

Accomplishments

Unprecedented investments in children services

After a decade of crisis in our system, Gov. Mike DeWine, Speaker Larry Householder, and the General Assembly displayed extraordinary leadership, resulting in a \$236 million new investment in children services in the state budget, including funds intended to stabilize county agency workforce and implement innovative programs:

- \$100 million increase in much-needed funding to begin to stabilize the children services system
- \$20 million to support best practices for serving children and families
- \$10 million for foster care recruitment and retention
- \$6.8 million for mobile technology for caseworkers

Additional funds were targeted at creating safe, stable environments for children and families:

- \$50 million for custody prevention and placement costs for youth with multi-system needs
- \$17 million to build a navigator program to assist kinship caregivers and adoptive families
- \$11 million to support youth aging out of foster care
- \$20 million to expand Ohio START, serving families experiencing substance use disorder and child abuse or neglect, plus \$1 million for other promising programs such as 30 Days to Family and Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtables

Informed public policy advocacy

The new budget investments were made possible by having the right leaders in elected positions and by relentless advocacy by PCSAO and its membership. In addition, PCSAO:

- Published the **2019 PCSAO Factbook**, 14th edition, providing program and fiscal data for each county
- Released an **initial report and recommendations** on a new tiered treatment foster care system to expand supports for children and caregivers so that fewer children are placed in residential settings
- Updated our **Children's Continuum of Care Reform** plan with kinship recommendations
- Engaged with members of Congress to support passage of the Family First Transition Act, which invests in building strong families

Effective prevention-focused intervention: Ohio START

Ohio START (Sobriety Treatment and Reducing Trauma) stabilizes families harmed by parental addiction by bringing together caseworkers, behavioral health providers, and family peer mentors into teams dedicated to helping families with recovery. In 2019, Ohio START:

- Expanded from 32 to 46 counties
- Secured funding in the state biennial budget (see above)
- Launched **ohiostart.org**

From the Executive Director



As I reflect on 2019, I find myself in the unusual and frustrating position of celebrating past successes in the midst of the uncertainty of a pandemic. Last year witnessed the most significant new investments in children services in Ohio history, the promise of true system transformation, and the opportunity for new federal innovations. For these, we are grateful to Gov. Mike DeWine, the General Assembly, and Ohio's Congressional delegation.

We share our accomplishments in recognition of a year that was momentous in so many ways, even as we manage through a crisis unlike anything the state or the child protection system has ever experienced. We remain optimistic that the tremendous transformation begun in 2019 will continue moving forward even as the pandemic takes its economic toll on states and counties—not to mention its toll on the safety and wellbeing of children and families. As always, PCSAO's board and staff have provided the leadership, perseverance, and support that made all of our 2019 successes possible. In 2020 we mark PCSAO's 40th anniversary of advocacy, and look hopefully to the future!

Angela Sausser

Angela Sausser, MA, MS, LSW
Executive Director

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Special Events and Initiatives

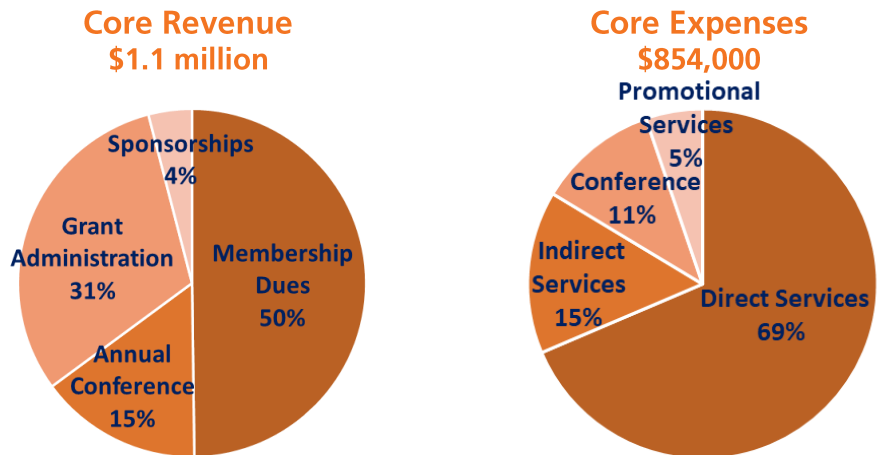
Human trafficking training

Funded by a three-year federally funded grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Crime Victims, PCSAO provides training, screening tools and support on **human trafficking** to children services professionals. In 2019, 1,592 professionals received more than 300 hours of training on human trafficking as part of 60 separate training events.

Annual conference

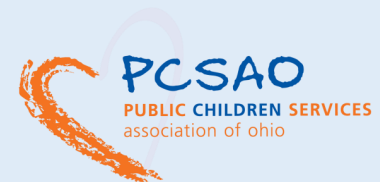
More than 400 people attended the three-day **annual conference**, "Champions for Children and Families."

Unaudited 2019 Financial Information



Additional grants and contributions over \$10,000

- Ohio Attorney General's Office | \$2,166,014
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services | \$951,987
- Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services | \$571,683
- Casey Family Programs | \$205,000
- Office of Criminal Justice Services | \$88,301
- Anthem, Inc. | \$75,000
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Ohio | \$50,000
- Ohio Department of Youth Services | \$18,026



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