

A year of pandemic. A year of reckoning. A year of preparation. For Public Children Services Association of Ohio, 2020 was a year that highlighted the resilience of agencies and their workers, and their persistent focus on child safety, family stability and community support.

COVID-19

PCSAO's leadership ensured that member agencies successfully coordinated with the administration so that children remained safe and on a path to permanency during the pandemic.



We explored ways to keep caseworkers and families healthy while navigating the pandemic's fallout on facility closures, staffing levels and more. During the initial weeks of the stay-at-home order and school closures, both child abuse reports and the number of children entering foster care dipped, but numbers began **climbing**

to pre-pandemic levels by summer. Families started to receive federal assistance to help them manage, but many suffered financial and emotional distress nonetheless. We **captured stories** throughout the year to illustrate the resilience of caseworkers and families.

Policy Advocacy

Much of PCSAO's advocacy centered on the pandemic: Calling for flexibility in policy, securing personal protective equipment for front-line workers, seeking vaccine priority for caseworkers making home visits. PCSAO also supported bills in the Ohio General Assembly to streamline foster caregiver training, cross-report animal abuse to children services agencies, and



decriminalize juvenile victims of human trafficking. At the federal level, we worked to achieve flexibility with federal requirements and advocated for more resources for county agencies due to the pandemic, and we partnered to identify possible solutions to residential definitions.

Race, Equity and Inclusion

The call to address structural racism did not go unheeded in children services. PCSAO issued a statement supporting racial equity, and board members began developing a **strategic plan** that includes an examination of racial disproportionality of children of color in foster care and the need to diversify the workforce, particularly in leadership positions.



Conference and Training

Meetings and trainings moved online, and our annual three-day conference pivoted to a two-day virtual event featuring 26 workshops, 28 sponsors and more than 550 attendees. Our three-year **anti-human trafficking project** concluded, offering a grand total of 82 trainings to more than 4,000 people – including 14 online trainings last year.



Ohio START

Selected as one of five evidence-based Family First prevention services, **Ohio START** expanded to 46 counties. Family peer mentors made nearly 5,500 visits to 243 families. Adults screened by Ohio START have an average trauma score of 4.1,



four times the national average. With intensive services and support, parents can overcome addiction, and children can remain safely in the home or be reunified as

part of their recovery. The national START model has been approved for the federal prevention services clearinghouse. For more information, check out START's **2020 Impact Report**.

Family First Act

With the Family First Prevention Services Act bringing dramatic changes to Ohio's family-serving systems starting Oct. 1, 2021, PCSAO worked to prepare county agencies for a paradigm shift while enacting more recommendations from our **Children's**



Continuum of Care Reform. We worked with public- and private-sector partners to identify a new pathway to offer evidence-based prevention services to families in order to divert children from coming into foster care. With an eye to pending limitations on residential/congregate care placement, PCSAO led an effort with key stakeholders to

improve and expand treatment foster care, **publishing three reports** and supporting new Medicaid-reimbursable services for kids.

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"In a year that tested all of us as leaders and champions of children and family services, I am proud to have led PCSAO's dedicated Board of Trustees and remarkable staff in fulfilling our



mission. All 88 counties paid membership dues in 2020, and the new **strategic modernization plan** adopted by our members for 2021-2022 will position Ohio's county children services agencies to improve practice, stabilize our workforce, create a more inclusive and equitable system, and develop a true continuum of care for children and families."

David Haverfield, President

"We are grateful to Gov. Mike DeWine and his administration for listening to the needs of our county agencies and responding with new investments, programs and supports. The Governor's commitment to

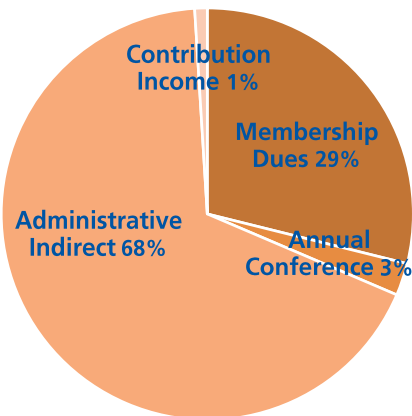


Children Services Transformation resulted in 37 important recommendations and a welcome partnership with PCSAO on key strategies. The Governor's and legislature's leadership will be needed more than ever in 2021 as Ohio adopts new Family First Act opportunities, continues to expand resources to assist multi-system youth and their families, and offers kin caregivers more resources."

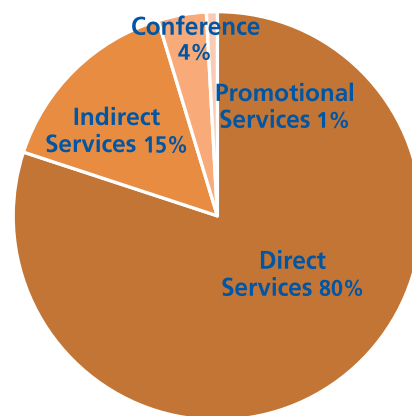
Angela Sausser, Executive Director

2020 Financial Information*

Core Revenue: \$1,975,348



Core Expenses: \$760,957



*Audit pending

Program Grants Beyond Core Operations

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	\$6,083,925
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	\$579,180
Ohio Attorney General's Office	\$467,519
Casey Family Programs	\$120,000
Office of Criminal Justice Services	\$68,329
Ohio Department of Youth Services	\$15,575

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

