

Change. A simple word that means an act or action to make something different, new, or better. Change can be challenging, particularly when resources are scarce, and demands are constant. However, change is also necessary to invigorate, grow and capitalize on opportunity. Inspiring change to realize potential and achieve excellence in service and service delivery is our next venture.

Community behavioral health is at a pivotal point where we have the opportunity to lead change that fulfills promises from the past with an eye on the future. Historic investment in community-based services and recovery supports are occurring as we simultaneously face historic demand for high quality substance use and mental health care. Tight labor markets make hiring and keeping talented workers excruciatingly difficult. Innovation requires blending principles of consumerism, harnessing technology, and balancing competition with collaboration into operations. Modernizing systems is essential to effectively addressing population health concerns and prioritizing a public health response strategy in our communities. And overcoming stigma to recognize brain health as essential health remains a fundamental priority.

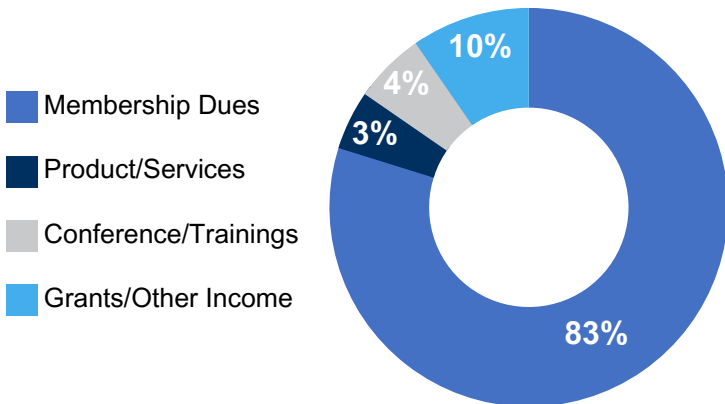
Leaning into the future with our vision for the community behavioral health system, we must tackle these hard challenges to persevere in our mission to deliver high quality, effective services that lead to recovery and wellness for those we serve. Doing this requires investment in people – both those we serve and those that we employ to provide care. It requires re-imagining practice that focuses on the experience of care in an environment that leverages technology. It requires policies that build, invest in, and prioritize the human infrastructure necessary for healthy workers, thriving families, productive businesses, flourishing communities, and a growing economy.

Through our unparalleled advocacy and member support, the Ohio Council will lead by advancing sound public policy, highlighting critical investment and resource needs, and identifying pragmatic solutions that build the community behavioral health system and value our talented workforce. One person, one practitioner, one organization at a time – all of us coming together – we will shape a future that offers healing, hope, and recovery for all Ohioans.

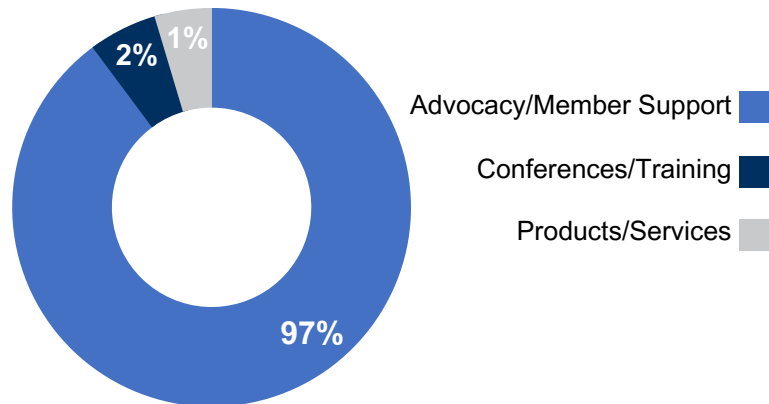
Teresa Lampl, LISW-S

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Chief Executive Officer

2023 REVENUE



2023 EXPENSES



OC-PAC is the political action committee and a restricted account of The Ohio Council that complements our traditional policy and regulatory advocacy efforts, allowing us to build and strengthen relationships with policy makers who share and support our interests and priorities. The OC-PAC is funded by the personal donations of individuals who are associated with or employed by members of our trade association. Your personal contributions yield results and are critical resources in our advocacy. **Join us!** Make a personal contribution at <https://www.theohiocouncil.org/pac>.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADVOCACY & POLICY

- Secured historic investment in community behavioral health services through SFY 24-25 state budget advocacy including unprecedented Medicaid community behavioral health rate increases, MHAS community services and state hospitals, and student wellness and success funding.
- Expanded quality and accountability to standards of care through policy change to require national accreditation for OhioMHAS-certified community behavioral health services and recovery housing.
- Led advocacy during implementation of Medicaid initiatives including Ohio RISE and Next Generation Medicaid Managed Care contracting, credentialing, provider enrollment, and EDI claims processing.
- Engaged members and collaborated with stakeholders in the OhioMHAS-led Chapter 340 workgroup and legislative advocacy to promote a population health focused policy framework to modernize the ADAMHS Boards statutory requirements and standardized contracting.
- Advocated for investment in the behavioral health workforce, Great Minds Fellowship, development of the BH Workforce Strategic Plan, and opportunities to expand career pathways.
- Supported the federal public health emergency unwinding and Medicaid eligibility restart along with distribution of the second payment of ARPA HCBS Provider Relief funding.
- Collaborated on policy and financing recommendations for crisis service and 9-8-8 implementation.
- Supported access to substance use services through the Medicaid 1115 SUD waiver, opioid treatment policy and regulatory reforms, and investment in recovery housing.
- Advanced state policy to establish CCBHC state certification and payment resulting in Ohio's successful application for a SAMHSA CCBHC State Planning Grant.
- Advocated for investment in recovery supports including improved access to peer recovery services, supported employment and vocational rehabilitation, and stable quality housing options.
- Led the Ohio Parity Coalition to promote equitable coverage for mental health and substance use conditions on par with physical health care through enforcement of federal law.
- Partnered with Ohio's Centers of Excellence and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to promote and expand practice-based learning and knowledge transfer that meet member needs.
- Sustained and expanded membership growth through strong policy advocacy, high value membership engagement opportunities, and responsive training and technical assistance.

2024 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES:

PEOPLE

- Sustain access to community behavioral health services and stabilize the workforce by operationalizing investments in Medicaid community BH rates across the continuum of care.
- Improve outcomes and recovery through access to healthy and safe housing options, meaningful employment opportunities, and peer support services.
- Expand school-community behavioral health partnerships to support healthy students and educators.
- Build coalitions to invest in the human infrastructure necessary for engaged students, healthy workers, thriving families, productive businesses, flourishing communities, and a growing economy.

PRACTICE

- Strengthen the behavioral health workforce pipeline through regulatory reforms, advancing legislation, and promoting career development opportunities.
- Support statewide prevention and harm reduction efforts through public awareness campaigns.
- Promote integrated mental health and substance use services for dual eligible Medicare-Medicaid program design and procurement.
- Leverage data and technology innovation to improve care, care coordination, health outcomes.

PUBLIC POLICY

- Enforce insurance parity for mental health and substance use services through federal advocacy and collaboration with the Ohio Department of Insurance and the U.S. Department of Labor.
- Develop effective rules and policies for implementation and financing of 9-8-8 and crisis services.
- Develop the regulatory and reimbursement framework for Ohio's CCBHC model and support Ohio's application to SAMHSA as a CCBHC Demonstration State
- Engage with the OhioMHAS-led Chapter340 Workgroup to develop stakeholder driven policy recommendations to modernize the ADAMHS Boards regulatory role, promote collaborative community planning, and establish standardized contracting processes.