

## Action for Children



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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Action for Children Announces Interim CEO Appointment

**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** Action for Children's Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Ann Lockett as the Interim Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. This follows the recent departure of former CEO Eric Karolak, who served the organization with dedication for over a decade.

Ann brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to the mission of Action for Children. Ann has been a valued member of the Action for Children Board and currently serves as the Director of Early Childhood at the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio (ESC), where she cultivates relationships to strategically enhance student access to high-quality early childhood education. Ann has worked in early childhood education for over 30 years and has master's degrees in speech language pathology from Pennsylvania State University and educational leadership from the University of Dayton.

"We are confident in Ann's ability to lead Action for Children during this transition period," said Mary Kay Irwin, Action for Children Board Chair. "Her understanding of our mission and her proven leadership within the board of directors and as serving as the Director of Early Childhood with the ESC makes her the ideal choice as we continue our vital work in the community."

Reflecting on the future, Ann stated, "I am honored to step into this role and work alongside the dedicated team at Action for Children to ensure that we continue to provide essential resources and support to children, families, and early childhood educators. Together, we will build on the strong foundation laid by Eric Karolak and strive to make a lasting impact on the seven counties we serve."

Action for Children remains committed to addressing the needs of our community, ensuring that children, families, and early childhood educators have the resources they need to succeed. The Board will work with leadership from the ESC to begin the process of recruiting a permanent CEO.

"Ann Lockett is an invaluable asset to the ESC of Central Ohio, our school districts, and those seeking to improve early childhood outcomes in central Ohio, said Tom Goodney, ESC Superintendent. Ann is accomplished in this arena and consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication to advancing educational opportunities for our community. Her commitment to early education and child development will continue to bring positive impact to both organizations."

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*Action for Children is the local child care resource and referral agency for central Ohio, committed to assuring quality early learning experiences for all children. Our services focus on transforming the lives of children by supporting the everyday heroes who most influence our children's early growth: caregivers, educators, parents, and guardians.*

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