



July 9, 2024

Release of Special Audit Report by the Ohio Auditor of State

The Richland County Board of Commissioners supports the Ohio Auditor of State in issuing a finding for recovery against former County Job & Family Services Director Sharlene Neumann. The finding is in the amount of \$16,614 and in favor of Richland County's Public Assistance Fund. The Board of Commissioners believes this finding for recovery to be in the best interest of preserving and protecting the public trust. More information is available through public records request directly to the Auditor of State ("AOS") for the complete investigative file on this matter.

The Board of Commissioners contacted the AOS in 2022 to report potential theft of time by Ms. Neumann as well as potential conflict of interest violations involving Ms. Neumann, former Youth and Family Council Executive Director Teresa Alt, and former JFS Business Administrator Carmen Torrence. After the completion of an investigation into the theft of time allegations, summarized in the AOS Special Audit Report, Ms. Neumann resigned from the County in lieu of involuntary discharge in August 2022. Thereafter, both Ms. Alt and Ms. Torrence were involuntarily terminated from County employment following the completion of an investigation into the conflict of interest allegations. The public is encouraged to inspect the AOS investigative file for a more complete presentation of the facts supporting the finding for recovery and the administrative actions determined necessary by the Board of Commissioners.

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