

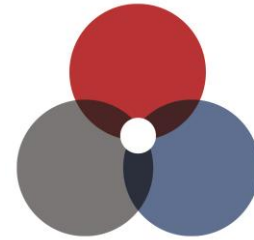
# Series Recap and Next Steps

Featuring

Rep. Janine Boyd (D-Cleveland Hts.)  
Sen. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard)

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July 31, 2020



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**COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS**  
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# The Center for Community Solutions

We are a non-partisan, nonprofit that aims to improve health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.

[www.communitysolutions.com](http://www.communitysolutions.com)

Twitter: @CommunitySols

## Our Priorities



Advancing Wellbeing of Older Adults



Enhancing Behavioral Health Access



Improving Maternal and Infant Health



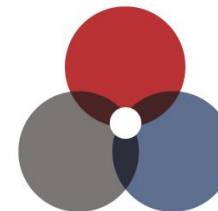
Promoting Comprehensive Reproductive Health Education



Strengthening Health and Human Services Safety Net



Supporting Sound Medicaid Policy



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## Advocates for Ohio's Future

Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is a nonpartisan coalition of over 500 Ohio organizations that promotes health and human service budget and policy solutions so that all Ohioans live better lives.

Our coalition believes in investing in our state's most valuable resource—our people—to ensure that they are safe, healthy, and can access pathways to prosperity for themselves and their families.

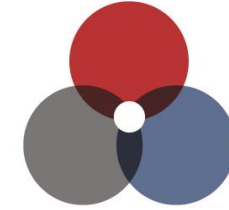
**Kelsey Bergfeld, Coalition Manager**

[kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com](mailto:kbergfeld@communitysolutions.com) | [www.advocatesforohio.org](http://www.advocatesforohio.org)

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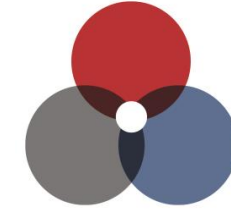
**Thank you for tuning in!**

13 Webinars

40+ Presenters

2,500 Unique Attendees

**Let's look back at what we covered...**



# April 2020

## **April 3: Federal Policy Response-Families First and CARES Act**

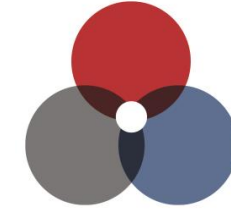
- Community Catalyst: Rachelle Brill, Senior Policy Analyst for Together For Medicaid and Eva Marie Stahl, Associate Director of Policy for the Children's Health Initiative
  - Increased Medicaid funds to states and territories through an enhanced match of 6.2 percentage points, but not for ACA expansion populations
    - Receipt of funds is conditioned on maintaining eligibility levels and must provide Medicaid coverage without cost-sharing for testing and testing related services- Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
  - Private insurance must cover testing for COVID-19 with no cost-sharing and any future vaccine
  - No SNAP work requirements until a month after the emergency declaration is lifted
  - Up to 12 weeks of paid leave for employees in need of child care due to public health emergency
  - 80 hours of paid sick leave if unable to telework



# April 2020

## **April 10: Federal HHS Assistance Programs & Unemployment Assistance**

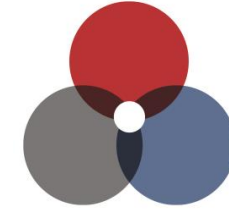
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Liz Schott, Senior Fellow; Ed Bolen, Senior Policy Analyst
- Policy Matters Ohio-Zach Schiller, Research Director
  - Most TANF recipients are eligible for recovery rebates of \$1200 per adult and \$500 per dependent child under age 17
  - IRS is creating a simple tax return for non-filers to use
  - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) can help those who do not qualify for regular unemployment including self-employed persons, gig economy workers or those without sufficient work history
    - \$600 a week for virtually all claimants getting UC
    - Retroactive to March 27, goes through July 31
  - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation –13 more weeks
  - Worksharing–U.S. picks up full cost of benefits in Ohio
  - Nonprofits and government workers –U.S. picks up 50%



# April 2020

## April 17: Food Access

- Ohio Association of Foodbanks-Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director
- Greater Cleveland Food Bank-Kimberly LoVano, Director of Advocacy and Public Education
- Children's Hunger Alliance-Scott Neely, Director of Government Affairs
- Center for Community Solutions-Rachel Cahill, Consultant
  - **UPDATE:** As of right now, Governor DeWine has requested an extension of federal funding authorization for the National Guard COVID-19 response, including its support at Ohio's foodbanks. Ohio's congressional delegation submitted a bipartisan, bicameral letter in support of Governor DeWine's request, led jointly by Senators Portman and Brown.
  - Ohio's foodbanks are deeply concerned about their ability to maintain continued crisis response without an extension of this mission. Currently, National Guard members are scheduled to depart Ohio's foodbanks August 7, but community volunteers, especially older adults and corporate volunteer groups, remain inaccessible.



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# April 2020

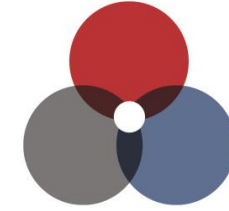
## April 17: Food Access

- The recent Senate HEALS Act does not contain a boost to the SNAP maximum household benefit, though the House HEROES Act does. As final negotiations take place, we are urging Congress to prioritize this boost to SNAP, which will particularly serve low-wage working families with children who have yet to receive an increase to their SNAP benefits.

## April 24: Medicaid

- Center for Community Solutions-Loren Anthes, Policy Fellow
- Universal Health Care Action Network-Ohio-Steve Wagner, Executive Director
- Children's Defense Fund-Ohio-Kelly Vyzral, Senior Health Policy Associate
  - **UPDATE:** Congress needs to include an increase to the Medicaid FMAP, of 14%, in the next COVID relief bill that lasts for the duration of the economic recovery and must require states to maintain maintenance of effort (MOE). The MOE is a critical part of this request because it is necessary to assure that mental health, addiction and health services continue for the many in Ohio who require assistance.





# April 2020

## April 24: Medicaid

- State revenues are projected to be billions of dollars short requiring massive cuts without new revenue. The Ohio Medicaid program is at risk.
- An increase in FMAP to 14% allows the Ohio Medicaid program to continue caring for children, families, older adults and people with disability, while it frees state resources including the “rainy day” fund to continue to fund education, public safety, emergency services, and other government function in the face of diminishing tax revenue.
- The next COVID relief bill should include the Reentry Act, which provides Medicaid coverage to inmates in jail/prison 30 days before release.



# May 2020

## May 1: Counties and Caseworkers

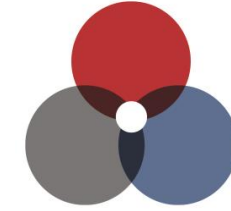
- Ohio Jobs and Family Services Directors Association-Joel Potts, Executive Director; Jeanne Carroll, Assistant Director; Laura Abu-Absi, Deputy Director
- Marion County Jobs and Family Services-Roxane Somerlot, Director
- Public Children Services Association of Ohio-Mary Wachtel, Director of Public Policy
- Sarah Neff, Ohio START Family Peer Mentor; Ashley Durst, Ohio START Caseworker
  - PCSAs have a statutory mandate to perform child protective services regardless of the pandemic, must be available to the public to accept reports, must initiate timely contact and safety investigations for screened-in reports



# May 2020

## May 8: Non-profits and Service Providers

- Center for Community Solutions-Emily Campbell, Associate Director & Williamson Family Fellow for Applied Research
  - The vast majority of service providers report that their services have been disrupted
  - More than 2/3 of respondents identified at least one way they have adjusted services
  - Demand for services and expenses have increased for many agencies
  - People are much more concerned about the community and their clients than themselves



# May 2020

## May 15: Racial Health Inequities

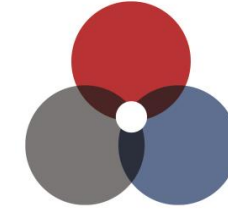
- Children's Defense Fund-Ohio-Tracy Najera, Executive Director
- Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity-Kyle Strickland, Sr. Legal Analyst
- PrimaryOne Health-Former Senator Charleta B. Tavares, Chief Executive Officer
  - Minority Health Strike Force: Communities of color, particularly the African-American community, are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 and the illness it causes
    - Stop the progression of the disease
    - Evaluate and document the impact of the disease
    - Remedy factors that contribute to the spread
    - Procure resources to prevent a resurgence
  - Assure that all COVID-19 data has full reporting of race and ethnicity, and work toward that same goal for all public health and Medicaid data reported by the state
  - Examine the Medicaid testing and treatment data and look for differences in race, disability and geography to get a fuller picture of disease impact and disparity
  - Examine utilization of nutrition, cash assistance, housing, and other programs pre and post pandemic



# May 2020

## May 22: K-12 and Higher Education

- Ohio Federation of Teachers-Melissa Cropper, President; Darold Johnson, Director of Legislation
- American Association of University Professors (AAUP) Ohio-Sara Kilpatrick, Executive Director
  - Ohio needs Federal help to sustain K-12 and higher education. Heroes Act would allocate approximately \$2B for K-12 and just under \$1B for Higher Ed
    - Flexibility for each districts - no one side fits all
    - Protect the health and safety of teachers and students
    - Prioritize vulnerable students including students including students with disabilities, low income, homeless, ELL, foster care
  - There was some federal aid to colleges and universities in the CARES Act. However, it was about 1/5 of what institutions requested to weather this storm. We need another relief bill with more unrestricted aid to higher ed
  - Colleges and universities must use this as an opportunity to refocus resources on the academic mission



# May 2020

## May 29: Housing and Homelessness

- Ohio Poverty Law Center-Megan O'Dell, Staff Attorney
- Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio-Nick DiNardo, Attorney
- Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services-Ruth Anne Gillett, Manager
- Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio-Gina Wilt, Advocacy Director
  - Ohio has no statewide eviction moratorium
  - Once local moratoriums lift, courts will see a surge in eviction cases
  - Use \$100M of Coronavirus Relief Fund for rental assistance
  - We as advocates need to think what is going to happen to our shelters and social safety net systems when hundreds or thousands of families become homeless during this pandemic
  - COHHIO Awarded: \$15 million TANF allocation to create the Homeless Family Assistance Program to support evidenced-based rapid rehousing and homeless prevention strategies to reduce the number of children and families that experience homelessness
  - HEROES Act included \$100 billion in rental assistance-removed in HEALS Act



## June 2020

### June 5: Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Multi-System Youth

- The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers-Soley Hernandez, Associate Director
- Mental Health and Addiction Advocacy Coalition-Kelly Smith, State Program and Policy Director
- Disability Rights Ohio-Jordan Ballinger, Policy Analyst
- Center for Community Solutions-Gayle Channing Tennenbaum, Consultant
  - **UPDATE:** The Controlling Board approval directing \$45 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds from the CARES Act directly to behavioral health providers will help with revenue losses incurred during the pandemic and increased costs from purchasing PPE and equipment to bring telehealth online.
  - The DeWine administration extended the relaxed telehealth rules allowing more modes to connect with individuals, more services and clinicians, as well as reimbursing for treatment. The pandemic is ongoing and telehealth is a vital tool to in providing mental health and substance use treatment services



## June 2020

### **June 5: Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities and Multi-System Youth**

- However, it is clear that the pandemic is overshadowing the opioid epidemic, but lawmakers cannot take their attention away from either of these public health crises. Here are several ways to help: FY 2021 State Budget Recommendations:
  - Sustain Medicaid BH service funding and benefit limits and move forward with planned service enhancements under 1115 waiver and BHCC. (No rate cuts)
  - Sustain all emergency rules expanding telehealth into the foreseeable future
  - Sustain GRF funding for MHAS to support a full continuum of care with provider direct funding opportunities
- COVID-19 exposing gaps in DD service systems
- Systems will need additional funding and support (through Medicaid, federal grants, state funding, and local tax levies)
- Any cuts to these systems will place individuals at greater risk of being placed in dangerous congregate care settings

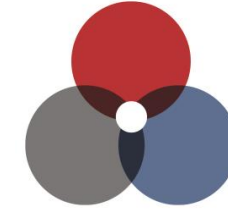




## June 2020

### **June 12: Older Adults, Adult Protective Services and Home and Community Based Services**

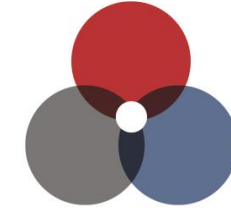
- Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging-Beth Kowalczyk, Chief Policy Officer
- Center for Community Based Care-Joe Russell, Executive Director
- Cuyahoga County Division of Senior and Adult Protective Services-Natasha Pietrocola, Deputy Administrator
  - PE—lack of government resources led us to gather donations from community members, and place group orders to help home care and hospice members gain access to items they need to serve individuals in the home
  - Long-term sustainability: Moving forward we must work to protect skilled Medicaid home health rates and PASSPORT for HBCS providers so you can still receive your services in the comfort of your home. Tell your legislator to urge the Medicaid Director and Aging Director to NOT cut these services during the state biennium budget



# June 2020

## June 26: Child Care

- Groundwork Ohio-Lynanne Gutierrez, Policy Director and Legal Counsel
- Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children-Kimberly Tice, Executive Director
- Children's Hunger Alliance-Shannon Amos, Vice President, Programs
  - Governor DeWine recently announced child care providers can return to regular child-to-staff ratios and class sizes starting Sunday, Aug. 9 BUT they can choose to maintain the lower pandemic ratios and continue to receive state subsidies
    - 442 cases of COVID-19 reported in child care settings-306 staff
    - Estimated 75% of case came from community spread, not child care setting
  - The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed two bills that provide over \$60 billion in direct funding for the child-care industry in an effort to help providers nationwide reopen and improve the safety of their programs during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic
    - Child Care is Essential Act: \$50 billion fund to provide grants to help pay for personnel, sanitation, training and other costs associated with reopening and running a child-care facility amid the pandemic



# July 2020

## July 17: 2020 Census

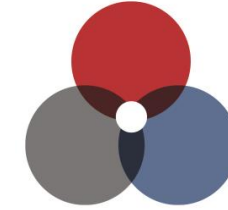
- Children's Defense Fund-Ohio-Tracy Najera, Executive Director
- Center for Community Solutions-Kate Warren, Research Associate
- Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition-Erin Davies, Consultant
- Cleveland VOTES-Devontá Dickey, Advocacy and Engagement Coordinator
  - A new memorandum from President Donald Trump this week orders that undocumented immigrants be excluded from the census counts that are used to divide up seats in congress
  - To be clear, there is still no citizenship question on the 2020 Census. The administration will not be able to use census data that is now being collected to determine how many undocumented immigrants reside in respective states
  - BE COUNTED! COMPLETE YOUR 2020 CENSUS NOW – Oct. 31



# July 2020

## July 24: Community Health Centers

- Ohio Association of Community Health Centers-Julie DiRossi-King, Chief Operating Officer; Dr. Dana Vallangeon, Chief Medical Officer; Kelly Carey, Director of Policy and Public Affairs
  - State and Federal Priorities
    - Preservation of Medicaid: coverage and services
    - FMAP to 14%
    - Telehealth(state and federal)
    - 340B: federal discount drug pricing program
    - Emergency Funding: community testing, PPE, testing supplies, underutilization
    - Long-term CHC funding



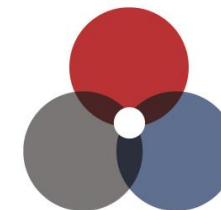
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# August 2020 What's Next?

The Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection, and Schools (HEALS) Act introduced by the Senate Majority leaves out substantial aid included in the U.S. House-passed HEROES Act intended to keep public services strong while states and local governments continue to fight waves of COVID-19 outbreaks

- DOES NOT: Increase FMAP, or increased Medicaid funding to states
- DOES NOT: Raise Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit levels
- DOES NOT: Contain funding for homelessness services or additional rental vouchers, or extend the federal eviction moratorium that expired July 24
- DOES NOT: Include new fiscal aid for states, cities, counties, tribes, or territories
- DOES: Include additional “flexibility” for states, letting them use some CARES Act aid to help offset massive revenue losses
- DOES: Does include a second round of \$1,200 stimulus payments for qualifying individuals
- DOES: Provide some aid for schools. However, the bulk of those funds would be for schools that reopen irrespective of health risks and the funding cannot be used for expenses such as teachers’ salaries
- DOES: Drop the federal unemployment-benefit supplement from \$600 a week to \$200

[Comparison of the HEROES & HEALS Acts](#)



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