



Emerging Better Together Annual Report 2021



Together, we have faced another year of relentless change, challenges, and uncertainty as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and as the opiate and drug overdose epidemic ravages and assaults our communities. Yet, we have also seen mental health and wellness openly discussed as essential health – breaking the chains of stigma and shame. We continued to stay safe, stay connected, and have begun to emerge and embrace the blending of new technology and service innovation as we move forward in our shared journey.

Together, we have equally experienced successes, seized opportunities, and harnessed a spirit of innovation to bring healing, hope, and recovery to thousands of Ohioans – young and old. Your organizations have provided high quality, effective behavioral healthcare through telehealth, in your community and schools, and in-person. Your passionate energy and resilience continue to make recovery possible. You adapted, adjusted, and amended plans and programs. You shared successes, lessons learned, and collaborated with each other to forge new best practices and capitalize on opportunities. You and your teams are emerging stronger – better – despite the adversity, fatigue, and unpredictable circumstances.

Together, we have done hard things. We tackle big things. We do great things – together. The Ohio Council will continue our unparalleled advocacy, leadership, and member support as we emerge better together and our economy and communities recovery. We will advocate for sound public policy, investment and financing, and pragmatic solutions that sustain and support a full array of behavioral health services so all Ohioans may experience recovery, hope, healing, and health.

Urisa Lampl, LISW-S

Chief Executive Officer

2021 Accomplishments:

- Sustained high levels of membership engagement and connection through virtual meeting and collaboration.
- Advocacy and information sharing to support access to COVID-19 state and federal resources, manage reporting, and sustain access for essential behavioral health services.
- Promoted regulatory and practice environment to support telehealth service utilization and access to care.
- Successful SFY 22-23 state budget advocacy that secured a \$5 million earmark for BH workforce; prevented delays to Medicaid managed care procurement; prevented ADAMH Board authority expansion; extended an OTP license from 1 to 2 years; and removed language prohibiting OTPs from hiring individuals who also receive MAT at the same OTP.
- Lead the Ohio Parity Coalition, and in collaboration with the DeWine administration and lawmakers achieved adoption of SB 284 that will help increase education and enforcement of federal Mental Health Parity & Addiction Equity Act in Ohio.
- Informed providers of federal opportunities to access federal COVID relief funds and collaborated with ODM and MHAS to support distribution of available COVID relief funds directly to providers.
- Active engagement in program and policy development to support implementation of Medicaid managed care procurement including OhioRISE, centralized credentialing, and fiscal intermediary.
- Maintained strong partnerships and collaboration with ODM, MHAS, ODE, and RecoveryOhio to sustain investment in behavioral health and elevate workforce shortage challenges exacerbated by COVID.
- Collaborated with ODM and MHAS to develop program and policy initiatives in priority areas including strategies to build a crisis continuum; implementation of the 1115 SUD Waiver; advancing enhanced person-centered care coordination and development of Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHC); expanding services to support youth and families with significant needs such as IBHT, MRSS, PRTF, and respite.
- Advocacy to implement ODEs Whole Child model supporting social-emotional development and learning highlighting value of school-community behavioral health provider partnerships.
- Advocacy and collaboration efforts to modernize the behavioral health public-private payer landscape.
- Expanded and grew membership and influence of the Ohio Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.
- Operational and database updates to gain efficiency and improve member experience. Expanded staffing.

2022 Advocacy Priorities:

We remain steadfast in our vision and priorities for public policy solutions, which are:

- Establishment of a well-financed full continuum of care that includes access to prevention, treatment, and recovery supports;
- Education and enforcement of federal insurance parity; and
- Availability of a quality behavioral health workforce.

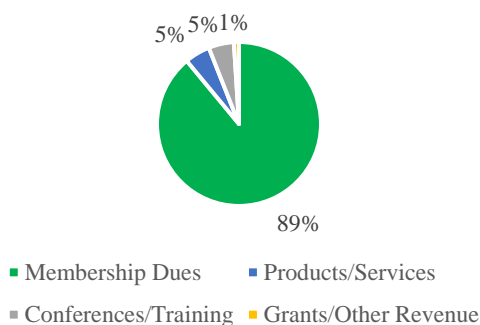
Targeted actions to support these priorities in the coming year include:

- Advocacy to support targeted, direct investment of federal COVID-19 funding, Opiate Settlement Funding, and SOR funds for behavioral health providers to address workforce shortages and infrastructure gaps.
- Collaboration with statewide partners to implement SFY 22-23 behavioral health budget initiatives and modernize public-private partnerships.
- Medicaid managed care procurement implementation to ensure a seamless and smooth transition with all new payers and managed care components.
- Continue advocacy for children, youth, and families services and supports, including OhioRISE implementation of MRSS, IHBT, PRTE, Respite, and 1915(c) Waiver that is coordinated with Family First Prevention Services Act and addresses QRTP and IMD issues.
- Training and technical assistance as part of the Child & Adolescent BH Coordinating Center of Excellence.
- Strategic planning and provider capacity development to adopt a CCBHC model that offers integrated, collaborative, person-centered, high-quality behavioral health care in Ohio.
- Active engagement in the 1115 SUD Waiver implementation to support access to all levels of care.
- Legislative and policy advocacy to support implementation of 988 and a full crisis continuum.
- Advocate for policies and investment that sustain local commitments to school-based BH services through school-community behavioral health partnerships.
- Policy development to improve access to services in jails and prisons, including all forms of MAT.
- Sustain and grow access to quality recovery housing with our partners at Ohio Recovery Housing.
- Promote system change to advance social justice and racial equity through public policy that demands inclusion, trauma-informed practices, and culturally responsive services.
- Continue internal operational improvements to create efficiencies and enhance membership services.



OC-PAC is the Political Action Committee and a restricted account of the Ohio Council that complements our traditional policy and regulatory advocacy efforts allowing us to build and strengthen relationships with policy makers who share and support our interests and priorities. The OC-PAC is funded by the personal donations of individuals who are associated with or employed by members of our trade association. To learn more or make a personal contribution, visit our website at www.theohiocouncil.org.

2021 Revenue



2021 Expenses

