



Better Together

Collaborating to Achieve
a Healthier Community



FOR MORE INFORMATION

centralohiohospitals.org

A Letter to Our Community

As leaders of central Ohio's hospital systems, we share a common belief that the issues facing our local health care system can be addressed much more effectively when hospitals work in collaboration. Through the Central Ohio Hospital Council, our hospital systems have developed a collective pathway to progress designed to improve the quality, value, and accessibility of health care in our community.

A key hallmark of a resilient, vibrant community is the ability of its residents to access high-quality health care. Better health care not only improves the quality of life for residents but also contributes to the safety, vitality, and economic competitiveness of our entire region.

Working together, we can assess the community's health status, identify the greatest needs and disparities, advocate on behalf of central Ohioans, impact public policy, elevate best practices, and align our resources to achieve a healthier community.

Our community is blessed with nationally recognized health care institutions and robust, enduring public-private partnerships. This allows us to be innovative in turning our greatest challenges into opportunities. Through the COHC, our systems' ability to leverage this collective goodwill and vast expertise has led to models of care that are improving the lives for many throughout our region. From infant mortality, behavioral health and opiate addiction to diversity and equity within our systems, we continue to share advances that lead to better health outcomes.

We encourage you to read **Better Together** which sets the agenda for the pressing challenges we face and prescribes a collaborative course of action by the Central Ohio Hospital Council and its community partners.



LORRAINE LUTTON
Mount Carmel
Health System



TIM ROBINSON
Nationwide
Children's Hospital



STEPHEN MARKOVICH, MD
OhioHealth



HAROLD PAZ, MD
OSU Wexner
Medical Center

MISSION STATEMENT

The Central Ohio Hospital Council is the forum for area hospitals to collaborate with each other and community stakeholders to improve the quality, value, and accessibility of health care in the region. Its four members include Mount Carmel Health System, Nationwide Children's Hospital, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, and OhioHealth.

VISION

Central Ohio is a national leader in optimal and equitable community health outcomes: **Quality, Access, Equity, Value**



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

Behavioral Health Care

Increase access to a full continuum of behavioral health and addiction services.

The Central Ohio Hospital Council tracks behavioral health issues throughout Franklin County to better understand and respond to the most pressing needs. Evaluating key indicators, including rates of depression, suicide, psychiatric admissions, and emergency department wait times, helps to inform the development and implementation of more effective interventions.

COHC will continue to provide support, leadership and counsel to the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County and community stakeholders for the development of a new mental health and addiction crisis center in Franklin County. In response to the struggles many residents and families face in finding appropriate behavioral health care, COHC will continue to oversee the Franklin County Psychiatric Bedboard to ensure an effective process for placing patients in need of inpatient psychiatric care.



Infant Mortality

Reduce central Ohio's infant mortality rate and cut the racial disparity rate in half.

Long before the pandemic raised awareness of the significant health disparities experienced by low-income, underserved populations, COHC partnered with Celebrate One, Columbus' infant mortality reduction initiative, to reduce infant mortality rates in central Ohio and cut racial disparities that resulted in black babies dying at twice the rate of white babies. Despite these interventions, high infant mortality rates persist. Our hospitals remain committed to implementing innovative initiatives that address the underlying causes of prematurity and infant death.

COHC will continue partnerships with community organizations to promote infant safe sleep practices focused on educating parents and caregivers. Through its hospital systems and the Ohio Better Birth Outcomes Collaborative, the Council will promote the highest standards of perinatal care to reduce premature births that result in unacceptable rates of death among babies born too small or too soon. Specific interventions include linking women to tobacco cessation counseling and legal representation and timely identification of infants at risk of neonatal abstinence syndrome.



Opiate Addiction

Support implementation of Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths.

Overdose death rates from prescription opiates, heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine have continued to rise in Franklin County. Our community has set an aggressive goal of reducing overdoses and overdose deaths by 15 percent in 2021. Our hospitals are implementing strategies to help meet that goal.

COHC will collaborate with hospital emergency departments to standardize treatment of opiate overdoses, including providing Narcan before discharge and referring patients for treatment. The Council will encourage quality improvement measures to reduce the amounts of opiates prescribed for certain surgical procedures and to educate employees about the use of prescription opiates. In partnership with public health departments, our hospitals will expand community-wide opiate education and prevention forums that include distributing Naloxone kits to prevent future overdoses.



Community Health Assessment

Oversee coordination among hospital systems and public health departments in developing robust community needs health assessments.

Since 2013, COHC and the four hospital systems have collaborated with a wide range of community stakeholders to better understand the health needs and priorities of Franklin County residents by assessing rates of acute and chronic conditions, barriers to health care, and availability of community resources. This ongoing effort is designed to improve the quality, value, and accessibility of health care throughout central Ohio.

The Council is strengthening its partnership with our public health departments to develop a single needs assessment report. COHC will coordinate and facilitate a steering committee with representatives from a number of community organizations to develop future Franklin County HealthMaps that will guide program development and distribution of resources.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Advance health care systems' efforts to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Across the country, hospitals face challenges providing quality patient education resources to increasingly diverse populations. Our hospitals have developed a comprehensive website—www.healthinfotranslations.org—which offers 3,000 free patient education pieces in 14 languages. COHC works with hospital patient education representatives to ensure the Health Information Translations initiative is properly funded and meets the needs of the residents in central Ohio.

In addition, the health care supply chain is challenged with building relationships with local minority- and women-owned businesses. COHC initiatives are designed to promote hospitals' relationships with diverse suppliers by developing a directory of minority suppliers to share with hospital systems and hosting events to connect procurement professionals with these local business owners.

