

2023 Impact Statement



86
Member
Organizations



36
Staff



84
Policy
Meetings



26
Professional
Education
Events



41
Corporate
Sponsors



25
Grants



7
Programs
Dedicated
to Kids and
Families

educate

By leveraging virtual and in-person experiences, events, and educational offerings, we continue to expand our engagement and impact in the child and family services space.

- Convened our **47th Annual Conference** in the Spring as well as our **Fall Conference** before 660 participants, featuring 82 presenters, and 52 individual sessions.
- **Hosted 26 professional education** events reaching a total of 2,150 child-serving professionals.
- Provided **101.5 Continuing Education hours** for behavioral health and foster care providers.
- **Hosted 38 monthly Committee meetings** and targeted policy discussions with 1,792 total registrations.
- **Established a new Committee on billing and coding best practices and policies** for community behavioral health agencies as well as learning communities for psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) and certified community behavioral health clinic (CCBHC) policies and best practices.
- **Convened two statewide conferences** in partnership with OhioMHAS to advance Trauma Informed Care before 725 participants, featuring 69 presenters, and 39 individual sessions.
- Through our Foster Home Recruitment Program, **developed the Foster and Adoptive Family Journey**, a family-centric tool for recruiting more foster and adoptive families and led training opportunities for public and private foster care agencies.
- **Hosted 38 state department leaders** in conferences, meetings, and events.



Ohio Children's Alliance CEO, Mark Mecum with Kara Wentz, Director, Ohio Department of Children and Youth at the 2023 Fall Conference.

advocate

In 2023 we advocated on dozens of children's policy issues to leaders in state departments, the Ohio General Assembly, Governor's office, and the federal government.

We successfully shaped many policies and funding opportunities, including:

- \$148 million/year in Medicaid rate increases for behavioral health services in state fiscal years '24-'25.
- \$50 million in funding for Pediatric Behavioral Health services.
- Increased funding and guidelines for the Student Wellness and Success Program, promoting partnerships between schools and parents with behavioral health providers.
- \$15 million in funding for the Ohio Adoption Grant Program.
- Removal of legislative language that would increase administrative burden and inefficiencies in ODJFS agency hiring practices.
- Protection of safety protocols in OhioMHAS administrative rules which safeguard patients, families, and direct care staff.
- Development of statewide Workgroups on the Placement Crisis and Alleged Perpetrator Registry reform.
- Establishment and design of the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. (ODCY)
- Next Generation Managed Care and OhioRISE measures including PNM, waivers, PRTE, and CANS.
- ODJFS initiatives including the Tiered Foster Care Pilot, Continuous Certification, and Automated Systems.

We participated in over 30 statewide and federal coalitions and workgroups

including the ODCY Placement Crisis Workgroup, OhioMHAS CCBHC Workgroup, ODJFS Partners for Ohio's Families Advisory Board, ODJFS Tiered Treatment Foster Care Workgroup, Medicaid OhioRISE Workgroups, Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice, Ohio Multi-System Youth Coalition, Coalition for Healthy Communities, Association of Children's Residential Centers, the National Organization of State Associations for Children, and Partnership for America's Children.

Highlight on Bridges in Ohio State Budget

In 2023, the state legislature deliberated on House Bill 33, the Ohio FY '24-'25 budget bill. Proposed funding cuts were made in the process that put the Bridges Program in jeopardy of a multimillion dollar shortfall. In partnership with PCSA's, private agencies, former foster youth, foster parents, and even current Bridges participants, **we worked to advocate for full funding of the program.**

Through a coordinated digital advocacy campaign, we increased access for communities impacted by the program to resources and opportunities. 363 emails and calls were shared by these communities to their state legislators on behalf of Bridges, and our network of advocates grew to 408.



HB 33 was signed on July 4 by Governor DeWine with an additional \$2 million in the Bridges line item as well as other restoration funding for child welfare.

We were also selected as a winner of a prestigious 2023 Aging Out Institute (AOI) Award in the Youth Impact category.



innovate

2022 brought new innovations in services delivery as we grew and expanded our impact. Together, we are expanding resources and access to care and for children and families.

- Awarded the statewide Bridges grant for a second time.
- Worked with ODJFS to disburse \$1.262 million in incentive funds for 6 community foster care agencies participating in the statewide Tiered Foster Care Pilot.
- Supported Ohio's Family First Prevention Plan by releasing \$20,000 in funding to community behavioral health providers expanding access to intensive family preservation services for families without Medicaid coverage.
- Earned a \$50,000 Respite Referral Incentive Grant from Aetna Better Health of Ohio, supporting behavioral health agencies growing their capacity to provide therapeutic relief to families.
- Released grants to support clinicians across 7 community-based organizations to advance best practices in the delivery of mental health services over telehealth platforms.
- Provided \$27,000 in funding from the United Health Foundation to support behavioral health providers in the Mental Health Bridge Network. Propelled our Collaborative health care network by cultivating three value-based programs with Ohio Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and receiving performance payments of \$530,000.
- Distributed \$33,000 in Technology Awards to Collaborative member agencies utilizing CliniSync.
- Produced a report exploring Health Information Technology in behavioral health including strategies for incorporation as well as its benefits and barriers.
- Led a successful quality improvement program in our Collaborative's Bridges program that achieved a performance incentive award of over \$433,000.
- Developed an online Respite referral platform which connected care coordinators to participating behavioral health agencies, increasing the placement rate to 40% and serving 390 families.
- Produced a Bridges Impact Report highlighting program successes, including:
 - At the age of 21, 100% of young adults exited the program in stable housing⁹
 - 92% of participants who participated in our survey were satisfied with the program's services and support.
 - \$19,000 in incentive funds were distributed to participants earning a high school diploma, GED, certification, or an Associate's degree.



connect

We advance our mission by connecting advocates, policy makers, and community leaders to advance change. More and more, our programs are also directly connecting young adults and families to new resources.

We continued to increase our community engagement to youth and families.

- Continued efforts in partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to expand Ohio's foster and adoptive home capacity **through digital advertisements which have now been viewed 26 million times.**
- Partnered with the Ohio Department of Higher Education to develop a first-of-its-kind state designation for postsecondary institutions demonstrating unwavering support of foster care-connected students. 28 colleges were awarded the Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation and **\$126,000 in award payments were distributed.**
- Released scholarships for foster care alumni to pursue higher education through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Higher Education; **9 student awardees of \$9,000 in scholarships** to provide tuition and school expense supports.

\$9
THOUSAND

In scholarships awarded to 9 foster care alumni to pursue higher education goals.

This year, we formed new **connections**

28

New Businesses as Corporate Sponsors

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio
Belmont Pines Hospital
Binti
Charlie Health
CompanyMileage
Connect Our Kids
Family Focused Treatment Association
Focus on Youth
Glenwood Behavioral
ITA Audio Visual Solutions
LightForce Engraving
LYFT Learning
Marsh Foundation
National Youth Advocate Program

Nonprofits Insurance Alliance (NIA)
OCCRA
OhioRISE | Aetna
Omni Family Services
OrionNet Systems
PAXIS Institute
SAFY
The Ohio State Univ. College of Nursing
The Village Network
This End Up Furniture Company
Wingspan Care Group
WSI Technologies
St. Vincent Family Center
Youth Intensive Services

5

New Community-Based Organizations as Ohio Children's Alliance Members

Talbert House
Clear Creek Farm
Charlie Health
Mohican Young Star Academy
Wingspan Care Group and subsidiaries:

- Applewood Centers
- Bellefaire JCB
- Bluestone Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Hospital
- Lifeworks
- Wuliger Wellness Center

50TH

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

As we wind down our 50TH anniversary celebrations, we want to thank our dedicated members, partners, and supporters for five decades of unwavering commitment to improving systems for Ohio children and families.

and What's Next



strategic plan

One year into our 5-year strategic plan, here is a snapshot of our progress:

Triple the strength of our child advocacy efforts

- Added another dedicated policy staff position
- Began utilizing an advocacy CRM to increase engagement and reach



Enhance our commitment to equity

- 25 of our continuing education hours across sectors in 2023 were focused on solely on equity
- Adopted new equity-focused language in guidance documents



Achieve better performance outcomes on our programs

- Earned performance incentives for Bridges and Health Care Network value-based programs
- Increased number of participants and families reached in Early Childhood and Foster Care Recruitment programs



Modernize our internal infrastructure

- Developed a new data tracking initiative to measure successes and identify gaps



Increase the number of active supporters of our mission

- Expanded our advocacy network to 408 individuals
- Increased Alliance membership to 86 child-serving agencies



Expand System of Care models for children and families

- Led statewide discussions on addressing the Placement Crisis and shared solutions with ODCY Director Wentz
- Led CCBHC learning community and worked with OhioMHAS on statewide CCBHC regulatory framework



Take action to stay connected to the Ohio Children's Alliance.

take action



We need your help as we continue to excel in meeting our goals!

- 01** Visit www.ohiochildrensalliance.org to learn about our work
- 02** **Subscribe to our newsletter** to get the latest news
- 03** **Donate** to expand the impact of our non-profit charitable organization
- 04** Use our **toolkit** to advocate your views to Ohio policymakers