

Chance

Never leave anything to chance

**IF WE WERE GOING TO SOLVE THIS CRISIS,
WE COULDN'T LEAVE ANYTHING TO CHANCE.**

**IF WE WERE GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE,
WE HAD TO MAKE A CHANGE.**

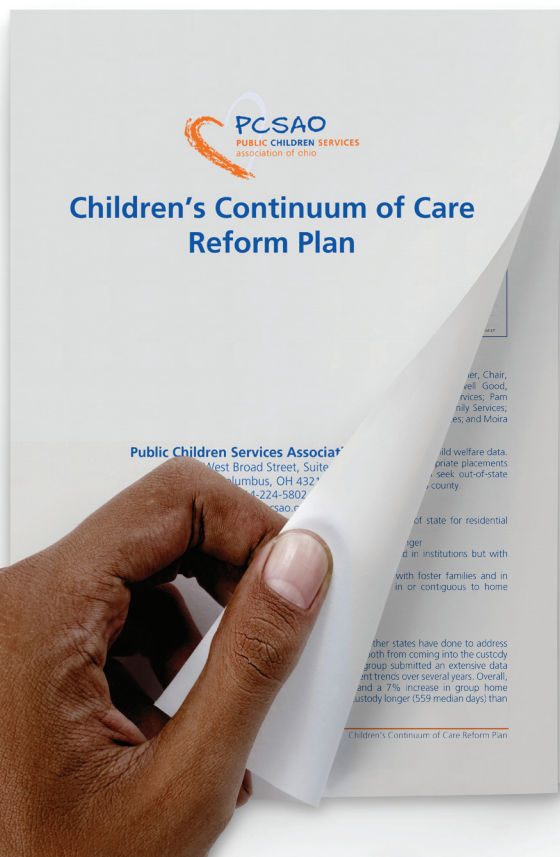
Today, in the continuing wake of the opioid epidemic, our county agencies have custody of 3,500 more children than just five years ago. Foster home and residential treatment facility placement costs have increased \$109 million in the last five years, bringing the total spent in 2018 alone to more than \$384 million.

Just as overwhelming is the human cost—crushing caseloads elevating levels of secondary traumatic stress have pushed over half of all children services workers to the very threshold of PTSD.

Something had to change. In fact, a lot of things had to change.

So, in May, PCSAO launched a reform plan to address this severe crisis—a system-wide reform plan to create a continuum of services for children and their families. Reducing the number of children coming into care, the length of time they stay in care, the overuse of residential care, and the cost to taxpayers.

This Continuum of Care Reform plan is aligned with the federal Family First



Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and has been advanced significantly with stakeholders and the administration of Gov. Mike DeWine, with endorsements from national, statewide, and local organizations.

It's a big effort needing big support from everybody. But if we all give it our best, we can end up offering a better future to the children and families of our state.

And a better chance at a happy life.



Federal Advocacy

>> Worked with other states to identify and advance a Congressional solution to the gap between the end of the flexible Title IV-E waiver and the implementation of FFPSA. A published op/ed in The Chronicle of Social Change supports this solution, and if approved by Congress, will prevent more children from coming into foster care in 15 Ohio waiver counties over the next two years.



What else we accomplished in 2018



State Advocacy

>> Worked with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Children's Alliance and other partners to facilitate presentations, meetings, and planning for Ohio implementation of FFPSA.



>> Testified on six bills and participated in the rule-making process.

>> Consulted with legislators on other bills and legislative proposals—in both one-on-one meetings and through Interested Parties meetings.



>> Secured statutory changes to the Kinship Caregiver Program to help make the program more accessible.



>> Assembled a Kinship Action Planning Group to develop a comprehensive kinship policy agenda including recommendations for strategic policy and financial investments to ensure that kinship caregivers who open their homes to kin children have the supports they need; recommendations address reducing financial barriers, connecting kinship caregivers to services and supports, and providing tailored, trauma-informed services and supports.



>> Advocated for improving outcomes for children and improving evidence-based practice as part of the federal Child and Family Services Review.

>> Served on the Foster Care Advisory Group, producing wide-ranging recommendations for improving the number of foster caregivers and the supports for recruiting and retaining them.

>> Expanded the Ohio Reach mentoring program to additional campuses.

>> Cosponsored the 10th Fostering Pathways to Success conference for more than 400 foster youth, young adults and adult supporters to learn about education, employment and self-sufficiency.

Training And Support For Our PCSA Members

>> Coordinated and supported the annual three-day conference for 500+ professionals featuring dozens of workshops, moving awards and stellar speakers.

>> Arranged and hosted an informative gubernatorial candidate roundtable with member agencies in September.

>> Hosted the second Leadership Academy for Middle Managers with 17 agency middle managers receiving intense training on leadership skills and coaching to help them implement a change initiative at the agency.

>> Prepared 25 directors and other senior leaders for their role during our annual New Execs Orientation, and cosponsored Kinnect's fourth annual Family Finding Convening.

Ohio START Expansion

>> In partnership with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, continued to oversee the Ohio START (Sobriety,

Treatment and Reducing Trauma) pilot program to help address families experiencing substance use disorders. The program expanded from 14 to 32 counties, with the original cohort serving over 150 families and 225 children.

>> Partnered with other generous public and private funders, including Casey Family Programs, United Healthcare and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS). OMHAS provided significant funding from the 21st Century CURES Act and the State Opioid Response Grant to support Ohio START's training program, managed by the Institute for Human Services, as well as expansion of the pilot program to additional counties.

>> Supported 24 Family Peer Mentors and worked with The Ohio State University School of Social Work and Ohio University Voinovich School of Public Policy to evaluate the Ohio START pilot program.

Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives

>> Partnered with the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, and the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers on a statewide grant, improving outcomes for child and youth victims of human trafficking.

>> Hired an Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator to support public children services agencies and juvenile courts in identifying and responding to the needs of trafficked children and youth.

>> Collaborated with partners to provide 8 trainings to approximately 350 children services, juvenile justice and allied child-serving professionals across the state.

Big challenges need big changes

It took quite a deal of work to develop the Children’s Continuum of Care Reform Plan, and quite a number of partnerships, and, in the end, we are proud to be leading the charge to reform Ohio’s children services system that has been in a serious crisis for several years. This reform plan would not have occurred if not for the voices of our members expressing the placement crisis in



our system; the leadership of the PCSAO Board of Trustees led by then-President Catherine Hill, Athens County Children Services; Timothy Schaffner, Trumbull County Children Services, who chaired the Children’s Continuum of Care Reform planning group; and Patricia Harrelson,

Richland County Children Services, who chaired the kinship reform planning group. Their efforts are a big reason PCSAO received the 2018 Children’s Advocacy Champion Award from Voices for Ohio’s Children. I couldn’t be more proud of this award and to be able to lead so many dedicated people who make it happen day in and day out. We have big challenges ahead—but we now also have a big plan to take them on. So let’s all keep up the work, and make more big things happen for the families and children of Ohio.

Angela Sausser, MA, MSW, LSW
Executive Director

Financial Report

2018 REVENUE \$893,085

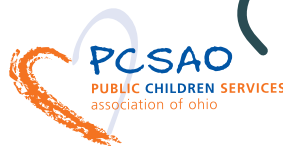


2018 EXPENDITURES \$824,746



2018 GRANTS \$ 1,960,960

CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS	\$220,000	11%
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE	\$1,518,490	78%
OTHER GRANT REVENUE & DONATIONS	\$222,470	11%



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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.

