2019 IMPACT STATEMENT

The Ohio Children’s Alliance strives to deliver value to our members through adherence to our four pillars: advocate, educate, innovate, and connect. This past year proved to be an exciting and historic year for our Alliance, our members, and our entire state. We are proud of what we accomplished together in furthering our mission to “sustainably improve the provision of services to children, young adults, and families” through effective public policy, education offerings, organizational effectiveness, and coalition-building.

EDUCATE

Sharing Knowledge, Resources and Opportunities

♦ Convened the Sixth Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit before a sold-out crowd of more than 400 attendees in partnership with OhioMHAS through a grant that we received for the fifth consecutive year
♦ Hosted our Spring Conference before more than 300 attendees and featured four members of the Governor’s Cabinet
♦ Co-hosted a member forum on child welfare sector issues with the Child Welfare League of America
♦ Spoke at the Governor’s Children’s Mental Health Summit held in Dayton, Ohio about the power of collaboration to address children’s mental health
♦ Hosted our Fall Conference before more than 200 attendees and featured several prominent CEOs, sector leaders, and federal and state officials
♦ Convened the first annual Hope 4 the Wounded Conference before an audience of more than 200 through our new partnership with Hope 4 the Wounded LLC
♦ Received $5,000 in grant support from RALI Ohio for provider trainings aimed at meeting the needs of families and children as a result of Ohio’s opioid crisis
♦ Facilitated responses to more than 75 medical coding questions from members through our contract with a certified medical coder

Hosted Events

♦ Five trainings on trauma informed care in partnership with the National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC), with grant support from UnitedHealthcare as part of the Ohio Childhood Trauma Institute
♦ Four expanded trainings on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to a combined audience of 200
♦ A Safe and Supported Youth: An LGBTQ Cultural Competency Training
♦ Two trainings led by Sonda Kunzi, addressing best practices for coding and billing mental health, and managing healthcare reimbursement
♦ A 3-part managed care webinar series, Optimizing the Practice of Behavioral Health, let by Pinnacle Partners
♦ A seven-month series of fourteen webinars for a Learning Community on Back Office Management and Managed Care

ADVOCATE

Building Efficient Paths to the Best Outcomes for Children and Families

Child Welfare

♦ Secured increased state funding for children services (more than a $100 million per year increase) and for Ohio’s first dedicated state funding to support multi-system youth and prevent custody relinquishment ($18 million)
♦ Achieved legislative reauthorization of the ODJFS Bridges program ($34 million)
♦ Provided leadership to the State of Ohio on implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) by serving on the state Steering Committee, co-chairing the QRTP Subcommittee, and serving on subcommittees and workgroups
♦ Collaborated with stakeholders to author changes to Ohio’s Foster Home Licensing Standards pursuant to FFPSA
♦ Implemented an advocacy campaign to secure new federal funding to support FFPSA implementation; presented on several state and national webinars and served on a televised panel at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C.
♦ Initiated introduction of Ohio House Bill 8, legislation that would ease the process and experience of becoming a licensed foster caregiver
♦ Re-appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to another two-year term on the Governor’s Council on Juvenile Justice
♦ Joined forces with Voices for Ohio’s Children, expanding advocacy initiatives and resources by over $100,000 in grant funding
♦ Partnered with ODJFS to design and promote the It Takes 100% Heart foster and adoptive parent recruitment campaign
Child Welfare (continued)

- Represented members’ voices on several advocacy coalitions including the newly created Ohio Legislative Children’s Caucus, Advocates for Ohio’s Future, Ohio Children’s Budget Coalition, the Opioid Education Action Alliance, and Parity at 10 Coalition
- Successfully advocated for Ohio to come into compliance with D.O. v. Gissson federal court ruling concerning payments to kinship caregivers
- Filed an amicus curiae brief to a U.S. District Court in support of a member agency’s court case against Disability Rights Ohio
- Named as a partner to the Governor’s Child Welfare Transformation Advisory Group

Behavioral Health

- Secured a 30% increase for behavioral health Medicaid group and crisis services
- Achieved expansion of allowable practitioners of TBS Case Management, thereby empowering agencies to secure greater reimbursement for case management performed by licensed social workers, such as in foster care programs
- Organized a panel of member CEOs to testify before the Ohio House of Representatives on the behavioral health sector
- Assisted member agencies in obtaining cash advances from Medicaid MCOs and resolving billing and contracting disputes
- Fought for legislative changes and administrative enforcement of non-emergency Medicaid transportation (NEMT) on behalf of kids and families who rely on transportation assistance in order to attend day treatment programs
- Submitted comprehensive feedback to the Ohio Department of Medicaid on procurement of contracts with Managed Care Organizations
- Collaborated with ODM and MCOs to improve the provider rostering and credentialing process
- Actively participate in the Coalition for Healthy Communities which issued policy recommendations to the DeWine Administration

INNOVATE

Promoting the Needs of Kids by Being In Front, Up Front and Prepared for the Future

- Created a Managed Care Learning Community webinar series conducted by MTM Services
- Formed a Learning Community for Day Treatment providers to foster peer learning and advance best practices
- Formed two Affinity Groups that foster peer learning: Billing and Coding and Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
- Secured our first value-based reimbursement contract with a Medicaid health plan
- Celebrated the one-year anniversary of operating the Ohio Bridges program for young adults who aged out of foster care having served over 1,000 young adults and increased provider rates by 5%
- Initiated the formation of a clinically integrated health care network among Collaborative provider organizations and grew participating providers to 45
- Became the Ohio site of the national CHAMPS campaign aimed at improving the field of foster parenting

CONNECT

Fostering a Respected Community of Collaborators

- Expanded our full membership to 80 agencies statewide for the first time in our history
- Implemented a new membership management system to improve member experiences with event registration, dues payment and more
- Published a Compensation Study on behalf of our member agencies
- Hired five new employees to support the Collaborative
- Hired a new full-time Public Policy Coordinator to support the Alliance
- Hosted five public policy update webinars
- Implemented an OhioMHAS grant that provides rapid cycle change consultation services for member agencies
- Provided ongoing fiscal agent support to the O.H.I.O. Youth Advisory Board and A.C.T.I.O.N. Foster Care Alumni Group
- Expanded our office space including our training center to accommodate larger membership meetings and trainings
- Enhanced organization health by achieving re-accreditation as a charity with the Better Business Bureau and another clean independent fiscal audit