



VOICES FOR
OHIO'S CHILDREN

2018 ADVOCACY DAY

Advancing policy for our greatest assets

FEB. 22 • OHIO STATEHOUSE

SPONSORED BY:





THANK YOU!

WE APPRECIATE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION:

Voices Board of Directors

Dr. Norm Christopher, Chair

Rick Colby

Dr. Pat Temple Gabbe

Staci Garvey

Sarah Kincaid

John Neil Lindsey, Esq.

Jim Mason

Dr. Lolita McDavid

Claire Rosacco

Don Slocum

Our Speakers

*Thank you for generously sharing your
time and expertise!*

Voices Staff

Brandi Slaughter, JD, CEO

Gavin French, CHES, *Communications Associate*

Kathleen Gmeiner, JD, MHSA, *Senior Health Policy Associate*

Eric Seeds, *Policy Associate*

Kelley Smith, MD, *Health Policy Associate*

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EVALUATIONS

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE VOICES EVENTS
BY COMPLETING THE ADVOCACY DAY EVALUATION FORM. TURN IN YOUR
COMPLETED FORM AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE.

ABOUT ADVOCACY DAY

Advocacy Day provides an essential touch point for Ohio legislators and those who work with kids and child policy every day. Decisions made here in Columbus have a tremendous impact on children's lives and it can be difficult for policymakers to balance competing priorities with limited resources and also to maintain a clear focus on the needs of children. But, while priorities may change from one legislative session to another and one budget cycle to the next, the needs of children do not.

As you know, far, far too many of Ohio's children continue to struggle—with hunger, poverty, lack of healthcare, and lack of high quality early learning opportunities. Too many babies die before their first birthday, especially black infants. Ohio's children need us—all of us—to work together to help our most vulnerable citizens thrive. That is why it is so important for advocates, direct care providers, young people and families to share their stories, challenges, and successes with our leaders and encourage them to invest in programs and services for Ohio's children.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

WELCOME!

Together with our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, Public Policy Partner Advisory Committee, collaborating organizations and the generous support of individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations, we want to thank you for your support as Voices continues to provide strong, effective advocacy on behalf of Ohio's children.

Since Voices' founding in 1996, our focus has been on educating the public and community leaders about the unique needs of children; influencing the public policy process by speaking for kids on both Capitol Square and Capitol Hill; and improving the frameworks for child policy and service delivery as well as the lives of Ohio children and their families. Voices staff sit at key policy tables every day—working with government agencies such as the Ohio Department of Medicaid, nonprofit groups such as the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and others to collaboratively create policy solutions that will help improve the well-being of Ohio's children.

Voices has directly educated Ohio lawmakers through face to face meetings, monthly Kids Talk policy breakfasts for legislators and staff, the regular release of expert policy briefs on pressing issues such as infant mortality, home visiting, and lead exposure.

We are excited to once again offer an opportunity for advocates, care providers, community leaders, families, and youth to meet with their legislators and discuss how policies are impacting Ohio kids every day. That is where the focus of state policy should be and Voices intends to keep it there.

Included in this program is a calendar of Voices' 2018 events. As you can see, we have an ambitious schedule planned to keep kids at the top of the agenda. We hope you will join us as we celebrate 20 plus years of educating, influencing, and improving!

Sincerely,



safe

healthy

educated

connected

employable

Brandi Slaughter
CEO

STATEHOUSE TOURS

VOICES FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN HAS SCHEDULED THE FOLLOWING GUIDED TOURS FOR THOSE ATTENDEES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE HISTORIC OHIO STATEHOUSE:

Guided Tour #1

Start Time: 11:00 – 11:45am

Start Location: Statehouse Map Room

Guided Tour #2

Start Time: 2:00 – 2:45pm

Start Location: Statehouse Map Room

The Capitol Square Review and Advisory Committee staff that coordinate the tours suggest that children younger than 10 years of age may enjoy a less structured experience than a guided tour. For this reason, parents of children under 10 years of age are encouraged to freely explore the Statehouse, or to inquire about Self-Guided or Audio Wand Tours.

SELF-GUIDED & AUDIO WAND TOURS

Visitors may wander on their own anytime during Statehouse hours with a self-guided tour brochure, or borrow a tour wand with pre-recorded information to follow at your own pace. Self-guided tour brochures and tour wands are available at the Statehouse Museum Shop in the Map Room. While the use of tour wands is free, we ask that an I.D. be left with a Museum Shop clerk during your tour.

FOLLOW 2018 VOICES EVENTS ON TWITTER

#YourVoiceTheirFuture





2018 ADVOCACY DAY

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

8:30 AM-9:00AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
Atrium

9:00-9:30 AM

WELCOME & RELEASE OF
SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS
Atrium

9:30-10:30 AM

ADVOCACY 101
Atrium

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

LEGISLATIVE VISITS
Various Locations

12:00 – 1:00 PM

LUNCH & AWARDS PRESENTATION
Atrium

1:15-2:45 PM

LEGISLATIVE VISITS
Various Locations

2:45-3:00 PM

WRAP-UP
Atrium

AGENDA

8:30AM–9:00AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

9:00AM–9:30AM

WELCOME & RELEASE OF SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Norm Christopher, *Board Chair, Voices for Ohio's Children*

9:30AM–10:30AM

ADVOCACY 101

Atrium

10:45AM–11:45AM

LEGISLATIVE VISITS

Meeting times and locations are listed on your folder

9:30AM–10:30AM

LUNCH & AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Atrium

Every year at our Advocacy Day, Voices celebrates those that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to Ohio's children. This year, Voices has chosen to honor fellow children's advocates who significantly advanced policy for children in 2017.

AWARD WINNERS:

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA)



Founded in 1973 as Ohio's first statewide child advocacy organization, OACCA provides leadership for Ohio's at-risk children, families, and community providers.

They aim to ensure that Ohio's evolving public policies result in a system that is integrated, efficient, cost effective, and beneficial to those that matter most—children and families.

They work closely with state government officials, including leaders at ODJFS, OMHAS, the Governor's office, General Assembly, and officials at the county and federal levels.

OACCA also provides professional education and training services. They convene projects aimed at improving care for children, including the Learning Community for Seclusion and Restraint Prevention and Ohio Fostering Connections. They hold over a dozen conferences and trainings each year on trauma informed care, management, and public policy topics.

Voices is proud to recognize OACCA's steadfast leadership on issues related to the safety and well-being of Ohio's children—including, their support of efforts to improve Ohio's foster care system, and vigilance in securing adequate support of the Ohio Fostering Connections program.



Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO)



The Public Children Services Association of Ohio is a membership-driven association of Ohio's county Public Children Services Agencies that advocates for and promotes child protection program excellence and sound public policy for safe children, stable families, and supportive communities. As an association of public children services agencies,

PCSAO was established in part to promote system-wide excellence and program improvement.

PCSAO provides daily support and advocacy services to its member public children services agencies (PCSAs). This includes maintaining a focus on how federal, state and county decisions impact child protection policy, practice and public resources to the system in pursuit of positive child and family outcomes.

There are 85 PCSAs in Ohio—one located in each county or, in a few cases, consolidated across two or three counties. Of those 85 PCSAs, 61 are part of a county department of job and family services accountable to elected county commissioners, 22 are standalone children services agencies overseen by a board appointed by county commissioners, and two fall under the purview of a county administrator or executive.

Voices is proud to recognize PCSAO's steadfast leadership on issues related to the safety and well-being of Ohio's children—including, their support of efforts to improve Ohio's foster care system, and vigilance in protecting at-risk youth and children in poverty in the face of Ohio's opioid crisis.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Bo Chilton



Mr. Chilton is the CEO of IMPACT Community Action, one of the leading human service agencies fighting poverty in Franklin County. With an annual operating budget of \$7 million dollars, a staff of more than 75 employees who serve almost 20,000 customers annually, IMPACT is on the frontline of the war on poverty and is dedicated to reducing poverty by providing hope-inspiring help and real opportunities for self sufficiency.

Bo states that the scripture, "to those whom much is given, much is required," serves as a guiding principle for his life. Bo's passion for empowering people and building our sense of community is reflected in

his work as the Chair of the Ohio Urban Resources System (OURS) and service to the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, and the African American Leadership Academy board.

Originally from Springfield, Ohio, Bo graduated from Wright State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Education in secondary teaching. He also earned a second Master's degree in Higher Education from the Ohio State University.

Bo is a member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. His career background includes serving as a middle school and high school teacher in Springfield City Schools, Assistant Director of Career Services at Otterbein College, Academic Counselor and Technology Coordinator for the Arts and Sciences Dept. at the Ohio State University, Legislative Analyst for Columbus City Council, Director of African American Male Initiatives at the Columbus Urban League, and a veteran of the Army Reserves.

Bo and his wife, Audrey Chilton, are the proud parents of 14 year old Brandon Emmanuel Chilton and 10 year old Sydney Aaliyah Chilton.

1:15PM – 2:45PM

LEGISLATIVE VISITS

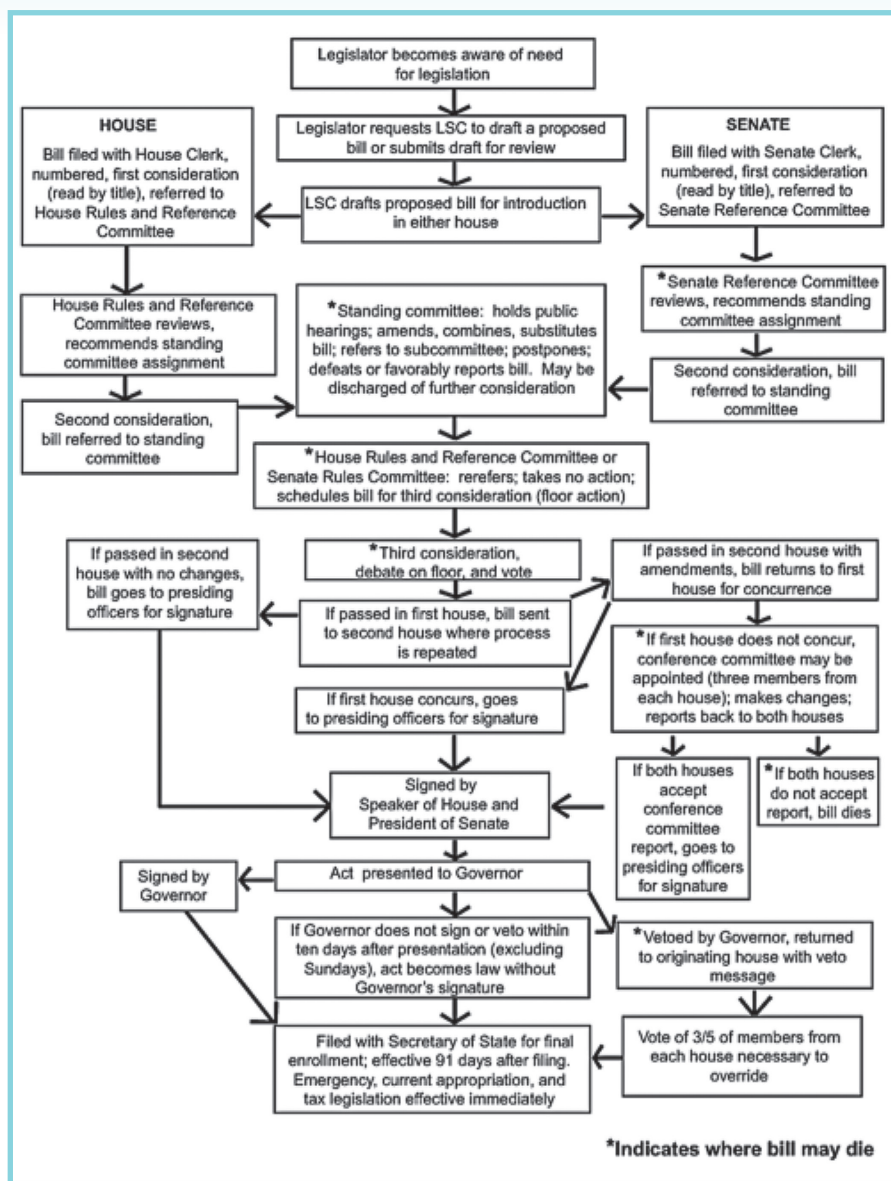
Meeting times and locations are listed on your folder

2:45PM – 3:00PM

WRAP UP

Atrium

How a Bill Becomes a Law in Ohio:



10 TIPS for Effective Visits with Legislators



1. BE COURTEOUS AND CORDIAL.

Always call and make an appointment with the legislator in advance. Be prompt and patient. Be understanding if they have to reschedule or leave early due to legislative duties, and remain respectful even if you don't agree on the issue. Don't threaten the legislator with consequences if he or she doesn't agree with your position.

2. BE PREPARED AND ORGANIZED.

Keep the meeting focused. Bring information and materials supporting your position to the meeting with you. Have materials prepared that you can leave with the legislator. Remember – they are elected to represent you and you have something they want—your votes!

3. DO YOUR HOMEWORK.

It's important to do research before your meeting. Review the legislator's background, and what legislation they're working on. What are his/her passions? What groups endorse him/her? Preparation helps avoid potential land mines. Know about the legislator's district, their work experience, personal interests, voting history, and committee assignments.

4. KEEP YOUR MESSAGE SIMPLE.

Be clear about what you're asking for and why. The best way to communicate a message is to convey how the issue will impact legislators, as well as how it will impact their districts and constituents. You are one of many individuals with a cause to promote—you have to make sure your issue stands out. You may have only 15 minutes to connect with your legislator so keep your information clear and concise.

5. GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN FRONT.

Tailor your message to your audience and connect it to other important policy issues. The more you tailor your message to fit the legislator's interests and policy focus, the more likely they are to take interest.

6. ENGAGE YOUR LEGISLATORS EARLY

Don't wait until you need funding to meet with your legislator. Build an ongoing relationship and focus on becoming partners. You can't simply go to the legislature when you need something. The relationship has to be reciprocal. Connect with the legislator beyond the Statehouse. If applicable, invite legislators to site visits or other program events.

7. ENGAGE THE STAFF.

Staff advises legislators on policy issues. They are an important part of the legislative process and play an influential part of a legislator's decision-making process. Treat them as you would a legislator because often times they have more time to engage with you. Get to know these legislative aides and keep them informed of your issues.

8. BE A RESOURCE.

Legislators, especially newly elected officials, rely on people like you to educate them and keep them up-to-date on specific topics. Remember, you are a valuable resource to your legislators and their staff. Be willing to be a source of information for them. Be responsive and prepared to answer questions, or offer to provide additional information as a follow-up.

9. BE BIPARTISAN & BUILD CREDIBILITY.

By not tying yourself to one party, you can garner broad, bipartisan support and show how your interest is best for everyone. Always tell legislators the truth, and give them a fair representation of your issues.

10. FOLLOW-UP AFTER YOUR VISIT.

Always send legislators a thank you note after your meeting. A simple thank you goes a long way. Stay in contact with your legislators and their legislative aides. Put them on your mailing list, invite them to meetings or events, and ask them to appear at press conferences.



SAVE THESE DATES

2018 SIGNATURE EVENTS

ADVOCACY DAY

February 22

**The Ohio Statehouse, Atrium
COLUMBUS, OH**

An essential touch point for Ohio legislators and those who work with kids and child policy.

CELEBRATION FOR OHIO'S CHILDREN

April 13

**Cuyahoga Community College
CLEVELAND, OH**

A breakfast fundraiser with advocates, policymakers, and community business members.

SUMMER NIGHTS CELEBRATION

June 14

**Franklin Park, Wells Barn
COLUMBUS, OH**

A casual, evening fundraiser with great food, great company and unforgettable stories.

OHIO KIDS SUMMIT

September 20-21

**Sheraton on Capitol Square
COLUMBUS, OH**

A 2-day, statewide conference that explores the full spectrum of children's issues and services.

safe

healthy

educated

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employable

2018

MONTHLY WEBINAR TOPICS

Advocating for public policy that improves the well-being of Ohio's children & their families.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

These are **FREE** webinars open to the public.



Every 2nd Monday of the month, Voices offers live webinars on kids' issues presented by our national and local partners.

TIME: 2:00pm

FREE REGISTRATION AT:

RaiseYourVoiceForKids.org/Webinars

January 8 Infant Mortality

February 12 Oral Health

March 12 Children & Adolescent Healthcare & Coverage

April 9 School-Based Healthcare

May 14 Electoral Advocacy

June 11 Home Visiting

July 9 Summer Learning

August 13 Grade Level Reading

September 10 School Meals & Nutrition

October 8 Juvenile Justice

November 12 Hot Issues in Open Enrollment 2019!

December 10 Youth Behavioral Health

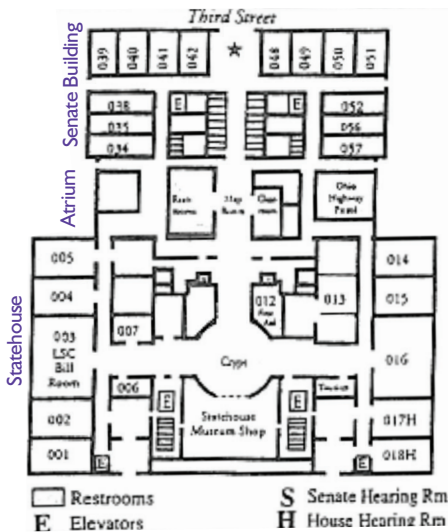
QUESTIONS? Info@RaiseYourVoiceForKids.org • 614-221-5204

STATEHOUSE MAP

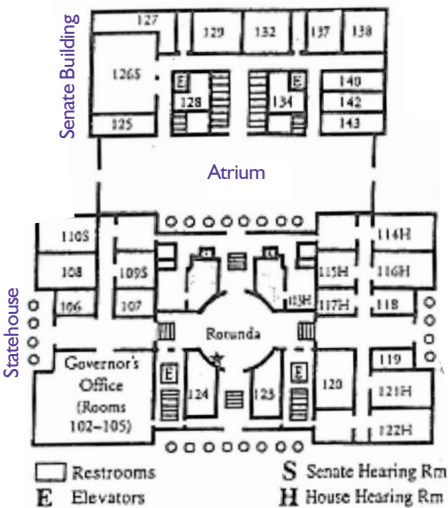
Ohio Statehouse

1 Capitol Square, Columbus, OH 43215

Ground Floor



First Floor



Second Floor

