

Rising Up for Kids

H I G H L I G H T S

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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



Ohio Children's Alliance

*Leading change for child
and family service providers*



The Ohio Children's Alliance believes that all children deserve the opportunity to grow up in healthy, safe, equitable, 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 with an informed and unified voice.

We work directly with community agencies to deliver knowledge, strategies, resources, and opportunities that provide value to them as well as the families and communities they serve.

Members and supporters of the Ohio Children's Alliance are connected to a wide-ranging and respected community of collaborators and are provided access to timely news and innovative resources.

Educate

Sharing knowledge, resources, and opportunities that promote equitable outcomes for children, families and communities

Advocate

Building efficient paths to the best and most equitable outcomes for Ohio's children and families

Innovate

Promoting the needs of all Ohio children by being in front, up front, and exceedingly prepared for a diverse, inclusive and just future

Connect

Fostering a respected community of diverse collaborators committed to achieving just outcomes for children, families, and communities across Ohio



Together, we advance change, improve lives, and help children rise up to their fullest potential.

Through our mission, the Ohio Children's Alliance applies the collective strength of our members to sustainably improve the provision of services to children, young adults, and families through policy advocacy, performance improvement, and member supports.

Our Team

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Mark Mecum, MA
Chief Executive Officer



Karen Hill
*Chief Operating and
Financial Officer*



Sarah LaTourette
Chief Advocacy Officer

ADVOCACY & COMMUNICATIONS



Kathryn Rossman
*Associate, Policy &
Communications*

MEMBER SERVICES & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



Ruthie Zimmerman
*Manager, Member
Services & Professional
Education*



Nancy Drouet Saltos
*Program Coordinator,
Professional Education*

Our Team

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS



Carol Taylor, MA
Senior Program Manager



Lauren Barco, LSW
Program Coordinator, Center of Excellence



Anna Kelley
Program Manager, Early Childhood

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS



Bridget Graber
Program Manager, Foster Home Recruitment



Megan Modene
Senior Program Coordinator, Ohio Reach

ADMINISTRATION



Dave Dixon, MPA
Senior Manager, Finance & Administration



Gabrielle Judy, MPA
Office Administrator



Alexis Smith
Administrative Support Specialist



Jess Audey
Data Analyst



Scott Warren
Systems Analyst



Melody Saepae
Executive Assistant

HEALTH CARE NETWORK



Lorie Stadtmiller, MBA
Director



Aditi Naik, MPA
Senior Coordinator



Taylor Hays
Administrative Assistant

BRIDGES TEAM



Geoff Hollenbach,
*MSW, LISW-S
Program Administrator*



Latasha Colbert, MS,
*MSW, LSW
Program Manager*



Kelcee Ancona
Compliance Coordinator



Eliza Phinney
Intake & Referral Coordinator



Jason Harland
Central Regional Coordinator



Trudy Burch
NE Regional Coordinator

Don Kuchey, MSW, LISW-S
SW Regional Coordinator

Sarah Shooter
SE Regional Coordinator



Genah Babcock, MSW, LSW
NW Regional Coordinator

Board of Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
John Banchy
Best Point Education & Behavioral Health

PRESIDENT ELECT
Sarah Steuer
Youth Advocate Services

TREASURER
Paul Haffner
Lighthouse Youth & Family Services

SECRETARY
Jane Anderson
CHOICES

PAST PRESIDENT
Eric Cummins
NewPath Child & Family Solutions

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Beech Acres Parenting Center

Richard Graziano
The Village Network

Marti Eagleton
Ohio MENTOR

Vicki Clark
Ravenwood Health

Matt Kresic
Cadence Care Network

Sheree Lynch
Positive Leaps

Matt Mitchell
Pressley Ridge

Sean Reilly
UMCH Family Services

Vickie Thompson-Sandy
The Buckeye Ranch

Charity Wheeler
Journey Home Foster Care



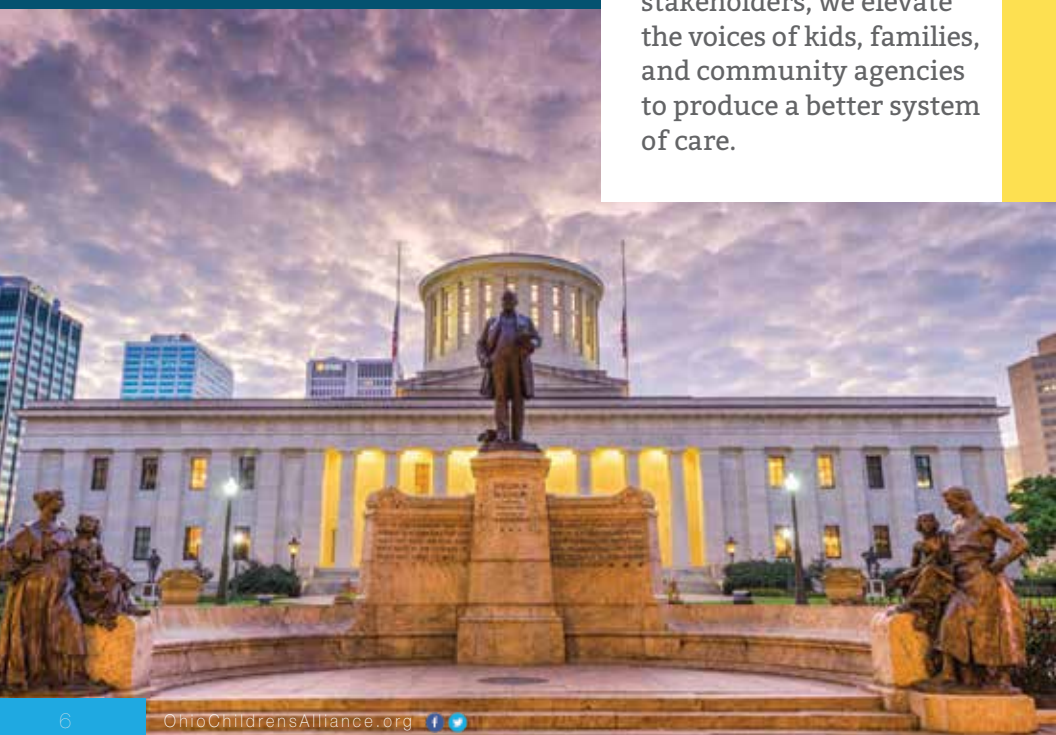
Advocacy

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 external lobbyist, The Fitzgibbon Group.

In 2021, we were innovative with our advocacy strategies and expanded our reach to effectively shape policies that support the Health and Human Services sectors. Through the collective strength of our membership, we have amplified the voices of families across Ohio through state and federal financial investments, OhioRISE implementation, and the creation of legislation to expand the foster care workforce.

Together with our staff, members, and community stakeholders, we elevate the voices of kids, families, and community agencies to produce a better system of care.



Up Front, In Front,

AND PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

In 2021, the Ohio Children's Alliance and its members expanded our portfolio of innovative new initiatives, enhanced existing infrastructure, and procured multiple state contracts in the foster care and behavioral health spaces. The hard work our team performed last year has begun to see the fruits of its labor. By the end of the year, we executed three new programs in partnership with state agencies: early childhood mental health, foster home recruitment and a center of excellence. These initiatives are in addition to the programs we continued to lead, including Bridges, our Health Care Network and Ohio Reach.

Our organization and member agencies were also busy preparing for OhioRISE implementation through our work with the Center of Excellence (COE) and our partnerships with Care Management Entities (CME).

In 2021, the Ohio Children's Alliance was announced as a subgrantee of the new Center of Excellence (COE) to coordinate the Family First Prevention Services payment support and to expand capacity to best serve the children and families of Ohio. The new COE is rising up for our kids by bolstering Ohio's ongoing system transformation and improvement efforts.

Our members applied to be CMEs, ten of which were awarded at least one of the 20 regions. As a facet of the new OhioRISE plan, CMEs are responsible for the development of individualized care plans for each child enrolled in OhioRISE using a wraparound child and family team approach. Our Child and Family Health Collaborative's applications to operate CME regions were also successful. Through a partnership with Lighthouse Youth & Family Services, The Village Network, Cadence Care, and NYAP, we will support their 4 regions with administrative services.

2021

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Produced new workforce development and support opportunities for foster care and mental health agencies through regulatory relief and targeted state and federal funding

Provided leadership in the design of the OhioRISE program and readiness of providers and other system stakeholders. Supported development of Care Management Entity proposals and facilitated readiness grants

Shaped the implementation of many statewide child welfare initiatives, including kinship family supports, Master Contract revisions, foster parent training re-design, and best practices for family engagement with residential care

Addressed transportation barriers facing kids who require ongoing behavioral health treatment through collaboration with public education and Medicaid

Advocacy Successes

FOR CHILD WELFARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

We prioritized workforce capacity, supporting families, and ensuring our member agencies had access to needed resources.

\$10 MILLION

foster parent retention and recruitment initiatives

\$2 MILLION

MST and FFT capacity expansion

\$10 MILLION

Family First Act Prevention Services

\$5 MILLION

mental health workforce

\$8 MILLION

custody relinquishment fund

Workforce

- Implemented and expanded new funding opportunities to support the workforce of child welfare and behavioral health agencies
- Cultivated higher education partnerships with the child welfare and behavioral health sector
- Laid the groundwork for new career pathways into child welfare and behavioral health
- Expanded foster care and adoption workforce to non-licensed practitioners

Family Supports

- Expanded reach of Prevention Services to keep families together
- Enhanced quality and compliance of QRTP residential centers
- Successfully implemented foster home training reforms

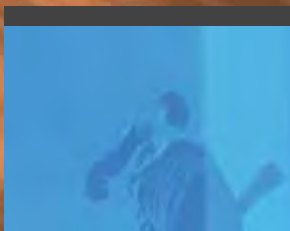
OhioRISE

- Helped design operational and clinical models for Care Management Entities
- Equipped behavioral health and child welfare organizations for success upon implementation
- Supported further capacity development of intensive and crisis services



Professional Education

Intentionally providing training sessions and conference workshops focused on diversity equity and inclusion, and best practices in behavioral health, child welfare, leadership.



Child & Adolescent Center of Excellence

Ohio's statewide program to assess, improve and expand service and care coordination capacity for children with complex behavioral health needs and their families.



Early Childhood Mental Health

Furthering trauma prevention and community supports by connecting child care centers and families with high-quality mental health services.



Ohio Reach

A support network program in higher ed institutions across the state of Ohio designed to support former foster youth as they pursue a certificate or degree.



Americorps

A program designed to match foster youth preparing to age out of Ohio's foster care system, with peer adult mentors with lived experience.



Foster Home Recruitment

Partnering with ODJFS's *It Takes Heart Ohio* Campaign to increase awareness and the number of qualified kinship, foster care and adoptive families across the state.



Ohio Children's Alliance

Leading change for child and family service providers

Center of Excellence

We launched the Center of Excellence (COE) Financial Services Program under the leadership of Senior Program Manager Carol Taylor. This program was developed to pay providers to deliver Multi-Systemic Therapy and Functional Family Therapy services for children eligible for Family First Prevention Services who also lack Medicaid coverage.

The Center of Excellence also worked toward several other key objectives, including:

Identifying current use of Health Information Technology (HIT) to assess gaps between current use and possibilities. Providing educational resources throughout the state on HIT options and best practices.

Supporting the use of telehealth services by providing access to a telehealth credential for free for up to 50 behavioral health staff members.



\$30,000 in three (3) scholarships was awarded to foster youth pursuing higher education.



\$18,000 was distributed in emergency funds to youth across the state in support of their tuition, groceries, housing, transportation and utilities, removing the unique barriers they faced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early Childhood Mental Health

Last year we increased our focus on the youngest Ohioans by beginning several programs focused on early childhood mental health. We partnered with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association to identify 15 subject matter experts to author asynchronous courses aimed at expanding the infant and early childhood mental health expertise in the state. These courses provide the pathway for those working in the mental health field to obtain the Ohio Early Childhood Mental Health and/or the Ohio Infant Mental Health credentials, with the release of \$2M.

Released **\$2M** to support behavioral health providers in obtaining the Ohio Early Childhood Mental Health and/or the Ohio Infant Mental Health credentials.

Released **\$3.5M** to support the development or expansion of therapeutic child care programs across the state.

Developed a referral platform to assist child care centers in linking families with needed behavioral health services for young children.

Foster Home Recruitment

In the fall of 2021, the Ohio Children's Alliance was awarded a grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) to create and deploy an awareness/marketing campaign that embraces proven and effective recruitment practices.

Our Foster Home Recruitment program leverages the current *It Takes Heart Ohio* campaign, which was implemented with the goal of increasing the number of qualified kinship, foster care and adoptive families across the state. To lead this important new effort, Ohio Children's Alliance hired Program Manager Bridget Graber. Through this program we will gather lived experience input from former and current foster parents and youth and will further support the campaign creation by gathering information from systems experts and providing infrastructure recommendations to ODJFS, including tracking and reporting mechanisms.



Connecting to Share

EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION

The Ohio Children's Alliance remains dedicated to fostering a respected community of collaborators and supporting our providers. Our educational programs aim to serve as a resource for clinicians and ensure the availability of useful, timely, and accurate information in the ever-changing behavioral health and children services spaces. 2021 ushered in more modalities and opportunities to get involved, including the expansion of virtual real-time and asynchronous trainings. We remain committed to educating key stakeholders and partners to promote informed, intersectional, and equitable policymaking that rises up for kids.

Opportunities and Resources

Facilitated nearly

150 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

as a member resource, on behavioral health services, billing, coding, and documentation

Hosted

18 VIRTUAL TRAINING events across an audience of **620 participants**

Hosted

17 STATE DEPARTMENT meetings with directors, key staff, and legislative leaders to discuss child and family service priorities with our members

Built a repository of on-demand trainings with **70 HOURS** in more than **50 CE-approved courses**

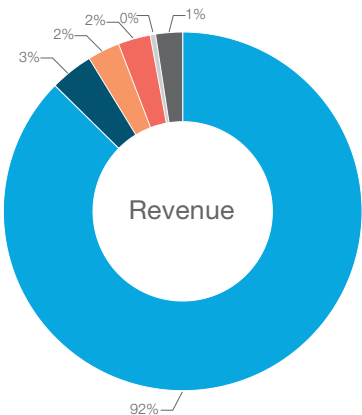
Hosted

90 VIRTUAL MEETINGS with members to connect them with resources, information, and networking opportunities

Convened our **45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE** over 4 days with more than **350 PARTICIPANTS**, 4 keynote addresses, and 44 breakout sessions hosted by a variety of experts, trainers, and providers across the nation

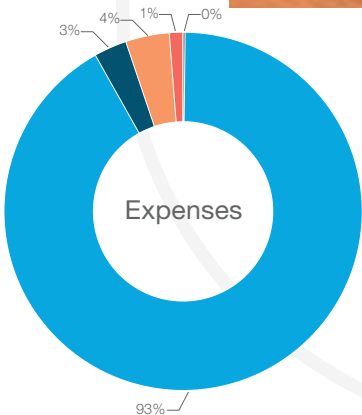
Financial Overview

CY 2021



Bridges Grant	\$29,716,358
Health Care Network	\$908,009
Other Grants & Contributions	\$743,379
Membership Dues	\$548,355
Program Services	\$139,976
Investment Income	\$241,678

TOTAL \$32,297,756



Bridges Program	\$29,282,798
Health Care Network	\$868,528
Other Programs	\$1,182,760
Administrative	\$212,808
Fundraising	\$5,509

TOTAL \$31,552,403

* PRE-AUDITED FIGURES
* AS OF 12/31/2021, CONSOLIDATED NET ASSETS - \$2,247,791

Purchase a Plate & Drive Support

FOR OHIO’S CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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





Child & Family

HEALTH COLLABORATIVE OF OHIO

The behavioral health care and social service sector is rapidly changing in Ohio and across the country. In 2017, we started this Collaborative of community agencies to work together to advanced value-based care and social services innovation. The Collaborative consists of more than forty community agencies spanning every region of Ohio.



Clinically Integrated Health Care Network

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



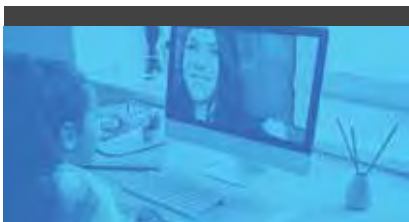
Bridges Program

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.



Respite Care

Our network of respite care practitioners are available to assist CareSource Members with normal activities of daily life in order to meet the needs of the primary caregiver, as well as the child.



Same Day Access & Telehealth

Through expert consultation and development of our own proprietary toolkit, we have established improved capability to provide mental health assessments to children without appointments.

Health Care Network

Under the leadership of our Health Care Network Director, Lorie Stadtmiller, we have grown the Collaborative Health Care Network quality playbook, trainings, and supports to 31 behavioral health organizations. We have expanded value-based programs with UnitedHealthcare and Optum, partnered with CareSource to develop innovative solutions for multi-system youth, and successfully negotiated and secured favorable agreements with all of the new Medicaid managed care companies.

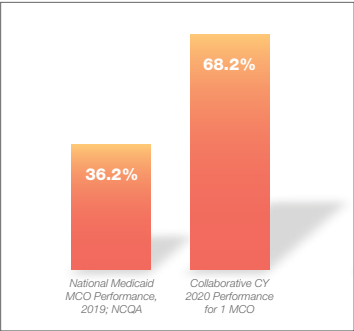
We are extremely proud of the Respite Care Program we developed in 2021 in partnership with CareSource. Through this program, we connected 145 children and their families to therapeutic respite services and prevented out-of-state placements and hospitalizations.

Throughout 2021, we also worked to:

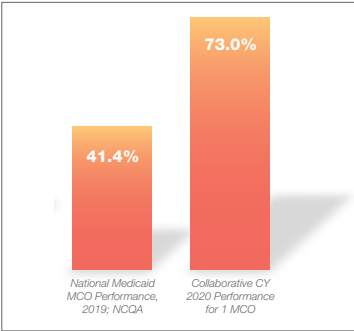
- Expand the utilization and quality of telehealth services
- Establish and pilot referral pathways for children discharging from Children's Hospitals
- Implement a data analytics platform, integrating value-based performance with HIE data
- Expand same-day access to mental health services in every region of the state

Recent Success

7-Day Follow-up after Hospitalization for Mental Health (FUH)



7-Day Follow-up after Emergency Department Visit for Mental Illness (FUM)



Bridges Program

During 2021, 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 the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), and has led the program to new heights.

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 and resources to thrive.

The Collaborative received a \$2.4 million allocation of additional Chafee stimulus funds which were disseminated to the program participants, providing them with needed financial assistance. Some of these funds will continue to be distributed in the current year.

The Bridges program focused on specific aspects of its training and technical assistance work to further enhance overall performance metric scores which have been steadily increasing. The Collaborative and ODJFS focus on enhancing the ability to gather and analyze qualitative data to ensure that young adults in the program progress toward independence. The Collaborative made strategic efforts to increase marketing and awareness of the program to ensure that eligible young adults are informed and understand program enrollment.

"We are excited for the milestones achieved through three successful years operating the Bridges program."

– GEOFF HOLLENBACH
BRIDGES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR



The Collaborative has achieved several quality milestones through our management of the ODJFS Bridges Program for young adults aging out of foster care, including:

Achieved a re-enrollment rate of

41%

allowing young adults to
reenter the program to access
valuable case management and
daily living resources

Served over

3,100

young adults

Established a new quality
outcome tool via a Bridges

**Self-Sufficiency
Survey**

Milestones

**Successfully
managed a sharp
influx and exit of
participants**

due to federal eligibility
changes, including doubling
our caseload during an
eight-month period

Earned an overall participant
satisfaction score of

92%

from a sample of
over 400 participants

Earned a

\$700,000

performance
incentive award to
reinvest into quality
and mission

61%

of participants are **employed**
while 39% are continuing their
educational goals and/or learning
valuable life skills

78%

of participants **earned their
High School Diploma
(HSD) /GED** with 29%
attaining or pursuing greater
opportunities

BRIDGES PARTICIPANT EDUCATION SUCCESS

Earned HSD/GED & Pursuing Additional Training 21%	Earned High School Diploma (HSD)/GED 49%	Post HSD/GED Education 8%	Pursing HSD/GED 10%	Engaged in Other Activities 12%
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BRIDGES PARTICIPANT EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS

Employed Full-Time 34%	Employed Part-Time 27%	Not Employed, but Attending School or Engaged in Other Activities 39%
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Memberships and Partnerships

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Children's Residential Centers
Child Welfare League of America
Family Focused Treatment Association
National Organization of State Associations for Children
Partnership for America's Children
Social Current

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

Advocates for Ohio's Future
Coalition for Healthy Communities
Ohio Adoption Planning Group
Ohio Independent Living Association
Ohio Opioid Education Alliance
Parity at 10 Coalition
RALI Ohio—RxAbuse Leadership Initiative

CORPORATE AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

Aetna
Amerihealth Caritas
Best Point Education and Behavioral Health
Binti
CARF
CareSource
CareSource Foundation
Circulo Health
Etactics
ODHE
ODJFS
OhioMHAS
Opeeka
Positive Leaps
ServeOhio
UMCH Family Services
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio

PUBLIC PARTNER MEMBERS

*Greene County ESC Behavioral Services
Licking County Department of Job and Family Services
Muskingum County Children Services
Trumbull County Children Services

Full Members

WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS Beyond Healthcare, Ground Work Play Therapy, Merakey, and Wingspan Care Group in 2021. These distinguished organizations are now a part of Ohio's oldest and largest alliance of community-based organizations serving children in the state. We are excited to add their unique perspectives to our rich and diverse membership and to serve as your "one stop shop" for advocacy, educational, and credentialing needs. **Thank you for joining us in rising up for kids!**

- A New Leaf
- *Abraxas Youth & Family Services
- Adopt America Network
- *Adriel**
- *Agape for Youth
- *Bair Foundation
- *Beech Acres Parenting Center**
- *Beech Brook**
- Belmont Pines Hospital
- *Best Point Education and Behavioral Health**
- Beyond Healthcare
- *Buckeye Ranch, The**
- *Cadence Care Network
- Camelot Community Care
- *Caring for Kids
- Children's Center of Ohio, The
- *CHOICES**
- *Christian Children's Home of Ohio
- *Chrysalis Family Solutions
- Cleveland Christian Home**
- Columbus Springs Dublin
- *Community Teaching Homes
- Dungarvin Ohio
- *Eastway Behavioral Healthcare
- *Family Pride of Northeast Ohio
- *Focus on Youth
- Fox Run Center for Children and Adolescents
- *Genacross Family & Youth Services**
- *Ground Work Play Therapy
- 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
- Merakey
- *National Youth Advocate Program
- Nationwide Children's Hospital
- *Necco
- *New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center
- New Mercy Outreach
- *NewPath Child and Family Solutions**
- *Northeast Ohio Adoption Services
- *Oesterlen Services for Youth**
- OhioGuidestone**
- *Ohio Mentor
- *Pathway Caring for Children
- Positive Education Program
- *Positive Leaps
- *Pressley Ridge
- *PsyCare
- Quality Care Residential Homes
- Ravenwood Health
- REACH Behavioral Health
- Safely Home
- *Shelter Care
- Silver Linings Agency
- *Sojourner's Care Network
- *South Community
- *Southeast Healthcare Services
- *Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth
- *St. Vincent Family Center
- Step Higher – Nella's Place
- *The Village Network
- *Thrive Therapeutics
- *UMCH Family Services**
- *ViaQuest
- Wellmore Centre
- Wingspan Care Group
- Youth Advocate Services
- *Youth Villages

Charter Member (1973)

- *Participant of the Collaborative

Represents Full Members as of April 20, 2022

