



The Ohio Council's 2026 Annual Conference – 10/07/26 – 10/08/26
Hilton Columbus at Easton

Day 1 - Wednesday, October 7, 2026 – Total Possible CEUs: 4.5

Description: The Ohio Council Annual Conference is a 2-day, in-person event designed for behavioral health professionals, offering timely education, expert insights, and meaningful peer connection. Attendees will gain valuable insights through engaging sessions and panels covering a wide range of relevant topics. This year's conference will explore the evolving policy and operating environment, organizational leadership and innovation, cross-system collaboration, and emerging approaches to strengthening behavioral health services and outcomes. Participants will gain practical knowledge to improve treatment delivery and outcomes, enhance operations, and lead innovation in behavioral health services.

Day 1 Objectives:

- Participants will increase their understanding of current and emerging developments shaping the behavioral health environment and their implications for organizations and service delivery.
- Participants will identify opportunities to strengthen organizational practices, partnerships, and decision-making in response to a changing behavioral health environment.
- Participants will examine approaches for responding to emerging operational and service delivery challenges while supporting access, organizational effectiveness, and quality of care.

Day 1 Agenda:

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Exhibits
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Welcome, Opening Remarks – Kelly Rigger, Board President & Teresa Lampl, CEO
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM .75 CEUs	<u>Keynote:</u> Ohio Department of Medicaid Updates Speakers: • Bridget Harrison, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid • Patrick Beatty, Deputy Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid Description: This session will provide an update on current priorities and developments within the Ohio Department of Medicaid that impact behavioral health providers and the individuals they serve. Attendees will hear about recent and upcoming Medicaid policy and program changes, key areas of focus for the Department, and considerations for behavioral health organizations. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Identify current Ohio Medicaid priorities and policy developments impacting behavioral health providers and service delivery. • Assess the potential implications of recent and upcoming Medicaid program changes for provider organizations and the individuals they serve.
10:00AM – 10:30AM	Break & Exhibits
10:30AM – 11:45AM 1.25 CEUs	<u>Keynote:</u> Advocacy Panel Panel Speakers: • Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, President, Health Policy Institute of Ohio • Representative Jodi Salvo, District 51, Ohio House of Representatives

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	- Representative Rachel Baker, District 27, Ohio House of Representatives - Moderator: Anthony Aquillo, Partner, The Success Group Description: This panel will explore the role of advocacy in a changing policy environment. Panelists will share perspectives on engaging with policymakers and other stakeholders, communicating organizational and community priorities, and navigating policy developments that impact providers and the people they serve. Attendees will gain insights into opportunities to strengthen advocacy and engagement efforts. Objectives: Participants will be able to: - Identify opportunities for effective advocacy and stakeholder engagement within a changing policy environment. - Apply strategies for effectively communicating organizational and community priorities to policymakers and other stakeholders. - Recognize opportunities to strengthen relationships with policymakers, community partners, and other stakeholders to support organizational and community needs.
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Break & Exhibits
12:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Annual Meeting / Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Break & Exhibits
2:00PM – 3:15PM 1.25 CEUs	<u>Keynote: Data Currency – Unlocking Value with Data Visualization</u> Speaker: Jonathan Schwabish, Ph.D, Founder & CEO, PolicyViz, LLC Description: This session will explore how organizations can better use and communicate data through effective data visualization. Attendees will learn how making data more visual and accessible can support decision-making, strengthen communication with different audiences and stakeholders, and help organizations demonstrate their value and impact. The session will also examine practical strategies for building a data-driven culture, integrating data communication into organizational workflows, and developing effective data practices. Objectives: Participants will be able to: - Articulate the business case for data visualization across different communication types such as reports, briefs, presentations, websites, and social media. - Identify the team structures, roles, and internal champions needed to support a data-driven culture in small and mid-sized organizations. - Apply concrete strategies for embedding data communication into existing workflows. - Recognize the habits that undermine effective data use and adopt practical alternatives. - Define early success metrics and leave with an action plan to begin building a data visualization practice in their own organization
3:15 PM – 3:45 PM	Break & Exhibits
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM 1.25 CEUs (ethics)	<u>Breakout #1A: Managing Managed Care Audits, Investigations and Prepayment Review</u>

	Speakers: • Steven T. Voigt, J.D., Partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP • J. Liam Gruzs, Esq. Partner, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP Description: Participants will examine the practical and ethical considerations of delivering services within managed care systems, including strategies for navigating audits, prepayment review activities, and prior authorization processes while maintaining clinical integrity and advocating for patient access to medically necessary services. The discussion will also address considerations when a payer does not authorize additional services and a provider is considering discontinuation of services or transition of care. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Identify key considerations when navigating managed care documentation requirements and potential exposure. • Identify provider responsibilities and considerations when payers do not authorize continued services. • Explain key components of managed care prepayment review and audit processes. • Identify available routes for appealing denials of prior authorization requests. • Apply strategies for responding to prepayment review and post-payment audits.
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM 1.25 CEUs	<u>Breakout #1B: Collaboration Across Behavioral Health & Community Safety Panel</u> Panel Speakers: • Moderator: Dustin Mets, JD, Comp Drug • Ginny Williams, LPCC-S, Chief Culture and Transformation Officer, Family Resource Center • Nikki Bisig, LPCC-S, LICDC-CS, Chief Clinical Officer and Senior VP of Hamilton County Behavioral Health Services, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health Services • Kimberly Meals, LPCC-S, Chief Clinical Officer, Community Support Services Description: Through a panel discussion, attendees will explore how behavioral health organizations partner with law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, outreach teams, shelters, and other community systems to respond to complex community needs. Panelists will share community-based approaches for engaging individuals who may not otherwise connect with traditional services, improving access to care, and reducing reliance on incarceration and other restrictive interventions. The discussion will also consider how organizations maintain person-centered and recovery-oriented practices while responding to community needs and public safety concerns. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Identify strategies for building effective partnerships with law enforcement, criminal justice agencies, outreach teams, shelters, and other community systems. • Identify community-based approaches for engaging individuals outside traditional service pathways and connecting them to care before their needs escalate. • Examine strategies for balancing person-centered and recovery-oriented practices with community needs and public safety considerations.

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3:45 PM – 5:00 PM 1.25 CEUs	<u>Breakout #1C: Leading Through Change – Building AI-Ready Teams and Systems</u> Speakers: • Ted St. John, CEO, Hope Town • Grant Kirkwood, Hope Town Description: As artificial intelligence becomes increasingly relevant to behavioral health organizations, leaders are considering how these tools can be integrated into organizational operations and clinical practice. Participants will explore opportunities to use AI to improve administrative efficiency, support clinical operations and patient care, and streamline workflows while considering ethical issues, change management, and appropriate safeguards. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Identify opportunities to use AI to support organizational operations, clinical workflows, and patient care. • Examine key considerations for implementing AI safely and effectively within behavioral health organizations. • Identify strategies for supporting teams and managing organizational change associated with AI implementation.
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