



AGENDA

at a glance

Wednesday, Aug. 26 • Ohioan Event Center • Lewis Center

8:30 a.m. **Registration**

9:30 a.m. **Welcome and opening remarks**

Deena Chisolm, PhD, Chair, Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) Board of Directors
Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, President, HPIO

9:45 a.m. **Data and findings from the Health Value Dashboard**

Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, President, HPIO

10 a.m. **Opening keynote**

Catalyzing policy progress through data and evidence
Alex Spratt, JD, Vice President of Health Care, Arnold Ventures

10:45 a.m. **Break**

11:00 a.m. **Breakout sessions**

Northpointe Ballroom

Healthcare access and affordability
State solutions to rising healthcare costs:
A roadmap for Ohio

Ventures Room

Behavioral health
Taking mental health supports upstream:
The role of social connection and
economic stability

12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

Lunch is available across the hall from the Northpointe Ballroom

1:15 p.m. **Breakout sessions**

Northpointe Ballroom

Child health and well-being
Child health and well-being in Ohio:
Progress made and priorities ahead

Ventures Room

Data and evidence
Back to the evidence: Strengthening public
trust through transparency and data

2:30 p.m. **Break**

2:45 p.m. **Closing keynote**

Working together to improve the health of all Ohioans
Ray Bignall II, MD, FAAP, FASN, Chief Equity Officer, Nationwide Children's Hospital

3:30 p.m. **Closing remarks and final evaluation**

Amy Rohling McGee, MSW, President, HPIO
Alana Clark-Kirk, Director of Communications and Engagement, HPIO

Detailed descriptions of all sessions are available inside and all speaker bios are posted on the Summit webpage, which can be accessed with the QR code to the right or by visiting

www.hpio.net/events





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PLENARY SESSIONS

Opening plenary • 9:45 a.m.

Data and findings from the Health Value Dashboard

An introduction to HPIO's 2026 Health Value Dashboard and a high-level overview of key findings shaping health and well-being in Ohio.

This primer will highlight major trends and disparities across priority areas, including children's health, behavioral health, healthcare access and affordability, and the community conditions that influence long-term outcomes.

Grounded in data and evidence, the session will establish a shared foundation for the day's discussions and frame the broader policy conversation explored throughout the Summit, including themes elevated by the keynote speaker.

Learning objectives

As a result of this plenary session, attendees will have an increased understanding of:

1. The key findings from HPIO's 2026 Health Value Dashboard related to children's health, behavioral health, healthcare access and affordability, and community conditions in Ohio
2. How data and evidence can inform policy decisions to improve health outcomes and health value in Ohio

 Northpointe Ballroom

Speaker



Amy Rohling McGee
President,
Health Policy Institute
of Ohio

Opening keynote • 10 a.m.

Catalyzing policy progress through data and evidence

Given the highly charged policymaking environment, trusted data and evidence is needed now more than ever. As policymakers consider addressing such challenges as healthcare access and affordability, they will need to understand what works in order to make the most informed decisions.

This keynote address will explore how highlighting evidence can catalyze informed policymaking. The presentation will also outline resources that are available to state policymakers and others to use in responding to federal policy changes or in strengthening program effectiveness.

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this plenary session, attendees will have an increased understanding of:

1. The utility of highlighting evidence of what works to inform policy decisions related to Medicaid and private insurance, as well as on issues like healthcare costs and improving health outcomes
2. Resources available to state policymakers and others to use in responding to federal policy changes and strengthening program effectiveness

 Northpointe Ballroom

Speaker



Alex Spratt
Vice President of
Health Care,
Arnold Ventures

Closing keynote • 2:45 p.m.

Northpointe
Ballroom

Working together to improve the health of all Ohioans

HPIO's 2026 Health Value Dashboard found that Ohioans continue to live less healthy lives and spend more on health care than people in most other states. To improve health and well-being in the state, Ohioans will need to work together to adopt policy initiatives that address the many factors that influence health.

This closing plenary session will explore how there are evidence-informed strategies to improve health in Ohio and how focusing on Ohioans with the greatest barriers to health will lead to better outcomes for everyone.

Speaker



Dr. Ray Bignall II
Chief Equity Officer,
Nationwide
Children's Hospital

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this plenary session, attendees will have an increased understanding of:

1. How meaningful progress toward better health is possible in Ohio
2. Addressing the many factors that influence health
3. How addressing obstacles to health for Ohioans with the greatest needs will lead to improved health for all Ohioans

We value your opinion

Please use this QR code to complete the evaluation for ALL plenary sessions overall:



Please use this QR code to complete the evaluation for 11 a.m. breakout sessions:



Please use this QR code to complete the evaluation for 1:15 p.m. breakout sessions:



► State solutions to rising healthcare costs: A roadmap for Ohio

Northpointe
Ballroom

Healthcare spending continues to rise across the United States and in Ohio, straining family budgets and threatening access to care. Despite the complications of addressing health care issues at the state level, states around the country have begun to address healthcare costs through a variety of mechanisms, including price regulation, transparency initiatives, restrictions on consolidation and more.

In this panel, experts will provide an overview of the healthcare spending issues, how other states are addressing these challenges, and how solutions could be implemented in Ohio.

Moderator

Sabrina Corlette, JD, Research Professor, Founder, and Co-Director, Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, Center on Health Insurance Reforms

Speakers

- **Rep. Rachel Baker, PhD, MSW** (D-Cincinnati), Ohio House of Representatives, District 27
- **Rep. Meredith Craig** (R-Smithville), Ohio House of Representatives, District 77
- **Molly Mottram**, Director of Healthcare Policy, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- **Brian O'Rourke, PhD, MA**, Healthcare Policy Analyst, Health Policy Institute of Ohio

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this breakout session, attendees will have an increased understanding of:

1. The landscape of healthcare costs in states, including what drives high spending and how excessive healthcare costs pressure Ohio families and the healthcare system infrastructure
2. The ways that other states are addressing healthcare spending
3. How evidence from policy solutions in other states could be applied to Ohio, as well as current efforts in the General Assembly to control healthcare costs

► Taking mental health supports upstream: The role of social connection and economic stability

Ventures
Room

The mental health of Ohioans is trending in the wrong direction. While gaps in access to treatment remain a critical challenge, data from the Health Value Dashboard also points to broader drivers, including limited social connection and economic instability.

This breakout session will explore various drivers of poor mental health in Ohio and elevate ways in which communities can support mental health upstream.

Moderator

Jennifer Lloyd, MSPsy, Assistant Director, RecoveryOhio, Office of Governor Mike DeWine

Speakers

- **Rose Frech, MSW, LSW**, Chief External Affairs Officer, Integrated Services for Behavioral Health
- **Christine Happel, MSW, LSW**, Assistant Director, Age-Friendly Innovation Center
- **Briston Mitchell**, Director of Workforce Development, Urban League of Southwest Ohio

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this breakout session, attendees will have increased:

1. Knowledge about the state of mental health and well-being in Ohio
2. Understanding of how drivers, including access, social connection and economic stability, affect mental health
3. Awareness of efforts to increase mental healthcare access, improve social connection and support economic stability

▶ Child health and well-being in Ohio: Progress made and priorities ahead

Northpointe Ballroom

The 2026 Health Value Dashboard showed improvement for Ohio on several key indicators of child health and well-being over the past decade. However, Ohio continues to rank poorly in other areas of child health, and disparities remain. We know that more action is needed.

Speakers will discuss:

- What they believe led to improvement in child health and well-being over the past 10 years
- Gaps in Ohio's current policy work to address child health and well-being
- Policies and programs to prioritize advocacy, particularly as Ohio elects a new governor in late 2026

Moderator

Rep. Andrea White, (R-Kettering), Chair of the House Children and Human Services Committee, Ohio House of Representatives, District 36

Speakers

- **Nick Lashutka**, President & CEO, Ohio Children's Hospital Association; and CEO, Children's Hospitals' Solutions for Patient Safety
- **Randy Leite, PhD**, Executive Director Emeritus, Appalachian Children's Coalition
- **John Stanford, JD, PhD**, State Director, Children's Defense Fund Ohio
- **Kara Wentz**, Director, Ohio Department of Children and Youth

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this breakout session, attendees will have increased knowledge of:

1. Recent policy initiatives that have improved child health and well-being
2. Noteworthy child health policy topics on which Ohio has not acted
3. Policy initiatives which advocates can prioritize with the next administration

▶ Back to the evidence: Strengthening public trust through transparency and data

Ventures Room

This session highlights practical strategies for using data effectively to make a case for policies that support health and health equity.

Panelists will share lessons learned on what strengthens—or undermines—trust and credibility with policymakers, partners, and communities. Emphasis will be placed on clear communication, openness, and authentic engagement, with opportunities for attendees to reflect on challenges and exchange solutions.

Moderator

Kathryn Cooper, PhD, Assistant Professor, Kent State University

Speakers

- **Tazeen Ahmed, MPH, MCHES**, Senior Program Coordinator, Montgomery County ADAMHS Board
- **Kara Ayers, PhD**, Associate Director, University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
- **Lynanne Gutierrez, Esq.**, President & CEO, Groundwork Ohio

Learning objectives

As a result of attending this breakout session, attendees will be able to:

1. Identify key factors driving trust and skepticism in health data among different audiences
2. Apply at least two strategies to communicate data more transparently, clearly and credibly
3. Describe how community engagement approaches can strengthen trust and improve the impact of data-driven work

Thank you to HPIO's core funders

The following funders are helping to inform data-driven policymaking that improves health, health equity, and the value of healthcare spending by providing general operating support to HPIO:



Partner with us

As the only statewide organization in Ohio focused solely on health policy, HPIO has built a reputation over more than 20 years as a go-to source for reliable, independent data and analysis on a wide range of health-related issues in the state.

HPIO can manage your project from start to finish or we can build upon your staff's capacity by providing focused services

HPIO's team of experts can assist your organization with:

**Assessments and plans ■ Policy research and analysis ■ Program and policy evaluation
Project management and facilitation ■ Events and convenings**

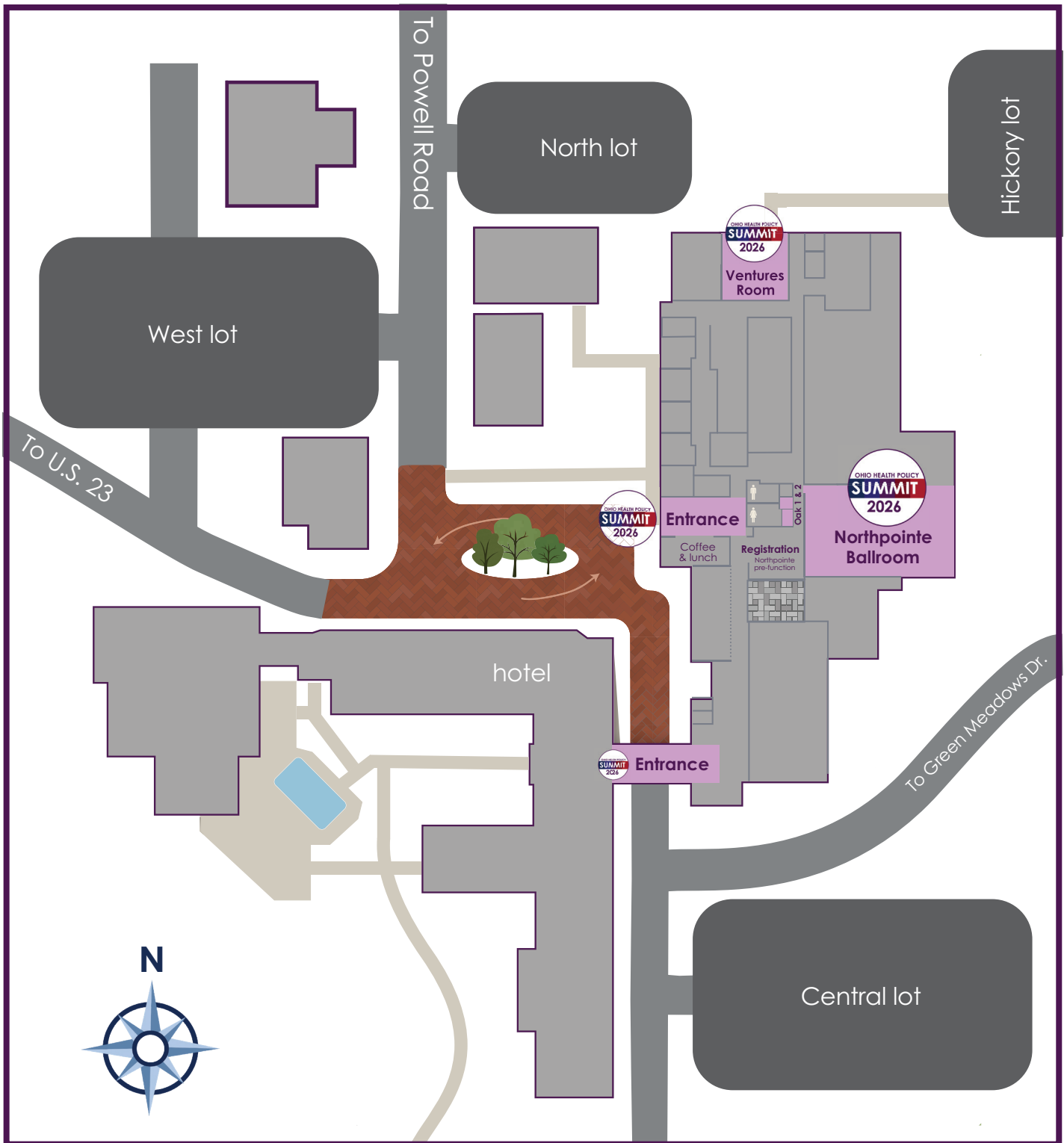
See more examples of our work with partners from across Ohio at:

www.hpio.net/work-with-us



FACILITY MAP

The Ohioan Conference and Event Center



Free wifi

Network: NHCC-GUEST2

Password: No password required

