



The Opioid Epidemic Exploded.

Leaving a trail of vulnerable, traumatized kids in its wake. Causing increased stress on the whole children services system: lack of foster parents, lack of supports for kinship and foster families, increased workload for caseworkers, and increased costs.

That's why we spent 2017 thinking big.

Big, as in securing \$30 million per year of funding from the State of Ohio to assist children services in addressing the impact of the opioid epidemic and to provide child care assistance for kinship caregivers.

Big, as in launching a research-based pilot program designed to support families experiencing substance use disorders and create sound policy leading to better permanency outcomes.

Big, as in spreading the news about the impact of the opioid epidemic on Ohio's children, families and the children services system to local, state, national and international media.

PCSAO represents and serves Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs), and we are proud to be able to effect big, meaningful changes through our advocacy, research, education, communication, member supports and program leadership. To support the vital efforts of PCSAs in any way we can.

We thought big because we knew that, beyond our members, there were plenty of champions who recognized the difficult work that PCSAs undertake. The odds faced by families. The challenges endured daily by children. The sacrifices made by kinship and foster families. The unspeakable things witnessed by caseworkers.

We are grateful to our champions who thought big with us. They know there are more challenges ahead, but they – and we – stand ready to make the case for even bigger changes in the coming years. Ohio's vulnerable, traumatized kids deserve nothing less.

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED IN 2017

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH

SECURED \$30 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING

> In the first significant state investment in children services in a decade, Ohio added \$15 million a year to the state allocation and another \$15 million a year in federal funds for a new kinship child care program. It took a multi-faceted effort by PCSAO to create the awareness leading to the necessary public and legislative support. The outcry in national, state and local media—combined with the collaboration we brought together among many stakeholders—demonstrated that Ohioans won't stand

for being last in the nation for state share of child protection spending and that children should not be invisible in such a drug epidemic.

- > Provided testimony on 6 bills and influenced development of administrative rules to assure our members' interests were understood and considered by policymakers and the administration.
- > Advocated for the creation of the Foster Care Advisory Group convened by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to research and recommend best practices for recruiting and retaining foster parents.

PUBLISHED CRITICAL RESEARCH

- > Researched and wrote "Working Toward Reunification During the Opioid Crisis," a white paper explaining the reasonable efforts that must be taken in a child's best interest to remove a child from the family and then, later, successfully reunify the child.
- > Developed guidelines and policy considerations for agencies writing rules on caseworker safety with respect to opioids and carrying Narcan.
- > Released the 13th Edition of the PCSAO Factbook, which

was redesigned to focus on more child protection data points.

- > Updated the "Levy Campaign Guide" to support counties in securing local funds.
- > Created a "Quick Reference Guide: Immigration and Child Welfare" to provide support and education to PCSAs that become involved with undocumented children and families.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT AND PRACTICE ENHANCEMENT

LAUNCHED OHIO START

- > In partnership with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, initiated a new 14-county pilot program, Sobriety, Treatment And Reducing Trauma (START), to help support families experiencing substance use disorders and child maltreatment.
- > Collaborated with additional funding partners, Casey Family Programs, HealthPath Foundation of Ohio and UnitedHealthcare.

- > Partnered with Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to obtain federal funding to provide training and technical assistance to the START counties.
- > Worked with The Ohio State University College of Social Work and Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs to create an evaluation of the Ohio START pilot program.

COMPLETED AN EVALUATION OF A 10-COUNTY PILOT PROJECT, YOUTH-CENTERED PERMANENCY ROUNDTABLES (PRT)

- > The project involved regularly scheduled, structured meetings with youth 12 and older who had been in care 17 months or longer, focusing exclusively on identifying permanent options for them, including legal custody to kin, adoption, and even reunification with birth

parents whose parental rights had been terminated.

- > The study found that youth were more likely to find permanent homes and exit foster care. Moreover, the values associated with an urgent focus on permanency resulted in an agency-wide culture change that improved outcomes for all youth in care, not just those who received PRTs.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- > Together with the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, provided three days of training and nine months of coaching to over 30 agency leaders as part of the Leadership Academy for Middle Managers; participants completed individual "change initiatives" within their agency to improve frontline caseworker recruitment and retention.

- > Monitored the transition of children in custody from Medicaid fee-for-service to managed care and provided technical assistance and consultation to PCSAs to quickly resolve problems.
- > Coordinated and offered a range of meetings and training for agency leaders, including orientation for new executives; distance-learning webinars on immigration, pay for performance, and other

timely topics; executive coaching; membership and district meetings; the annual Fostering Pathways to Success conference; and a three-day statewide annual conference.

- > Formed the "Residential Action Planning" Group to research national efforts to reduce reliance on congregate care and develop a plan for Ohio to establish a children's continuum of care that

focuses on preventing and intervening with community-based, short-term crisis stabilization and diversion services.

- > Along with ODJFS and Casey Family Programs, held the first Primary Parent Partner recognition to honor the work and success of birth parent partners engaged in Helping Ohioans Parent Effectively (HOPE).

Big Actions To Meet Big Challenges

It's no exaggeration to say that for PCSAO, 2017 was a year for the history books. Together with our member agencies, key association partners, legislative and mission champions, we achieved the first significant investment in children services by the state in a decade: \$30 million per year to ensure better outcomes for children and families impacted by the opioid epidemic, kin caregivers struggling to pay child care costs, and frontline caseworkers juggling more complex and demanding cases. We marshaled the leadership of our board and membership, the hard work of our staff, the voices of foster caregivers and youth, and the power of the news media to secure a lasting investment in Ohio's children and families. Yet, as the epidemic continues to explode agency budgets and send more children into foster care, we can only hope that the result is but a down payment on what will have to be a more focused and long-term plan to reform Ohio's foster care system. After all, based on a report we issued in December, if the current trend continues, we may see over 20,000 children in foster care on any given day by 2020, with spending upwards of half a billion dollars just for placement costs. Ohio needs bold leadership and thoughtful policy debate now if we are to avoid these outcomes for our children and families. This ain't kid stuff.



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Mission PCSAO is a membership-driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities.

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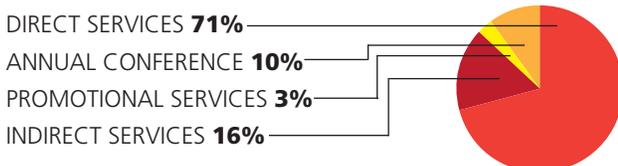
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Financial Report

2017 REVENUE \$827,225



2017 EXPENDITURES \$825,369



2017 GRANTS \$ 759,961

CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS	\$247,000	32%
OHIO ATTY GENERAL'S OFFICE	\$492,961	65%
OHIO DEPT OF JOB & FAMILY SVCS	\$20,000	3%

MISSION CHAMPIONS

PCSAO appreciates the following organizations for being 2017 Mission Champions.

ULTIMATE MISSION CHAMPION \$7,500

UnitedHealthcare

SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES CHAMPION \$5,000

Molina Healthcare

STABLE FAMILIES CHAMPIONS \$2,500

Buckeye Health Plan
Homes For Kids, Inc.
New Beginnings Residential Treatment Center

SAFE CHILDREN CHAMPIONS \$1,000

Mohican Youth Academy
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For more information about the benefits of becoming a 2018 Mission Champion, please visit our website.