

Ohio

Children's

Alliance

*Leading change for child
and family service providers*

2021 IMPACT REPORT

What a year! With the continued public health and economic challenges, the team at the Ohio Children's Alliance remained focused and committed to advancing our mission and supporting our sector.

We launched several new innovative programs and projects, channeled new state, federal, and philanthropic dollars directly to providers, and secured many advocacy wins that position children and families for brighter futures.

New programs we secured in 2021 include:

- A statewide foster and adoption recruitment campaign,
- Ohio's Family First Prevention Services financial support program, and
- Ohio's newest investment in early childhood mental health, including grants and financial support for clinicians, agencies; the Mental Health Bridge referral platform; and a new array of professional development opportunities.

Behind the scenes, the Alliance has also rapidly expanded its infrastructure, operations, and strategies to promote equity. This added strength equips us to succeed on our current array of services and positions us to magnify impact even more during 2022!

In the 2021 Impact Report below we highlight these growth areas, successes, and vision for 2022. We are grateful to our members who guided and supported this good work.

EDUCATE

Sharing Knowledge, Resources and Opportunities

- ◆ Convened our 45th Annual Conference over 4 days with more than 350 participants, 4 keynotes with meet and greets, 44 breakout sessions hosted by a variety of experts, trainers, and providers across the nation
- ◆ Convened the Eighth Annual Trauma-Informed Care Summit through a partnership with OhioMHAS, with nearly 1,100 participants, including 50 presenters, and more than 30 breakout sessions
- ◆ Supported the development and launching of Ohio's first Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Center of Excellence
- ◆ Partnered with CareSource and system leaders to develop innovative solutions for multi-system youth
- ◆ Equipped our members with timely information, resources, and webinars on COVID related policies, regulations, and funding opportunities
- ◆ Expanded training opportunities utilizing virtual and on-demand technology
- ◆ Expanded the Collaborative health care network quality playbook, trainings, and supports to 31 participating agencies
- ◆ Hosted 18 virtual training events across an audience of 620 participants, including:
 - ◆ Multi-system Youth and Family and Provider Resilience
 - ◆ Post-pandemic workplace strategies
 - ◆ Cybersecurity
 - ◆ Re-engineering revenue cycles
 - ◆ Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy
- ◆ Built a repository of on-demand trainings with more than 50 CE-approved courses
- ◆ Facilitated nearly 150 questions and answers as a member resource, on behavioral health services, billing, coding, and documentation

- ◆ Facilitation of a Family Search and Engagement Learning Community for Residential Care Providers through a partnership with the Institute for Child Welfare Innovation and Kinnect.
- ◆ Provided an eight-hour professional development series for all Bridges service providers on self-care and stress management to help deal with the demands of an increased workload and the isolating effects of remote work.

ADVOCATE

Applying Collective Strength to Promote Best Outcomes for Children and Families

- ◆ Secured state budget legislative wins through calls-to-action, letters to government leaders, providing testimony, and partnering with coalitions, including:
 - ◇ \$5 million in mental health workforce funding
 - ◇ \$10 million to implement Family First IV-E prevention services
 - ◇ \$2 million to expand MST and FFT capacity for Family First
 - ◇ \$8 million increase to prevent custody relinquishment of multi-system youth children
 - ◇ Continuing and expanding Medicaid's Emergency Telehealth program for behavioral health
 - ◇ Extending foster care re-certification waivers
 - ◇ Ensuring the implementation and funding for OhioRISE
- ◆ Worked with ODJFS to shape QRTP incentive funds (\$16 million)
- ◆ Secured a \$2.4 million federal Chafee Stimulus Program for Bridges Participants to support them during their transition out of Bridges and to reward Participants who maintained program compliance
- ◆ Supported OhioRISE implementation design through participation on the ODM Advisory Council and Center of Excellence
- ◆ Elevated member voice on several state child welfare workgroups: Master Contract, Tiered Treatment Foster Care, and the HB 8 Foster Parent Training
- ◆ Designed child welfare workforce policy solutions and supported introduction of multiple new bills in the State Legislature
- ◆ Advocated for the next chapter of Ohio's Family First Prevention Services program to include a variety of children's mental health services
- ◆ Hired our first ever Chief Advocacy Officer: Sarah LaTourette, former Director of Ohio Family and Children First and State Representative
- ◆ Initiated drafting first-of-its-kind legislation to expand access to non-emergency Medicaid transportation (NEMT); successfully advocated for OhioRISE NEMT policies
- ◆ Magnified our advocacy agenda through participation several advocacy coalitions including: Ohio Legislative Children's Caucus, Advocates for Ohio's Future, Lead Free Kids Coalition, Ready Set Soar Ohio, and the Coalition for Healthy Communities
- ◆ Sought policy solutions to our nation's IMD law to improve viability of residential care in collaboration with Ohio's U.S. Senators and through strategic partnerships with the Association of Children's Residential Centers (ACRC) and the National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC)

INNOVATE

Up Front, In Front and Prepared for the Future

- ◆ Established a new early childhood mental health program, through a partnership with the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association and ODJFS, aimed to support and strengthen early childhood mental health services across the state
- ◆ Expanded value-based programs with UnitedHealthcare, Optum, and ODJFS
- ◆ Achieved several quality milestones through our management of the ODJFS Bridges for young adults aging out of foster care, including:
 - ◇ Earned an overall Participant satisfaction score of 4.6 out of 5
 - ◇ Served over 3,100 young adults
 - ◇ Achieved a re-enrollment rate of 41%, allowing young adults to reenter the program to access valuable case management and daily living resources
 - ◇ Successfully managed a sharp influx and exit of Participants due to federal eligibility changes, including doubling our caseload during an eight-month period
 - ◇ Increased daily census to over 1,400
 - ◇ Earned a \$700,000 performance incentive award to reinvest into quality and mission
 - ◇ Established a new quality outcome tool via a Bridges Self-Sufficiency Survey
- ◆ Designed and developed 14 consortium applications for the OhioRISE Care Management Entity (CME) program
- ◆ Completed an organizational racial equity assessment and equity trainings for senior-level staff
- ◆ Negotiated and secured favorable agreements with the new Medicaid managed care companies on behalf of our Collaborative health care network, all of which are expected to lead to new quality incentive programs
- ◆ Awarded a Behavioral Health Access Grant from United Healthcare to expand our referral platform with hospitals and residential care providers across the state

CONNECT

Fostering a Respected Community of Collaborators

- ◆ Hosted nearly 90 virtual meetings with members to connect them with resources, information, and networking opportunities
- ◆ Hosted at least 17 state department directors, key staff, and legislative leaders in virtual meetings with our members
- ◆ Expanded full membership to 82 members statewide
- ◆ Welcomed new corporate partners: Opeeka and Circulo.
- ◆ Created the new, targeted policy workgroups including:
 - ◇ Child Welfare Policy
 - ◇ Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
 - ◇ OhioRISE
 - ◇ Behavioral Health Contracting

- ◆ Convened weekly Leadership Roundtable virtual meetings to connect member agency CEOs and upper management
- ◆ Developed a Respite Care Program, in partnership with CareSource, that connected 125 children and their families to therapeutic respite services
- ◆ Provided targeted support to foster care youth and alumni pursuing higher education, including administration of \$18,000 in emergency supports via the Ohio Reach program, and development of an AmeriCorps mentoring program; 7 foster care alumni mentored over 30 young adults
- ◆ Acquired a \$55,000 scholarship program that supports foster care alumni pursuing higher education; three scholarship awards provided