

# OHIO COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## Unmasking Our Potential

Unmasking our potential in behavioral healthcare requires a paradigm shift to fully embrace a person-centered, integrated care delivery system that improves outcomes by meeting people’s needs where they are and in ways they desire to seek care. We must strive to make engagement our priority and access to care easy. This will challenge us to be bold, lead with urgency, engage with curiosity, and challenge the status quo and legacy design of Ohio’s behavioral healthcare system.

This revolutionary approach will encourage us to look beyond our traditional methods, policies, practices, and treatment protocols, and shift our focus to holistic care. To look beyond a diagnosis but rather at symptoms in the context of socio-economic and community conditions. To explore new pathways that tailor treatment approaches, documentation, and engagement to the specific needs and experiences of individuals, families, and communities. To harness technology as tools to better meet the needs of those we serve while creating efficiency. To find balance between care and compliance. To invigorate our workforce and inspire the next generation of professionals. To overcome stigma and harness the possible.

Realizing our full potential and building the community behavioral health system needed today and into our future will demand a bold vision, steady leadership, and enduring commitment. It requires advocacy and investment in resources and our workforce. It requires reimagining practice and policies to prioritize the experience of care using technology to make access easy and convenient. It requires payment parity. It requires understanding that brain health is essential health – and necessary for healthy workers, thriving families, productive businesses, and economic growth.

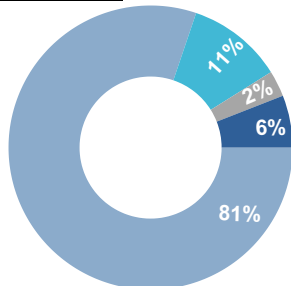
Together, I am confident we can unmask our potential to make our bold vision a reality. The Ohio Council will lead with intention as it has for the last 45 years to advocate for effective public policy solutions. We will strive to build support for holistic and integrated care, seek critical investments in resources and technology to build a full continuum of services, and promote strategies to sustain and build an engaging and talented workforce. Together, through innovation, imagination, and ingenuity we will realize this future where healing, hope, and recovery is accessible and available for all Ohioans.

*Teresa Lampl, LISW-S*

Teresa Lampl, LISW-S  
Chief Executive Officer

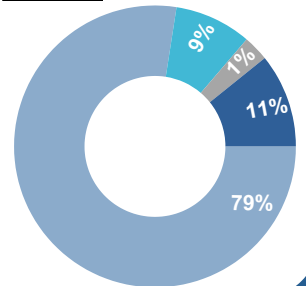
### 2024 Revenue

- Membership Dues
- Conferences/Trainings
- Products/Services
- Grants/Other Income



### 2024 Expenses

- Advocacy/Member Support
- Conferences/Trainings
- Products/Services
- Operating Expenses



## 2024 Advocacy & Policy Accomplishments

- Implementation of historic across-the-board investments in the Medicaid community behavioral health service rates to sustain access and stabilize the workforce.
- Advocated for improvements in Medicaid provider enrollment, credentialing, re-validation processes, and claims payment issues to enhance functionality and implementation.
- Advocated for distribution of behavioral health workforce investments through the Great Minds Fellowship and improved collaboration with institutions of higher education.
- Developed a mental health credential strategy in collaboration with members to create clear career pathways for individuals interested in mental health services, aligning with the Ohio BH Workforce Strategic Plan.
- Strengthened the partnership between the Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Parity Coalition to target actions to address BH workforce and service access challenges.
- Advanced state policy initiatives to develop and establish an Ohio CCBHC model.
- Engaged with OhioMHAS and system stakeholders to address ADAMHS Boards' contracting requirements in Chapter 340 and promote collaborative community planning.
- Collaborated with OhioMHAS and the National Council to identify innovative policy and practice strategies using a rapid-cycle change process to improve access to care.
- Promoted the expansion of school-based behavioral health services through partnerships with schools to enhance access to prevention, consultation, and treatment services for youth and families while optimizing the behavioral health workforce.
- Supported substance use services through continued engagement and participation with the 1115 SUD Waiver Advisory Committee; promoted and supported opioid use disorder treatment policy and regulatory reforms, and enhanced state and federal funding.
- Collaborated on policy recommendations to strengthen OhioRISE as a systems of care model to meet the needs of multi-system engaged youth and families while supporting implementation of the new Department of Children and Youth.
- Partnered with Ohio's Centers of Excellence and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to promote and expand practice-based learning opportunities and workforce development.
- Advocated for policies and investments to support 9-8-8 and development of the crisis continuum.
- Supported efforts to implement national accreditation for recovery housing, improve credentialing and reimbursement for peer recovery services, and enhance supported employment policies and payments.
- Fostered membership growth through strong policy advocacy, high value membership engagement opportunities, and responsive training and technical assistance.

## 2025 Advocacy Priorities

- Advance strategies and strengthen investments in the behavioral health workforce and human infrastructure including continuation of education and career development funding and implementation of the qualified mental health credentials.
- Expand enforcement of insurance parity for mental health and substance use services through collaboration with the Ohio Department of Insurance and U.S. Department of Labor.
- Accelerate policy and practice change that makes engagement a priority and access easier.
- Leverage data and technology innovation to improve care, care coordination, and health outcomes.
- Maintain and enhance investments in a full continuum of behavioral health services and supports in collaboration with system partners in the SFY 2026-2027 state budget.
  - Define the economic impact and necessity of investment in mental health and substance use services to support a thriving economy.
  - Maintain and enhance Medicaid investments in community behavioral health services and supports.
  - Develop and fully fund Ohio's CCBHC model of care and continuum of crisis services, including 9-8-8.
  - Expand investment in school-community BH provider partnerships to support healthy students and educators.
  - Create a dedicated and stable funding stream for prevention, harm reduction, and early intervention.
  - Improve outcomes and recovery through access to healthy and safe housing options, meaningful employment opportunities, and peer recovery support 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. Your personal contributions yield results and are critical resources in our advocacy. **Join us!** Make a personal contribution at <https://givebutter.com/theohiocouncil>.

