

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** February 2, 2026

## **Lorain County Juvenile Court Announces Temporary Closure of Turning Point Shelter Due to Lorain County Commissioners' Funding Withdrawal**

Lorain County Juvenile Court is announcing the temporary closure of the Turning Point Shelter by no later than March 1, 2026, after the Lorain County Commissioners abruptly discontinued all funding for this vital community resource. With no notice and no financial support, the Court was left with no choice but to close Turning Point's doors.

Turning Point Shelter is Lorain County's only emergency short-term shelter care for youth experiencing abuse or neglect, domestic violence, human trafficking, or mental-health crises. For years, Turning Point Shelter has served hundreds of youths in crisis and has been a critical resource for families, law enforcement, children services, schools, and mental health providers.

"The closing of Turning Point leaves a painful void in our community. These young people need a safe place in their most vulnerable moments, and without it, they will be without the support they need and should be able to rely on. This is a loss that will be felt by many children and families in Lorain County," said Administrative Judge Sherry Glass.

Despite the Court's efforts to prevent this outcome, the County's financial decisions made continued operation impossible. The Court voluntarily froze its 2026 budget to the 2025 budget by eliminating positions and leaving vacancies unfilled as requested by the County Commissioners. The Court later learned that the Commissioners did not approve the budget and had removed all Turning Point funding. After two pay periods into 2026, the Court still did not have access to the 2026 budget allocation and learned that zero dollars had been allocated to the Turning Point Shelter with no prior communication from the Commissioners.

"We approached this year's budget process in good faith and with a genuine willingness to work together. We made difficult cuts and agreed to freeze our 2026 budget to help the County through a challenging financial year. The Commissioners' decision to not fund Turning Point has left the Court with no other option but to discontinue this essential service," explained Judge Frank Janik.

The Court recognizes that closing Turning Point will place a substantial burden on county agencies, complicate law enforcement logistics, and have a devastating impact on vulnerable youth and families. While legal and procedural options are being explored, the Court is also actively seeking community collaboration, expertise, and alternative funding to restore this essential resource.

"Our commitment to the children and families of Lorain County, as well as to our law enforcement and mental health partners, has not changed. We remain dedicated to doing everything within our power to eventually restore this resource and ensure that the children and families of Lorain County have this option for the safety, stability, and care that they deserve," Judge Lisa Swenski stated.