]
R	leason the individual refused to sign:
[Enter	the reason the individual refused to sign the text box]
Х. В	Soard of County Commissioners
р Т В	The <b>Scioto Couny Job and Family Services</b> shall submit the MOU signed by all articipating agencies, to the <b>Scioto County</b> Board of County Commissioners. The participating agencies will ensure there is adequate time for both the County board of Commissioners and ODJFS review and approval process along with any eturns for correction prior to the end of the contractual period.
Ō	County Commissioners signature and date/Resolution/Vote
	he Board of Scioto County Commissioners hereby review and approve the cioto County Memorandum of Understanding.
ATTAC	HMENTS
the sig demogr forward confide	CSA contracts with an outside source to receive after-hour calls, a copy of med agreement which indicates that all reports with identifying and raphic information of the reporter and principals of the report will be led to a designated PCSA worker within an hour of receipt and that initiality requirements will be met.]  County s  APPROVED  BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SCIOTO COUNTY, OHIO  Commissioners Journal  Journal 4 Page 507

# Resolution

#### SCIOTO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Distribution

Job & Family Services Auditor File

	Adopti
COMMISSIONERS	

Cathy Coleman Bryan Davis Scottie Powell

> Clerk Jenn Kish

November 16, 2023

Subject\_

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCIOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE SCIOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ADDRESS CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT RE: SCIOTO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES

It was moved by Mr. Davis and seconded by Mr. Powell that the following resolution be adopted:

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, sections 2151.4210, 2151.4211, 2151.4212, 2151.4215, 2151.4216, 2151.4220 and 2151.4224 of the Ohio Revised Code and section 5101:2-33-26 of the Ohio Administrative Code require a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Child Abuse and Neglect be executed by the participating agencies within Scioto County, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the primary goals of the MOU are the elimination of all unnecessary interviews of children who are the subject of reports of child abuse or neglect and when feasible, conducting only one interview of a child who is the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, the Scioto County Job and Family Services shall submit the MOU signed by all participating agencies, to the Scioto County Board of Commissioners to review and approve prior to the end of the contractual period; and

WHEREAS, upon the approval by the Scioto County Board of Commissioners, it will be necessary for the Chairman of the Scioto County Board of Commissioners to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board.

#### NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 1: That upon submission of the MOU signed by all participating agencies to the Scioto County Board of Commissioners, the Scioto County Board of Commissioners shall review and approve the MOU prior to the end of the contractual period.

Section 2: That upon the approval by the Scioto County Board of Commissioners, the Chairman of the Scioto County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized to execute the MOU on behalf of the Scioto County Board of Commissioners.

As to such action, each member voted as follows:

Mr. Davis "aye"

Mr. Powell "aye"

Ms. Coleman "aye"

### CERTIFICATION

I, Jenn Kish, the duly appointed and acting Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners, Scioto County, Ohio, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted on November 16, 2023, Journal 94, Page 586.

Jenn Kish Clerk