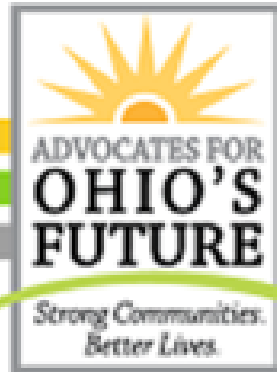




Advocates for Ohio's Future

**Budget Webinar: Behavioral Health, HCBS &
Individuals with Disabilities**

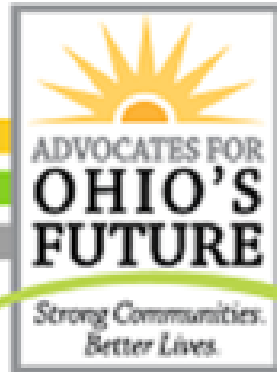
April 30, 2021



Next Week: Senate Health Hearings

- Tuesday May 4 2:00pm: Department of Jobs & Family Services
 - AOF Panel
 - Food Security Panel
 - Child Care Panel
- Wednesday May 5 9:00am: Departments of Medicaid, Aging
- Thursday May 6 9:00am: Catch All

Testimony and witness slip due 24 hours before committee



AOF American Rescue Plan Webinar: May 14 10:30am-12:00pm

Join AOF for a special edition of our biweekly webinar focusing on the American Rescue Plan. During this webinar, a roundtable of AOF's expert members will share how the ARP will impact numerous areas, such as housing, education, broadband, Medicaid, TANF, food assistance, behavioral health, children, and so much more!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



2022-2023 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BUDGET PRIORITIES

Soley Hernandez, LISW-S
Associate Director

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers (the Ohio Council) is a statewide trade association representing over 150 community-based mental health and addiction treatment service providers throughout Ohio.

Ohio Council members offer services to children, adults, and families through prevention, school-based intervention, treatment, and recovery support services.

The Ohio Council strategically pursues effective policy solutions that address the overdose epidemic and meet the rising demand for community-based mental health and addiction treatment services so all Ohioans may experience health, recovery, and wellness.



FY 22-23 BUDGET INITIATIVES IMPACTING BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Overall, the introduced budget continues key investments aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Ohio's children and families, expanding access to mental health and addiction treatment services, and advancing strategic improvements to Ohio's Medicaid managed care program.

MHAS BUDGET

The Governor's executive budget proposal responds in numerous ways to the mental health and addiction crisis facing our state, and we are very pleased to see in this budget proposal the continued investment in behavioral health services across the continuum of care through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Specifically, we strongly support:

- Continued investment in crisis services and crisis stabilization centers,
- New resources aimed at supporting enhanced care coordination for adults with severe and persistent mental illness.
- Criminal justice and specialized dockets supports expanded
- Recovery Housing

ODM BUDGET

The Department of Medicaid's ongoing implementation of its integrated, re-imagined managed care re-procurement is a key initiative that will support behavioral healthcare providers. Specifically, we support:

- The OhioRISE program which offers service enhancements for kids with complex behavioral health needs;
- Behavioral health care coordination;
- Enhanced managed care transparency and accountability measures;
- Reduced administrative hurdles for providers; and
- A renewed emphasis on patient experience and provider partnership

ODM BUDGET

TELEHEALTH

The continued support of telehealth services that began as a response to the COVID-19 state of emergency is key for ongoing access to behavioral health services. Data from ODM shows that between March 2020 and August 2020 at least 627,197 members used telehealth services totaling approximately 2.6 million claims, *and nearly half of those claims were for behavioral health services.*

ODE BUDGET

The Ohio Council supports the Department of Education's budget proposal of \$1.1 billion in student wellness and success funding. These resources have expanded greater access to school-based health and behavioral health services, which are critically important as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic to help kids be better prepared to learn and thrive in their school experience.

SubHB 110, as proposed by the Ohio House of Representatives wrapped these funds into the school funding formula under "disadvantaged pupil impact aid" diluting their impact.

BUDGET ASK: Restore the Student Wellness and Success Fund policy and resources as introduced by the Governor.

OHIO COUNCIL BUDGET ASK

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

The Ohio Council recommends enhanced funding to support and promote the recruitment and retention of professionals within the community behavioral health workforce.

While OhioMHAS has funding for workforce initiatives in its budget, this historically has been limited, one-time funding for behavioral health organizations. Maintaining a successful employee recruitment and retention program without dedicated funding is a significant barrier.

BUDGET ASK: Increase the MHAS Community Innovation line by \$5 million annually to support Workforce Development Initiatives to be directly distributed to OhioMHAS certified behavioral health organizations to develop and sustain workforce-incentive initiatives and offer supervision support.

- In SubHB 110, The Ohio House provided \$2.5 million annually using one-time COVID relief funding.



THANK YOU!

Soley Hernandez, LISW-S

Associate Director

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AOF Webinar: Behavioral Health and Home & Community-Based Services

Jordan Ballinger
Policy Director
April 30, 2021



**Disability
Rights** OHIO

We have the
legal right of way.

Presentation Overview



- Disability Rights Ohio Overview
- Disability Rights Ohio Budget Advocacy Goals
- Ohio HCBS Coalition Overview
- Ohio HCBS Coalition Budget Priorities
- Governor DeWine's Proposed Budget
- Ohio House Passed Budget
- Advocacy Opportunities in the Ohio Senate

DRO Overview



Ohio's protection and advocacy program and client assistance program

- **Mission:** advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of people with disabilities in Ohio
- **Vision:** We envision a society in which people with disabilities are full and equal members, enjoy the rights and opportunities of all people, are self-directed, make decisions about where, how and with whom they will live, learn, work and play, have access to needed services and supports, and are free from abuse, neglect, exploitation and discrimination.

Ohio HCBS Coalition



Mission: The Ohio HCBS Coalition (OHCBS) advocates for a strong home and community-based supports system that provides all Ohioans the opportunity to thrive and stay connected and engaged in our homes and communities.

Ohio HCBS System Overview



- System has been historically underfunded
- Mental Health system has not been adequately funded since the large system reform through the Mental Health Act of 1988
- Direct care workforce is underpaid stressing system capacity and forcing individuals into institutions
- COVID-19 has exacerbated issues with access to HCBS supports
- COVID-19 has put those in institutional settings at risk

Direct Care Workforce Overview



- 42% of the direct care workforce are BIPOC individuals whereas BIPOC individuals represent 18% of Ohio's population
- Median hourly wages are \$12.10 or ~\$16,200 annually; lowest wage for an Ohioan to meet their basic needs is \$13.16 an hour
- 53% of direct care workers receive public assistance with 39% enrolled in the Medicaid program
- Low wages push these workers into other industries; retail workers have a median hourly wage of \$12.14; office clerks have a median hourly wage of \$16.37; Costco workers start at \$16 an hour
- The need for this workforce is expected to increase by 34% in the next 10 years making it one of the fastest growing professions in the US

DRO Budget Advocacy Goals



- Maintain and expand access for home and community-based services and supports
- Ensure an increase in provider rates and wages
- Establish a hospital licensure program

Ohio HCBS Coalition Background



- May 2020 - AOF sent a letter to the administration calling for the state to fully support the HCBS system
- August 2020 - 50 organizations and individuals signed a letter to Gov. DeWine calling for increased investments to HCBS due to lack of system funding and majority of COVID deaths being in long-term care facilities
- October 2020 – Coalition officially forms and has first meeting. Groups coalesce around advocating in the budget cycle for increased investments to the HCBS system
- Steering Committee comprised of DRO, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, the Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice, and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council
- Coalition now comprises more than 100 organizations and individuals

Ohio HCBS Coalition Budget Priorities



Goal: We must prioritize our efforts to reinforce and grow home and community-based services and supports by:

1. Expanding transitions out of long-term care facilities to the community;
2. Identifying those most at-risk of institutionalization;
3. Preventing a reduction in individual services; and
4. Supporting and bolstering provider and workforce capacity.

Ohio HCBS Coalition Advocacy Focus



- 1. Increase wages for home care providers:** Increase reimbursement rates and wages for providers across all systems while providing additional funding for providers to procure PPE and offset costs incurred during the pandemic.
- 2. Increase transitions from institutions to the community:** Expand transitions out of long-term care facilities, expand access to transition coordinators, and identify those most at-risk of institutionalization to provide quality care coordination during the pandemic and beyond.
- 3. Ensure access to quality providers and expand housing.** Leverage state and federal funding to ensure access to quality providers and services while expanding housing and provider capacity in the community.

Governor DeWine's Budget



- Focused on HCBS and the need to shift funding
- Reiterated focus on implementing the OhioRISE program establishing a 1915c HCBS waiver service for up to 60,000 multisystem youth
- Increased provider rates by 4% in the first year of the biennium
- Established a hospital licensure program
- Established \$11M program for intensive case management for people with mental health labels
- Expanded and enhanced the Student Wellness and Success Funding
- Created a nursing home bed buy-back program
- Eliminated statutory quality incentive payments for nursing homes
- Did not pull down entire federal match for vocational rehabilitation

Ohio HCBS Coalition House Budget Advocacy



- Coalition pushed members of the Ohio House to increase rates to 5% each year of the biennium
- Should include language that this increased investment make it to our direct care workforce
- The coalition and its members submitted testimony and met with members to advocate for this amendment
- Members of the House Finance Subcommittee on Health and Human Services were supportive

DRO's Budget Advocacy



- Support the coalition and the push to include a 5% rate increase for providers in each year of the biennium with a focus on the workforce
- Maintaining \$50M Nursing Home Bed Buy-back program and reinvesting savings into HCBS system
- Maintaining Hospital Licensure Program under ODH to provide necessary oversight
- Increasing investment in multisystem adults beyond \$11M
- Increasing investments in multisystem youth and ensuring implementation of the OhioRISE program to prevent custody relinquishment
- Increase state investments to pull entire federal vocational rehabilitation match; \$6M in GRF each year of the biennium to pull \$48M in additional federal dollars

House Passed Version of the Budget



- Maintained 4% rate increase from DeWine's budget but did not include the 5% increase in each year of the biennium for provider rates
- Maintained hospital licensure program
- Maintained \$11M for care coordination
- Eliminated Student Success and Wellness funding
- Added the new school funding formula
- Eliminated the nursing home bed buyback program
- Reestablished the quality incentive payments for nursing homes
- Provided \$5M for adult day services
- Did not pull down entire federal match for vocational rehabilitation

Ohio HCBS Coalition Senate Advocacy



- Pushing for the inclusion of the 5% rate increase in each year of the biennium; or 1% additional in the first year and 5% in the second year
- Ensuring these rate increases support increase in wages for the direct care workforce

DRO's Senate Advocacy



- Increase in provider rates 5% each year; or additional 1% in first year and 5% in second year ensuring there is an increase in direct care wages
- Reinstate the nursing home bed buyback program
- Reestablish Student Wellness and Success funding as standalone program
- Increase investments in multisystem adults

Coalition Advocacy



- Call, email, and meet with your Senators!
 - Use the legislator look-up tool for centralized contact information
- Stay updated with Action Alerts
 - We'll send out updates when there are opportunities to provide testimony, send emails on particular issues, and more
- Get social:
 - Tag us on Twitter or Facebook when advocating for HCBS
 - Engage your legislators on socials: tag them with questions, praise, etc.
 - Use the hashtag #BetteratHome to make our content more easily found
- Let us know what advocacy you're doing so we can support it!

Staying Updated



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Ohio HCBS Coalition website. At the top left is a blue house icon with the word "Home" next to it. To the right are navigation links: "About OHCBS", "News", "Resources", and "Contact Us". A search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Search..." is located on the right side. Below the navigation is a large white box with a blue border. Inside this box, the title "Ohio Home and Community-Based Services Coalition" is centered. To the left of the text is a blue square logo with a white house icon and the text "OHIO HCBS COALITION" below it. To the right of the logo, the text "Our mission:" is followed by a paragraph: "The Ohio HCBS Coalition (OHCBS) advocates for a strong home and community-based supports system that provides all Ohioans the opportunity to thrive and stay connected and engaged in our homes and communities." To the right of the paragraph are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter. Below the paragraph are two red buttons with white text: "+ Learn more" and "+ Contact Us Directly". At the bottom of the white box, a blue horizontal bar is partially visible. Below the white box is a red horizontal bar. At the very bottom of the screenshot, a white box contains the text "We must prioritize our efforts to reinforce and grow home and".

www.ohiohcbcoalition.org

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**Disability
Rights** OHIO

We have the
legal right of way.

Sources



1. Median and 10th percentile wage statistics come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics data:
<https://data.bls.gov/oes/#/geoOcc/Multiple%20occupations%20for%20one%20geographical%20area>
2. MIT Living Wage Calculations: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/39>
3. Median pay per occupation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics entries for Office Clerks, Retail Sales Workers, Animal Care Workers, and Home Care Providers
4. National Survey of DSPs in 2020:
[https://www.ancor.org/newsroom/news/nci-survey-direct-support-professional-turnover-now-available#:~:text=The%20newest%20National%20Core%20Indicators,\(DSPs\)%20is%2051.3%20percent](https://www.ancor.org/newsroom/news/nci-survey-direct-support-professional-turnover-now-available#:~:text=The%20newest%20National%20Core%20Indicators,(DSPs)%20is%2051.3%20percent)
5. Bureau of Labor Statistics in a 2020 report:
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6. PHI. "Workforce Data Center." Last modified September 14, 2020.
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