



Better Together

Hospitals Collaborating
to Achieve a Healthier
Community



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 are working together to advance six priority areas designed to improve the quality, value, and accessibility of health care in our community.

Through this unique model, our hospitals collaborate – with each other and with numerous community stakeholders – to assess the community's health status, identify the greatest needs and disparities, advocate on behalf of central Ohioans, elevate best practices and align our resources to achieve a healthier community.

Improving the health of residents and our community is at the heart of our hospitals' missions. Through the COHC, our individual hospital missions are strengthened through a collaborative agenda focused on reducing infant mortality, improving the system of care for residents in mental health crisis, reducing drug overdoses and overdose deaths and building the pipeline of our healthcare workforce.



Tauana McDonald
Mount Carmel Health System



Tim Robinson
Nationwide Children's Hospital



Steve Markovich, M.D.
OhioHealth



John Warner, M.D.
The OSU Wexner Medical Center

MISSION

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



A hallmark of a 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.

We encourage you to read "Better Together," which highlights the pressing healthcare challenges facing our community and prescribes a collaborative course of action through the Central Ohio Hospital Council and its community partners.

Strategic Priorities 2024 – 2026

■ BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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 psychiatric admissions and emergency department wait times, helps to inform the development and implementation of more effective interventions.

COHC oversees the Franklin County Psychiatric Bedboard to ensure an effective process for assisting patients who present in emergency departments and are in need of inpatient psychiatric care. Outcomes data from the Bedboard initiative led to a community-wide Task Force that advocated for the development of a freestanding Crisis Care Center designed and staffed to meet the needs of this patient population.

ADAMH Franklin County broke ground on the Crisis Care Center in 2023 with an opening scheduled for 1st quarter 2025. Once open, the

Crisis Care Center will provide a full array of services (walk-in clinic, observation and inpatient levels of care) with integrated peer support at all levels, and it will offer a no-wrong-door approach for any adult needing care. COHC continues to provide support, leadership and counsel to ADAMH and community stakeholders to strengthen the system of crisis care in central Ohio.



■ COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In partnership with public health, oversee coordination of a robust community health needs assessment.

Since 2013, 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 characterizing and understanding the prevalence of acute and chronic health

conditions, access to care barriers, and other health issues, the needs assessment can ensure resources are focused so that they have the greatest impact.

In 2019, the Hospital Council partnered with our public health departments to develop a single needs assessment report. Along with our local health departments, COHC coordinates and facilitates a Steering Committee with representatives from 30+ community organizations to develop the Franklin County HealthMap that will guide program development and distribution of resources. Our hospitals and health departments will use the findings of the Franklin County HealthMap2025 to develop and implement strategic plans that address the community's health needs and will align those strategic plans to the extent possible.

■ INFANT MORTALITY

In support of CelebrateOne, reduce central Ohio's infant mortality rate with a focus on the disparity between White and Black infant deaths.

Since 2015, the central Ohio hospital systems have 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 four times 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.

Our hospitals work to promote infant safe sleep practices by educating parents through a common video shown to every parent before discharge, by messaging points to keep babies warm during the colder months and by disseminating post-discharge, safe-sleep messages through the systems' MyChart platforms. Through the Ohio Better Birth Outcomes collaborative, our hospitals promote the highest standards of perinatal care to reduce premature births that result in deaths among babies born too small or too soon. Specific interventions include linking women to prenatal care, tobacco cessation counseling, legal representation and home visitation services.

■ SUBSTANCE USE & ADDICTION

In support of the Columbus and Franklin County Addiction Plan (CFCAP), reduce overdoses and overdose deaths.

Overdoses and overdose deaths from prescription opiates, heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine continue at an alarming rate in Franklin County. Through the CFCAP, our community has set an aggressive goal of reducing overdoses and overdose deaths by 15 percent per year. Our hospitals are implementing strategies to help meet those goals.

Our hospital emergency department leaders have standardized treatment of patients presenting with opiate overdoses, including providing Narcan before discharge and linking patients to treatment. The hospital systems have implemented quality improvement measures to reduce the amounts of opiates prescribed for certain surgical procedures and to educate surgeons about the filling and use of opiate prescriptions following certain ambulatory procedures. In partnership with public health departments, representatives from our hospitals present at community-wide opiate education and prevention forums that include distributing Naloxone kits to prevent future overdoses.

■ DIVERSITY

Meet the needs of a more diverse Central Ohio; Strengthen relationships with local diverse suppliers.

Each year, the Columbus region grows more diverse as people from around the world are welcomed into our community. Like hospitals across the country, our hospitals face challenges providing quality

patient education resources to increasingly diverse populations. In 2005, our hospitals developed a comprehensive website— www.healthinfotranslations.org—which offers free-of-charge more than 300 patient education titles in 14 languages. COHC works with hospital patient education representatives to ensure the Health Information Translations initiative is properly funded and meets the ever-changing needs of the residents in central Ohio.

In addition, the health care supply chain is challenged with building relationships with local minority- and women- businesses. Through the COHC, our hospitals work to strengthen their relationships with diverse suppliers by hosting events each year to connect procurement professionals with local, diverse business owners.

■ WORKFORCE

Increase the skilled healthcare workforce and develop a strong pipeline of future talent.

Health care is labor-intensive, and our hospitals need skilled, trained, and dedicated professionals, 24-hours-per-day/seven-days-per-week, to help patients achieve optimal health outcomes. Increasing the region's healthcare workforce has never been more important than it is today. Our hospitals are preparing for the increase in demand over the next 25 years due to population growth and an increase in the number of residents aged 65 and older to ensure quality healthcare for residents throughout our region.



Our hospital systems are working collaboratively to cultivate and leverage partnerships with educational institutions to increase the skilled healthcare workforce, increase the pool of healthcare instructors and training space in hospitals and increase awareness of healthcare careers among youth and youth influencers. The Healthcare Career Collaborative of Central Ohio, managed by Aspyr Workforce Innovations, is working to assist local students, young adults exploring career paths or experienced professionals looking for career change learn more about a career in healthcare.



Central Ohio Hospital Council

65 E. State St., Suite 315
Columbus, OH 43215-3609
(614) 358-2710

centralohiohospitals.org



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn

