

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

**The Ohio Council**  
Of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers

## WHO WE ARE

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers is a statewide trade and advocacy association that represents over 150 private organizations providing addiction prevention and treatment, mental health, and family services in communities across the state. The Ohio Council provides four core sets of services to its members: policy and legislative advocacy; member support and technical assistance; product and service development, generally through endorsed vendor programs; and educational opportunities.

Committed to improving the health of Ohio's communities and the well-being of Ohio's families by promoting effective, efficient, and sufficient behavioral health and family services through member excellence and family advocacy.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers is recognized as a leader in tackling the challenges and pursuing the policy solutions that come with an alarming increase in need for mental health and addiction services. Behavioral health is getting unprecedented attention as a public health issue from policy makers, payers, and the media. Much of this attention rises from the fact that last year, over 4,000 people died of overdose deaths in Ohio alone.

Ohio's current crisis was years in the making, and it will take decades for us to fully recover. More can be done to prevent mental illness and addiction. More can be done to intervene sooner when signs of illness begin. More can be done to help people recover. **The Ohio Council is leading the push for a fully-resourced continuum of care that includes prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery supports such as peer support, housing, and employment services.**

2017 was a year full of intense policy and legislative work by the Ohio Council. Seismic policy changes affecting the future of community behavioral health continued through Ohio's Behavioral Health Redesign initiative. While supporting the policy goals of Behavioral Health (BH) Redesign, the Ohio Council expended significant analysis and advocacy effort to ensure that system changes would at a minimum maintain existing service access, capacity and workforce.

The Ohio Council advocated at the federal and state levels for additional investments in behavioral health services and to maintain Medicaid expansion. We strengthened relationships with Medicaid managed care organizations as the state moves toward integration of the behavioral health benefit into managed care. We advocated for policies and resources to support a broader continuum of housing options, including the growth of quality recovery housing in Ohio. The Ohio Council urged the federal government to reform the institution for mental disease (IMD) regulations, which place restrictions on access to services and efficient business operations and advocated for the continued authorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

### 2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Secured better Medicaid rates and policies in BH Redesign, such as increasing rates for medical and nursing services and allowing same day services, improving MH day treatment and SUD group counseling payment policies, and aligning Ohio Medicaid staffing requirements with ASAM criteria for residential addiction treatment services.
- Built legislative champions in the Ohio General Assembly resulting in IT beta testing requirements for BH Redesign, a delay in implementation, and corrected rules to support successful implementation.
- Supported Ohio Council Members in building relationships with legislators, providing testimony, and engaging policy leaders in better understanding the business of community behavioral health.
- Spurred legislative action resulting in law requiring public education and data collection on behavioral health parity in Ohio.
- Worked with the Coalition for Healthy Communities to secure an additional \$176 million investment for behavioral health services in the FY 2018-19 state budget.
- Obtained statutory requirements for data collection and an initial investment to address the needs of multi-system youth.
- Supported implementation of the Specialized Recovery Services Program to assure individuals with mental health disabilities maintained Medicaid coverage and access to services.
- Advocated with Ohio's Congressional Delegation for passage of 21st Century Cures Act, which resulted in an investment of \$26 million in Ohio to address the opiate epidemic.
- Urged Congress to maintain Medicaid Expansion and essential health benefits in federal health care reforms.

# THE NEW REALITY OF ADDICTION AND MENTAL ILLNESS

There is growing recognition that jail and prison are ineffective, expensive, and inhumane responses to mental illness and addiction. The child welfare system is overwhelmed by children orphaned by the opiate epidemic and families seeking continued access to treatment for their child when all other resources have been exhausted. The suicide rate among Ohio's children and youth is increasing at an alarming rate. Adults and kids in mental health crisis spend days in emergency rooms before being sent home because Ohio doesn't have enough inpatient beds for them. Families send their sons and daughters several counties away and sometimes out of state to get the help that they need.

*The economic health of our state is impacted by the money we spend on jails, prisons, foster care, ambulance runs, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and lost productivity and unemployment when people don't have access to community based behavioral healthcare.*

Poor economic conditions also lead to anxiety, depression, and self-medication with alcohol and drugs. We've seen all too clearly what happens when people

take prescribed opiates to relieve their physical and emotional pain. Recently published research reveals that people with anxiety and depression receive 50% of the opiate prescriptions in the United States. Our state is gripped by heroin and fentanyl, and meth is making a comeback. Currently, only 40% of people with a mental illness and 10% of people with addiction get access to treatment, and more Ohioans are dying from

overdose death than ever before. **Every day, Ohio's addiction, mental health and family services providers are on the front line of this escalating behavioral health crisis.**

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

The general public is beginning to understand that mental illness and addiction are chronic diseases that require a comprehensive, long-term response to support the health and wellness of people living with such conditions and their families. This requires adequate resources and public policy solutions that enable providers to sustain and build service access and capacity.

### 2018 GOALS

The Ohio Council is well positioned to advance our member's interests and to advocate for improvements to the behavioral health system that result in a fully resourced continuum of care, including working on the following matters:

- Pursue expanded results with the enforcement of mental health parity and addiction equity so that families and employers get sufficient coverage for mental health and addiction services.
- Continue the push for Medicaid policies that sustain and grow access and capacity to community behavioral health services for adults, children and families in every community in Ohio.
- Educate policymakers on the value of investing in community based mental health and addictions prevention and treatment services, which saves Ohio dollars in other parts of Medicaid spending and other state resources.
- Lead efforts to ensure that Behavioral Health Redesign and integration of the behavioral health benefit into managed care are implemented in a manner that keeps resources flowing to local communities so that people get the services that they need.
- Prioritize quality in services and patient safety through consistent regulations of organizations providing behavioral health services.
- Advocate to ensure that Congress' efforts to repeal and replace Obamacare do not eliminate Medicaid Expansion or the essential health benefits.
- Work with our Congressional delegation for the passage of laws that reform the IMD rule.
- Advocate for workforce development opportunities at the state and federal level to stabilize and grow Ohio's behavioral health workforce.

## LETTER FROM THE CEO



LORI CRISS

The Ohio Council is highly regarded by our members, policy leaders, and other behavioral health and family services stakeholders for promoting effective, efficient, and sufficient behavioral health and family services through member excellence and advocacy. We drive toward innovation while safeguarding responsible policy and financing strategies. And we never lose sight of what's best for the men, women, children, and families relying on community providers to help them heal and stay well.

The coming year will find Ohio electing a new Governor, will introduce medical marijuana to our communities, and will bring the most comprehensive

financial and regulatory changes that Ohio's behavioral health providers have ever seen. We will continue our excellence in providing information, training, technical assistance, networking opportunities, policy analysis and advocacy, products, services, and relationships that help our members thrive.

I am grateful for this opportunity to serve the Ohio Council membership and look forward to the future we can build together.

Respectfully,

Lori Criss  
Chief Executive Officer

## THE OHIO COUNCIL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Keith Hochadel  
Susan Neth  
JJ Boroski  
Steve Carrel  
Eric Cummins  
Trisha Farrar  
Carolyn Givens  
Cynthia Holstein  
A. Dustin Mets  
Jeff O'Neil  
Anthony Penn  
Margo Spence  
Tony Williams

President  
Vice President  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large  
Member-At-Large

Canton  
Cleveland  
Dover  
Zanesville  
Cincinnati  
Lancaster  
Youngstown  
Portsmouth  
Columbus  
Cincinnati  
Columbus  
Cincinnati  
Delaware

## THE OHIO COUNCIL STAFF

**Lori Criss**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
Criss@TheOhioCouncil.org

**Teresa Lampl**  
*Associate Director*  
Lampl@TheOhioCouncil.org

**Brenda Cornett**  
*Associate Director for  
Membership Services*  
Cornett@TheOhioCouncil.org

**Geoff Collver**  
*Associate Director*  
Collver@TheOhioCouncil.org

**Gail Clendenin**  
*Policy Associate*  
Clendenin@TheOhioCouncil.org

**Brenna Whiteside**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Whiteside@TheOhioCouncil.org



*Ohio Council members testify in the Ohio Senate.*

## MEMBER BENEFITS: PRODUCTS & SERVICES

The Ohio Council continually offers quality products and services that enhance member operations and provide economic efficiencies.

These include:

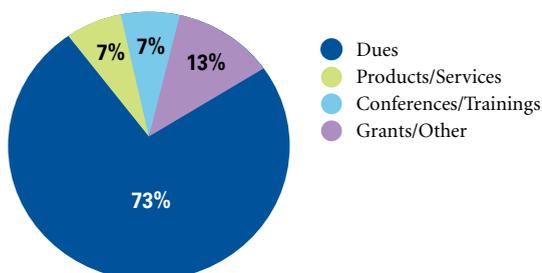
- Accurate & timely information through monthly publications and E-bulletins
- Member committees
- Training & learning opportunities
- Biennial Compensation & Benefits Survey Report
- Employee Benefits Benchmarking Report

Potential Cost Savings:

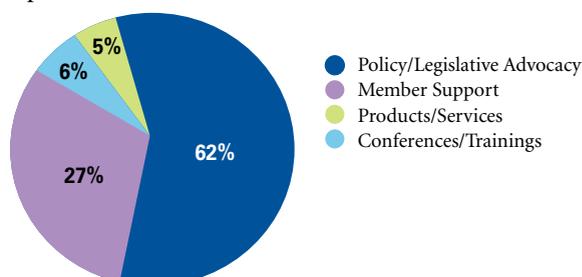
- Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program
- Organizational Insurance Program
- Unemployment Trust Program
- Legal Consultation Benefit Program
- Online Learning Solution for Behavioral Health & Human Services Organizations
- Fleet Management Discount Program
- Drug Screening Device Discount Program

## 2017 FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

Revenues



Expenses





## OC-PAC

OC-PAC is the Political Action Committee of the Ohio Council. It provides Council members an opportunity to compete with other interest groups that lobby to influence legislative, policy and funding decisions by the Ohio General Assembly. OC-PAC enables Council members to collectively be visible and provide campaign funding support to candidates and elected leaders who have an interest in and share the views of Ohio Council members.



*Advocating Today for a Healthy Tomorrow*

**The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers**

35 E. Gay Street – Suite 401 • Columbus, Ohio 43215-3138

614-228-0747 phone • 614-228-0740 fax

[www.TheOhioCouncil.org](http://www.TheOhioCouncil.org)