

2020

highlights

Ohio Children's Alliance

*Leading change for child
and family service providers*

2600 Corporate Exchange Drive, Suite 180
Columbus, OH 43231
(614) 461-0014 OhioChildrensAlliance.org



Transforming CARE FOR KIDS

The Ohio Children's Alliance believes that all children deserve the opportunity to grow up in healthy, safe, and loving environments. Investing in this belief is an investment in our state's future.

We advocate and foster collaborations aimed at improving lives of children and the success of their families. The Alliance advocates with an informed and unified voice that is effective and produces results.

Members and supporters of the Ohio Children's Alliance are connected to a respected community of collaborators and are provided access to timely news and innovative resources. Together, we are advancing change and improving lives.



Educate

Dedicated to sharing knowledge, resources and opportunities

Advocate

Dedicated to building efficient paths to the best outcomes for Ohio's children and families

Innovate

Dedicated to promoting the needs of Ohio's children by being in front, up front and exceedingly prepared for the future

Connect

Dedicated to fostering a respected community of collaborators

Our Team

ALLIANCE TEAM



Mark Mecum, MA
Chief Executive Officer



Karen Hill
Chief Operating and Financial Officer



Sarah LaTourette
Chief Advocacy Officer



Dave Dixon, MPA
Operations and Data Manager



Tina Jacob, MPH, CHES
Program Manager



Gabrielle Judy
Office Administrator



Ruthie Zimmerman
Member Services Coordinator



Kathryn Rossman
Policy and Communications Associate

COLLABORATIVE TEAM



Lorie Stadtmiller, MBA
Healthcare Network Director



Aditi Naik, MPA
Healthcare Network Coordinator



Geoff Hollenbach, MSSW, LISW-S
Bridges Program Administrator



Latasha Colbert
Bridges Program Manager



Jason Harland
Bridges NW Regional Coordinator



Kelcee Ancona
Bridges Compliance Coordinator



Eliza Phinney
Bridges Intake and Referral Coordinator



Alexis Smith
Administrative Support Specialist

Advocacy

FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

The Ohio Children's Alliance applies our collective strengths to achieve better outcomes for Ohio's children and families. Our advocacy efforts with policy makers are the primary ways that we pursue these goals. Our advocacy team is led by CEO (Mark Mecum), Chief Advocacy Officer (Sarah LaTourette), Policy and Communications Associate (Kate Rossman), and includes our contract lobbyist Michelle Fitzgibbon. Together with our staff, members, and community stakeholders, we elevate the voices of kids and families and community agencies to produce a better system of care.

2020 proved uniquely challenging as COVID-19 made a significant, lasting impact on the Health and Human Services sector. By leveraging the abilities of community agencies, we met these challenges head-on and created new opportunities to thrive. We promoted access to hundreds of millions of dollars for relief supports, increased telehealth flexibilities, sought waivers for state regulations, and helped achieve civil immunity for community agencies.



We elevate the voices of kids and families and community agencies to produce a better system of care.

MARK MECUM
Ohio Children's Alliance, CEO



Despite the unprecedented challenges caused by the pandemic, our team continued to focus on core issues facing children, families, and community agencies. These include:



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, serving on subcommittees and workgroups, and assisting in securing QRTP grant funding to community agencies

Represented the Alliance on the statewide Multi-System Youth Action Plan Committee and subcommittees, and contributed to its recommendations on ending the practice of custody relinquishment, which were presented to the state legislature

Successfully spearheaded advocacy efforts on Ohio House Bill 8, legislation to improve Ohio's foster caregiver training program, which was unanimously passed and signed by the Governor

Represented the Alliance and the voices of children on several advocacy coalitions including the Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus, Advocates for Ohio's Future, Lead Free Kids Coalition, Ready Set Soar Ohio, Coalition for Healthy Communities, Parity at 10 Coalition, and the Ohio Children's Budget Coalition

Contributed new ideas to Governor's Children Services Transformation Advisory Council and its report on comprehensive child welfare recommendations, as well as the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice

We are committed to continuing to grow and strengthen our collective voice and look forward to identifying new and innovative ways to improve Ohio's system of care.

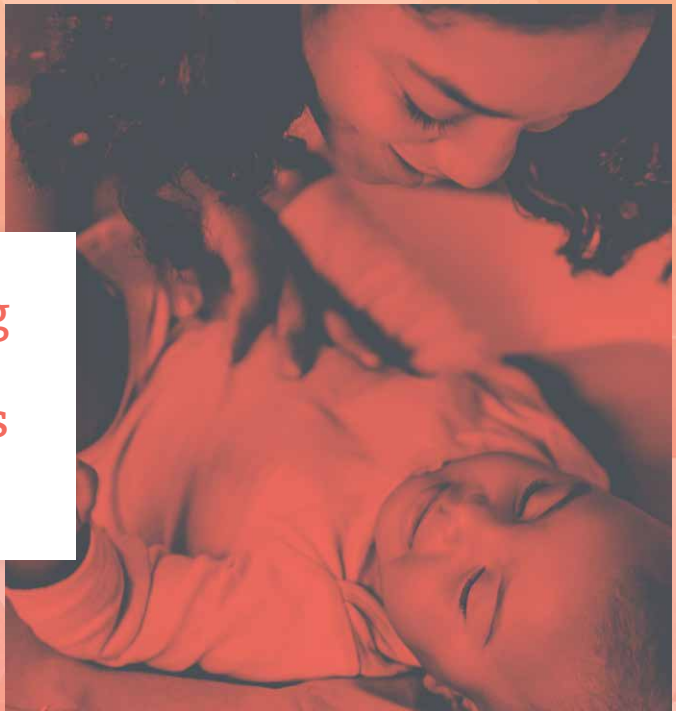
Up Front, In Front

AND PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

During 2020, community agencies were challenged to be innovative. Without hesitation, they stepped up and empowered their clients during these trying times. Together with our members and partners, we are proud of what we accomplished, including new grant-funded programs supported by UnitedHealthcare and Molina Healthcare, equipping community agencies to provide telehealth services, and supporting Intensive Home-Based Treatment program expansion. With support from Aetna, we enhanced access to same-day mental health centers. And in partnership with ODJFS, we provided mini-grants to children's residential facilities to equip them with supplies during the pandemic.

We are partnering to transform care for kids through two new Learning Communities: Home Visiting and Family Search and Engagement.

achieving
positive
outcomes
together





Ohio Reach

The Ohio Children's Alliance was awarded the Ohio Reach grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Ohio Reach works to build supports around students at the institutional level through an active network of professionals who work in the post-secondary education sector as well as bringing in invested parties at the state and community levels to support youth as they graduate. During 2020, Ohio Reach improved connections to resources, added partner organizations, expanded the amount of youth receiving support in school, provided thousands of dollars to students to mitigate crises, and laid the groundwork to re-establish a scholarship program for foster care alumni to attend college (expect to launch in 2021!). To ensure the Ohio Reach network reaches more students, the current network of 15 participating institutions of higher education is poised to significantly increase in 2021.

Nearly 30 college students were assisted with completing their FAFSA forms enabling them to continue their education.

Over \$7,000 was allocated via safety net funding to students in support of their tuition, groceries, housing, transportation and utilities. Removing these barriers is critical for young people to remain in school.



AmeriCorps

The Ohio Children's Alliance was awarded an AmeriCorps planning grant from Serve Ohio to create a Peer Mentoring program. This new program matches foster youth preparing to age out of Ohio's foster care system with peer adult mentors with lived experience. Mentorship is a critical ingredient to empowering young adults to thrive!



Our Collaborative

PROMOTING HEALTH & WELLNESS

The behavioral health care and social service sector is rapidly changing in Ohio and across the country. The Ohio Children's Alliance responded to this volatility by establishing a Collaborative of community agencies that work together to improve their quality of care and promote their sustainability and relevance. Since 2017, the Collaborative has advanced value-based care and social services innovation among more than forty community agencies spanning every region of Ohio.

In creating this opportunity for Ohio Children's Alliance member organizations, the Collaborative fosters communication and data-sharing, and information on best practices between health plans, health care organizations, and government agencies in behavioral health. This enterprise allows our members to leverage opportunities to innovate and improve health and social outcomes, achieve savings, foster health integration, and establish administrative efficiencies. In doing so, we achieve our mission by providing better care to those that matter most—children and families.



Clinically Integrated Health Care Network

Helping our behavioral health providers remain competitive, our CIN engages in value-based care arrangements with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO).



Bridges Program

Ohio's program that supports young adults aging out of foster care with education, housing, health and well-being, and employment, and empowers them to actively take part in building a better future for themselves.



Value Based Care

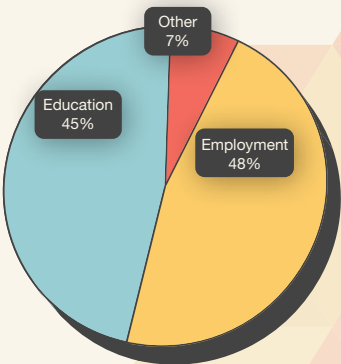
Embracing a value-based lens of health care reimbursement because it rewards and incentivizes quality of care to produce better outcomes for kids and families.

Bridges Program

In the face of a year of unprecedented challenges, the Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio, a subsidiary of the Ohio Children's Alliance, continued its administration of the Ohio Bridges program, in partnership with ODJFS. During 2020, the program reached new heights. The amount of young adults enrolled more than doubled to include over 2,000 participants. The Collaborative also released its first Bridges Participant Satisfaction Survey which was completed by over 400 young people. Over a range of 15 measures, Participants gave the program an overall score of 4.67 on a 5-point scale. We are excited about our success and are dedicated to continuous improvement.

Many Bridges Participants were significantly impacted by COVID-19 as they experienced health care issues, job losses, disruptions to their educational endeavors, and child care services. The Collaborative worked with participants to empower them to overcome these challenges by providing enhanced supports, including through virtual means. We are proud that new program flexibilities were implemented that ensure young adults are equipped to achieve their goals.

Celebrated almost three years of operating the Bridges program through a partnership with ODJFS. This statewide program has successfully served more than 2,000 young adults who aged out of Ohio's foster care system; 94% of whom successfully enrolled in education or maintained employment



PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY ENDEAVORS



Bridges has positively impacted me in a million ways...

BRIDGES PARTICIPANT





As part of this collaboration we also laid the ground for the launch of Ohio's first statewide behavioral health respite program.



Healthcare Network

The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio, a subsidiary of the Alliance, is Ohio's premier provider network. The Collaborative cultivates and manages programs and services that make Ohio's system of care more effective for health plans, government, providers, and consumers.

Under the leadership of our Health Care Network Director, Lorie Stadtmiller, we completed our second year of a value-based health care program with Unitedhealthcare Community Plan of Ohio that demonstrated improved health care outcomes for kids and cost savings to Ohio's Medicaid program. During 2020 we also completed the development of our clinically integrated behavioral health care network which further propels our statewide network to achieve optimal outcomes for kids and families.

The Collaborative expanded its partnership with health systems in 2020. A collaboration program with Ohio's largest Medicaid health plan, CareSource, launched with a focus on improving coordination of care for multi-system youth. As part of this collaboration we also laid the ground for the launch of Ohio's first statewide behavioral health respite program.

Connecting to Share

KNOWLEDGE, RESOURCES, OPPORTUNITIES

At the height of the pandemic, our team created and continually updated a **COVID-19** response webpage which included local, state, and federal **COVID-19** policies, state and federal guidance, best practices, **COVID-19** related legislation analyses, information on accessing health supplies, and legal resources.



TELEHEALTH SERVICES

We advocated for the expansion of telehealth services and supported community agencies by hosting an informational webinar on telehealth policy with leaders from OhioMHAS and the Department of Medicaid; and led a 3-part virtual Telehealth webinar series with an expert psychologist at the height of the pandemic, providing critical information to more than 200 community agencies across the state.



CONFERENCES

When the need arose, instead of canceling events, we assisted in coordinating the Seventh Annual Ohio Trauma-Informed Care Summit in partnership with OhioMHAS. During 2020, we converted it to a virtual event and still achieved a record crowd of over 1,000 participants. Further, in partnership with OhioMHAS, we convened our Annual Conference and the OhioMHAS System of Care Conference for 5 days during the Fall, with more than 400 participants.

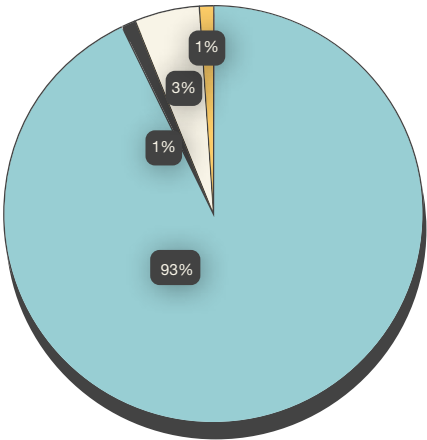
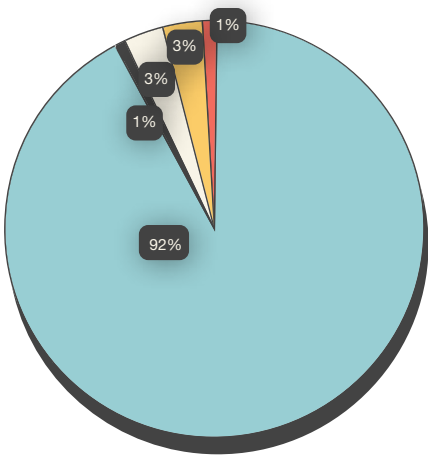


RACIAL EQUITY

In response to a strong need in Ohio and across the country, we established a formal commitment to pursuing achievement of racial equity for the first time in our history, and hosted a 2-part racial equity webinar and active discussion led by the Executive Director of Equity in the Center, for leadership teams with more than 40 community agencies across the state.

Financial Overview

FOR 2020



REVENUE

■ Bridges Grant	\$18,352,168.91
■ Healthcare Network	\$268,156
■ Other Grants & Contributions	\$652,695
■ Membership Dues	\$532,779
■ Investment Income	\$38,685

TOTAL \$20,045,191

EXPENSES

■ Bridges Program	\$18,381,877
■ Healthcare Network	\$271,894
■ Other Programs	\$896,044
■ Administrative	\$194,235
■ Fundraising	\$4,173

TOTAL \$19,748,223

* PRE-AUDITED FIGURES

Purchase a Plate & Drive Support

FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN

Ohio drivers can show you care for at-risk children with the Ohio “Kids First” specialty license plate, which is available for purchase through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and [oplates.com](https://www.plates.com). Sales of the plate benefit Ohio Children’s Alliance, helping to advance advocacy efforts for community agencies that serve at-risk youth, young adults, and families.





Board of Directors

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St. Joseph Orphanage

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Bryan Forney
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South Community

Richard Graziano
The Village Network

Sheree Lynch
Positive Leaps

Jeffrey Greene
St. Vincent Family Center

Sean Reilly
UMCH Family Services

Paul Haffner
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

Bruce Tessena
Abraxas Youth & Family Services

Memberships and Coalitions

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
CHAMPS – Children Need Amazing Parents
Child Welfare League of America (CWLA)
Council on Accreditation (COA)
Foster Family-Based Treatment Association (FFTA)
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC)

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for Healthy Communities
RALI Ohio – Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative
Ohio Opioid Education Alliance
Advocates for Ohio's Future
Ohio Children's Budget Coalition
Ohio Adoption Planning Group (OAPG)
Ohio Independent Living Association (OHILA)
Ohio Juvenile Justice Alliance
Parity at 10 Coalition

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY

Aetna
CareSource Foundation
Molina Healthcare
ODHE
ODJFS
OhioMHAS
NACAC
ServeOhio
UnitedHealthcare

PUBLIC PARTNER MEMBERS

Licking County Department of Job and Family Services
Muskingum County Children Services
Trumbull County Children Services



Full Members

A New Leaf

*Abraxas Youth & Family Services

Adopt America Network

***Adriel**

Advantage Family Outreach & Foster Care

*Agape for Youth

*Bair Foundation

***Beech Acres Parenting Center**

***Beech Brook**

Belmont Pines Hospital

Boundless Behavioral Services

***Buckeye Ranch, The**

*Cadence Care Network

Camelot Community Care

*Caring for Kids

*Children's Center of Ohio, The

***Children's Home of Cincinnati, The**

***CHOICES**

*Christian Children's Home of Ohio

*Chrysalis Family Solutions

Cleveland Christian Home

Columbus Springs Dublin

*Community Teaching Homes

*Daybreak

Dungarvin Ohio

Eastway Behavioral Healthcare

Envision

*Family Pride of Northeast Ohio

*Focus on Youth

Fox Run Center for Children and Adolescents

***Genacross Family & Youth Services**

Hittle House

House of New Hope

H.Y.P.E.

*Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

*Isaiah's Place

Journey Home Foster Care & Adoption

JusticeWorks YouthCare

Kids Count Too

Life Start

*Lighthouse Youth and Family Services

Marie's House of Hope

***Marsh Foundation, The**

*Mayo Home for Youth Development

Mended Reeds

*National Youth Advocate Program

Nationwide Children's Hospital

*Necco

Nella's Place

*New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center

New Mercy Outreach

*Northeast Ohio Adoption Services

***Oesterlen Services for Youth**

Ohio Guidestone

*Ohio Mentor

Path Integrated Healthcare

*Pathway Caring for Children

Positive Education Program

*Positive Leaps

*Pressley Ridge

*PsyCare

Quality Care Residential Homes

Ravenwood Health

Reach Counseling Services

Safely Home

*Shelter Care

Silver Linings Agency

*Sojourner's Care Network

*South Community

*Southeast Healthcare Services

*Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth

Step Higher - Nella's Place

*St. Aloysius

***St. Joseph Orphanage**

*St. Vincent Family Center

*The Village Network

*Thrive Therapeutics

Unk's Place

***UMCH Family Services**

Unified Dwelling

*Viaquest

Wellmore Centre

Youth Advocate Services

*Youth Villages

Charter Member (1973)

***Participant of the Collaborative**

