

You are their champion.



WHEN IT SEEMS
LIKE THEY DON'T
HAVE ANYBODY,
THEY STILL HAVE

YOU.

When everything is stacked against them, there you are.

As a children services leader or worker, a foster or adoptive parent, or an elected official of the county or state, the impact you have on children and their families is tremendous. You're right there in the thick of things. Fighting for what's right. Doing what's best. Striving to salvage for them the happier life they deserve.

We're right behind you, doing everything we can to help: providing top-notch education and training for children services caseworkers, supervisors and leaders; developing and testing new programs to achieve better outcomes; and advocating for the policies and funds you need to aid your vital work.

PCSAO proudly represented 85 county Public Children Services Agencies (PCSAs) this past year. And we are committed to continuing to bring forth their needs, issues, and priorities to state and federal policymakers.

For as much as we accomplished in 2016, the devastating opioid epidemic will make 2017 another challenging year for children services.

But, working together, we'll overcome those obstacles. Stand up for what's right. Fight for what's best for our kids.

That's what a champion does.

What We Accomplished in 2016:

IMPROVED PUBLIC POLICY

- >> Released results of a survey of children services agencies, the first solid statewide data on the impact of the opioid epidemic on the children services system. This research sparked dozens of local, state and national news media stories, from PBS NewsHour to the Wall Street Journal to Cosmopolitan.
- >> Published a white paper highlighting the challenges of multi-system youth. It pointed out the number of youth 'stuck' in our care due to parents' relinquishing custody solely to access mental health and/or developmental services for their children. We then championed a diverse stakeholder group that presented these findings directly to the Joint Legislative Committee on Multi-System Youth. Their report aligns with our recommendations on how to best address the needs of multi-system youth.
- >> Partnered with Ohio Department of Medicaid to prepare for foster children to transition to Medicaid Managed Care. This resulted in electronic transmission of data for eligibility and enrollment in SACWIS, a pilot of 6 PCSAs to test enrollment in Managed Care on a subset of the population, improved understanding between PCSAs and managed care plans, and state technical assistance staff positions created to assist PCSAs with the transition.
- >> Worked to ensure the Office of Health Transformation's behavioral health redesign would not negatively impact county children services agencies with a cost shift or reduction in available services. This effort created additional children's behavioral health services, a new respite benefit that does not exclude children in a kinship placement, while strengthening partnerships between PCSAs and behavioral health providers.
- >> Assisted in advancing eight child protection-related bills and testified on five of those bills.

EFFECTIVE CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS

- >> Extended our Annual Conference to 3 days to offer more workshops and serve more attendees—over 750 child protection professionals attended from 54 county PCSAs, 6 universities, and numerous private agencies.
- >> Led efforts to implement foster care provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act with the goal of improving educational stability and outcomes for foster youth.
- >> Expanded the Ohio Reach program by reaching more former foster youth pursuing post-secondary education. We accomplished this by: creating a successful statewide conference and a college retreat that over 250 foster youth attended; mentoring programs on four college campuses; providing a safety net fund to 45 youth at risk of dropping out of school; and training 3 new campuses on the importance of supporting former foster youth.
- >> Promoted a parent support pilot program called HOPE. Now in 6 counties, HOPE created a wonderful video to promote the program.
- >> Supported a 10-county pilot of Youth-Centered Permanency Roundtables. Too many kids – especially kids of color – get 'stuck' in foster care, so planning fresh strategies for them needs to begin earlier. Caseworkers sit together, along with an external consultant, discussing each child's unique case, employing their various viewpoints to brainstorm new approaches. The youth is then invited to choose from the possible plans. Sometimes, reunification with the birth family, even at this later date, is a viable option. A video we produced helps promote the program.



Grateful to Our Champions

PCSAO's 2016 accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedicated staff who confidently lead our strategic priorities while skillfully juggling many competing requests. I am proud to be working with such a committed team. The Board of Trustees were fully engaged this past year in PCSAO's accomplishments and strengthening the Association's operations. Matthew Kurtz, Knox County Job and Family Services Director, deserves our thanks for serving two years as the Board's President and providing tremendous leadership to the Trustees, staff, and members. Cathy Hill, Athens County Children Services Director, serves as the Board's President for 2017 and will carry on that critical leadership role. No doubt, 2017 will be another challenging year for children services as the opioid epidemic continues to grow and more children with complex, intense needs require protection and stabilization. But I know we will also accomplish much thanks to our dedicated Board of Trustees and PCSA members, talented staff, supportive sister associations, and involved stakeholders.



Angela Sausser, MA, MSW, LSW
Executive Director

Mission

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

Strategic Priorities

Secure additional resources and supports for the child protection system to adequately respond to the crisis created by the opioid epidemic.

Ensure children and families can access integrated physical and behavioral health services, and their needs are met through Medicaid Managed Care.

Pursue policy and resource assistance to meet the needs of multi-system youth -- when possible, outside of the child protection system.

Improve education and employment outcomes for foster youth, youth emancipating from care and former foster youth.

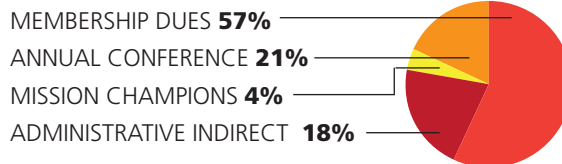
Improve permanency outcomes for children and PCSAs by expanding best practices and building supports for parents, kinship families, and adoptive parents.

Support membership and enhance program excellence among the county PCSAs.

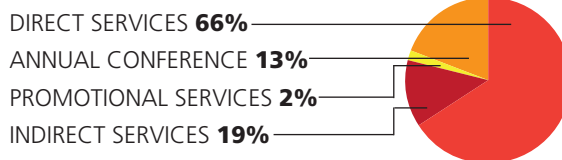
Advocate for sound state and federal public policy and adequate resource investment in child protection.

Financial Report

REVENUE \$768,604



EXPENDITURES \$693,767



GRANTS

PCSAO appreciates the following funders for their generous support in 2016:

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE	\$213,300
CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS	\$212,088
ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION	\$60,464

OUR 2016 MISSION CHAMPIONS

PCSAO appreciates the following organizations for being 2016 Mission Champions.

SAFE CHILDREN CHAMPION \$2,000

Buckeye Health Plan
Northwoods

STABLE FAMILIES CHAMPION \$5,000

CareSource
Institute for Human Services

ULTIMATE MISSION CHAMPION \$20,000

UnitedHealthCare

For more information about the benefits of becoming a 2017 Mission Champion, please visit our website.

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