



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

Day 2 - Thursday, October 8, 2026 – Total Possible CEUs: 4.75

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 2 Objectives:

- Participants will identify strategies for strengthening communication, leadership, and decision-making within behavioral health organizations and systems.
- Participants will examine how evidence, perspectives, and emerging practices can inform efforts to strengthen behavioral health services, systems, and outcomes.

Day 2 Agenda:

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	CEO Networking Breakfast
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration, Hot Breakfast, Exhibits
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM 1.25 CEUs	Keynote: Brilliant Communication – The Science of Trust, Connection & High-Impact Leadership Speaker: Nina Meehan, MS, Brilliant Communication Specialist, Speaker, and Coach Description: Participants will explore how effective communication can strengthen leadership, build trust, and support engagement and alignment within teams and organizations. The session will examine the role of clarity, connection, and confidence in leadership communication, common communication roadblocks, and practical approaches for developing messages that resonate and drive action. Participants will also consider strategies for navigating difficult conversations and communicating with greater confidence and impact. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Identify communication roadblocks that can interfere with trust, engagement, and alignment. • Apply the principles of clarity, connection, and confidence to strengthen leadership communication. • Identify strategies for developing messages that resonate and drive action. • Apply practical approaches for navigating difficult conversations and strengthening team engagement.
10:15 AM – 10:45 AM	Break & Exhibits
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM 1.5 CEUs	Keynote: Community, Collaboration, Consolidation, and Common Ground: Responding to Unprecedented Changes in the Operating Environment Speaker: Josh Rubin, MPP, Vice President, Client Solutions, Health Management Associates

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	Description: Recent changes in federal healthcare policy and priorities have significant implications for behavioral health providers and the people they serve. Participants will examine shifts in the federal policy environment, including changes related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, harm reduction, and housing first approaches. The session will explore considerations for understanding and adapting to the changing landscape, advocating within it, and continuing to meet the needs of individuals and communities. Objectives: Participants will be able to: - Assess the implications of changes in the federal policy environment for behavioral health organizations and service delivery. - Identify strategies for adapting services and advocacy efforts in response to a changing policy environment.
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Break & Exhibits
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM .75 CEUs	<u>Luncheon Speaker:</u> Overview of the Ohio Behavioral Health Economic Impact Study Speaker: Kevin Willardsen, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Raj Soin College of Business at Wright State University Description: This session will provide an overview of findings from the Statewide Economic Impact Study on Behavioral Health, including the contribution of behavioral health services to Ohio's economic and community well-being. The discussion will also address evidence-informed policy strategies for strengthening behavioral health systems and improving outcomes. Objectives: Participants will be able to: - Identify key findings from the Statewide Economic Impact Study on Behavioral Health. - Examine policy strategies that support behavioral health systems and community well-being.
1:45 PM – 2:00 PM	Break & Exhibits
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM 1.25 CEUs (ethics)	<u>Breakout #2A:</u> Changes in Attitudes, Changes in Latitudes: Addressing Stigma to Improve Outcomes Speakers: Dr. Mark Hurst, Hurst Healthcare Consulting Description: This session will examine the role of stigma in healthcare and community settings and how it can affect both the provision and receipt of care. Participants will explore how stigma can be reflected in language, policy, and practice and how it can influence engagement, access to care, trust, and health outcomes. The discussion will also consider how shifts in attitudes and perspectives, along with practical approaches to reducing stigma, can support more ethical and effective care and improved outcomes. Objectives: Participants will be able to: - Identify common forms of stigma and how they appear in language, policy, and practice. - Examine the impact of stigma on engagement, access, trust, and outcomes. - Identify practical strategies for reducing stigma in professional and community settings.

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2:00 PM – 3:15 PM 1.25 CEUs	<u>Breakout #2B: Advancing Adult Mobile Crisis in Ohio: From Standards to Measurement to Impact</u> Speakers: • David Frederick, MSAH, Assistant Director of Policy and Sustainability at Clear Pathways • Robin Lindquist-Grantz, PhD, Director, Measurement and Evaluation at Clear Pathways; Senior Researcher, Mathematica Description: This session will explore Clear Pathways' experience developing and advancing adult mobile crisis services in Ohio, including the development of evidence-informed program standards and core performance measures. Presenters will discuss the collaborative approach used to establish adult mobile crisis standards, lessons learned through implementation, and the core measures used in the Adult Mobile Crisis Alternative Payment Model. The discussion will also consider how standards and measurements can support high-quality, person-centered crisis care while strengthening quality, accountability, and performance across systems of care. Objectives: Participants will be able to: • Summarize the evolution of Clear Pathways' adult mobile crisis initiative and key lessons learned to date. • Identify evidence-informed program standards developed for adult mobile crisis services and the collaborative approach used to create them. • Interpret the core measures used in the Adult Mobile Crisis Alternative Payment Model and their role in supporting high-quality, person-centered crisis care. • Identify opportunities to adapt adult mobile crisis standards and performance measures to strengthen quality, accountability, and system performance within their own organizations.
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