2025 Learning Collaborative

Better Health Partnership: Our Work Today, Our Path Ahead — Together

Robert Eick, MD, MPH
President and CEO
Better Health Partnership

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Better Health Partnership: Our Work Today, Our Path Ahead — Together

Session Objectives

- Describe how working at the interface of community, public institutions, and systems of care & coverage advances population health and disparity reduction.
- Identify practical steps their organization can take to strengthen cross-sector collaboration.
- Build on the keynote and explain how shared goals, multi-sector co-design, integrated data, shared accountability, and trust among partners support coordinated implementation and sustained improvement.

One View of Why We Are Here

***James Baldwin** (1924-1987)*

"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows **how extremely expensive it is to be poor**…"
—Fifth Avenue, Uptown: A Letter from Harlem (July 1960)

We made the world we're living in and we have to make it over."
— *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961).

"**…we can make America what America must become."**
— *My Dungeon Shook, in The Fire Next Time (1963).*

James Baldwin: Mountain to Fire
The New York Public Library Exhibition

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Who's Here Today

42 Orgs	73 Attendees

Community & Lived Experience

- Community Members & Leader
- CBOs and Funders
- Faith & Cultural Groups

28 Orgs	137 Attendees

13 Orgs	29 Attendees

Public Institutions

- Public Health
- Policy & Regulators
- Early Child & K-12
- Higher Ed & Research

Systems of Care & Coverage

- Health Systems
- CHCs
- Payers
- Employers

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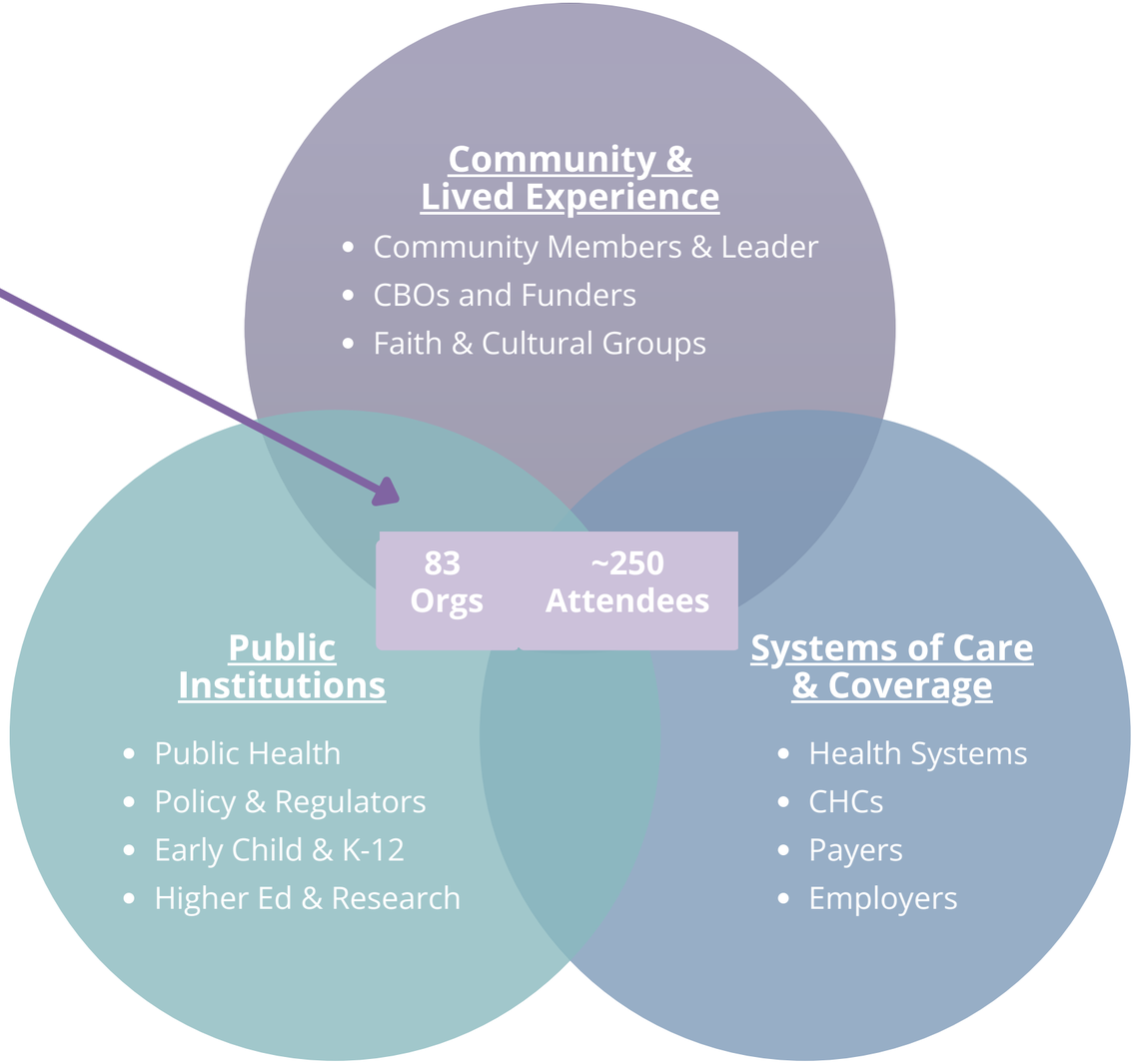
Who's Here Today

The power is at the interface…



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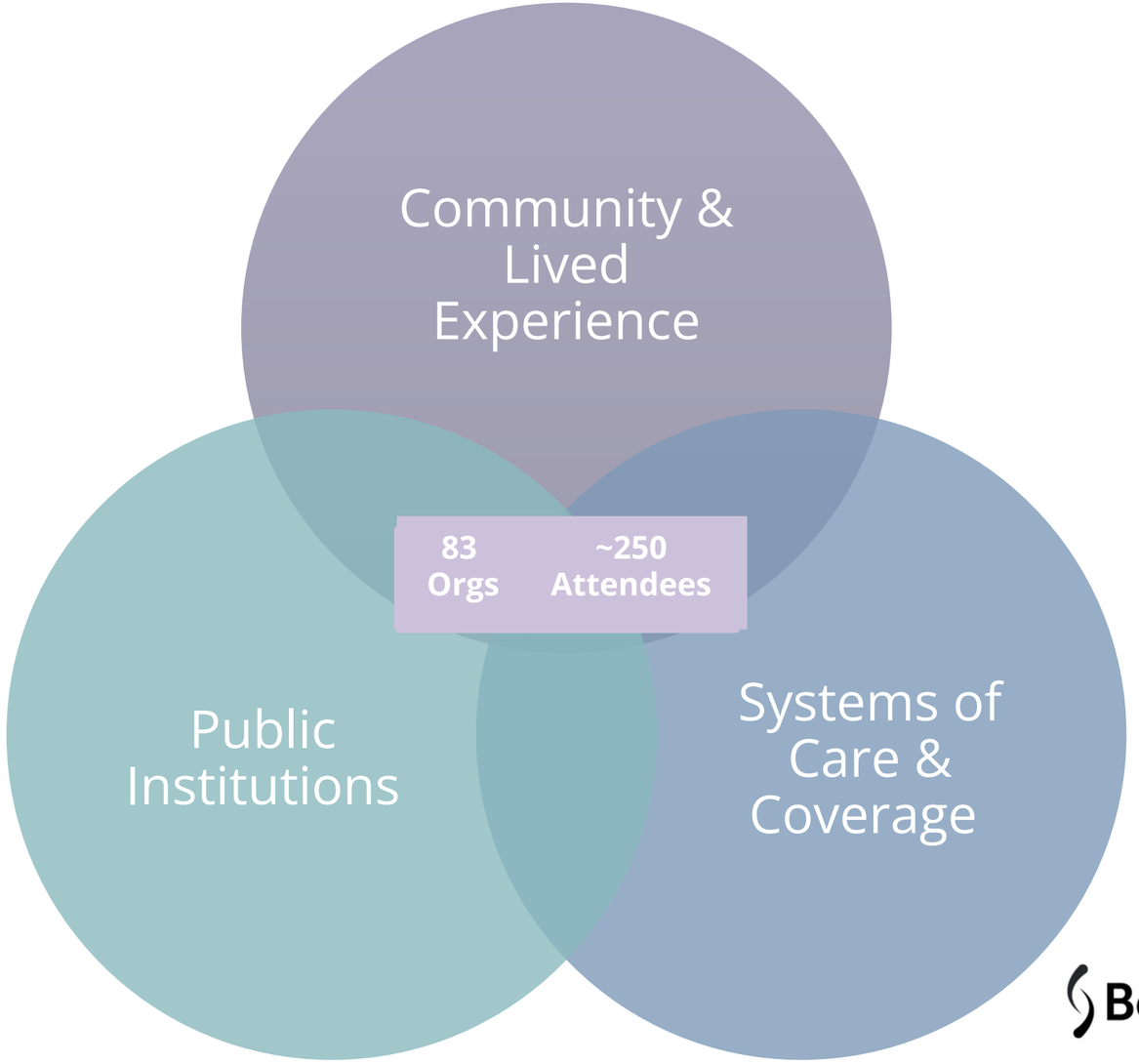
Where Sectors Meet, *Better Health Thrives*

Here we are…

83 diverse, multi-sector partners from across Northeast Ohio

United in our commitment to improving community health outcomes

Each contributing **unique strengths and perspectives to advance health—in partnership**



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Who We Are and How We Work

Brittany Battle, MHA
Pathways HUB Care Coordination Supervisor

Kirstin Craciun, MPP, MSW
Director of Stakeholder Engagement

Robert Eick, MD, MPH
President & CEO

PJ Kimmel, MPH
Project Lead

Ndidi Edeh-Larberg, MPH, RRT
Director, Research and Evaluation

Chris Mundorf, PhD, MPH
Chief Strategy Officer

Libbey Pelaia-Krumhansl, MPH, CHES
Project Coordinator

Kayla Petricini, MPH, CHES
Pathways HUB Coordinator

Matt Rosenblum, SPHR
Director, Pathways HUB

Sherry Way, BA
Finance Manager

Harnessing the power of collaboration for healthier communities

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Two Multi-Sector Highlights

Harnessing the power of collaboration for healthier communities

- ***Lead Screening and Testing***
- ***BHP Pathways HUB***

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Two Multi-Sector Highlights

Harnessing the power of collaboration for healthier communities

Balancing...
Evidence-Based Practice
&
Practice-Based Evidence

Lived Experience Is a Vital Community Asset and Pivotal for Successful Co-Design and Health Improvement

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Lead Screening & Testing

In Partnership with the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

Enabling Collective Impact at Scale

- Ensure children in Cleveland have a medical home and are tested for lead poisoning before their second birthday.
- Provide timely follow-up for children with elevated blood lead levels so families receive the care and support they need.
- Educate providers on the risks of childhood lead poisoning in Cleveland and raise family awareness about the importance of lead screening.

Why Now?

- In Cleveland, one (1) in five (5) children is poisoned by lead
- As a city, Cleveland ranks among the worst in the nation for lead poisoning
- In 2024, only about half of Cleveland's children were tested for lead poisoning before the age of two

Lead Screening & Testing

In Partnership with the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

Collaborative Leadership—Enabling Multi-Sector Collective Impact at Scale

Robert Eick, MD, MPH
Steering Support
Better Health Partnership

Gloria Blevins
Steering Committee Co-Chair
Black Child Development Institute - Ohio

Eliane Malek, MD
Steering Committee Co-Chair
University Hospitals

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Data Lead
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Evaluation Lead
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Elizabeth Kelley, RN
Clinical Lead
Neighborhood Family Practice

Libbey Pelaia-Krumhansl
Project Coordinator
Better Health Partnership

Roopa Thakur, MD
Clinical Lead
Cleveland Clinic

Marilyn Pringle, MPH, RN
Clinical Lead
Care Alliance

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Lead Screening & Testing

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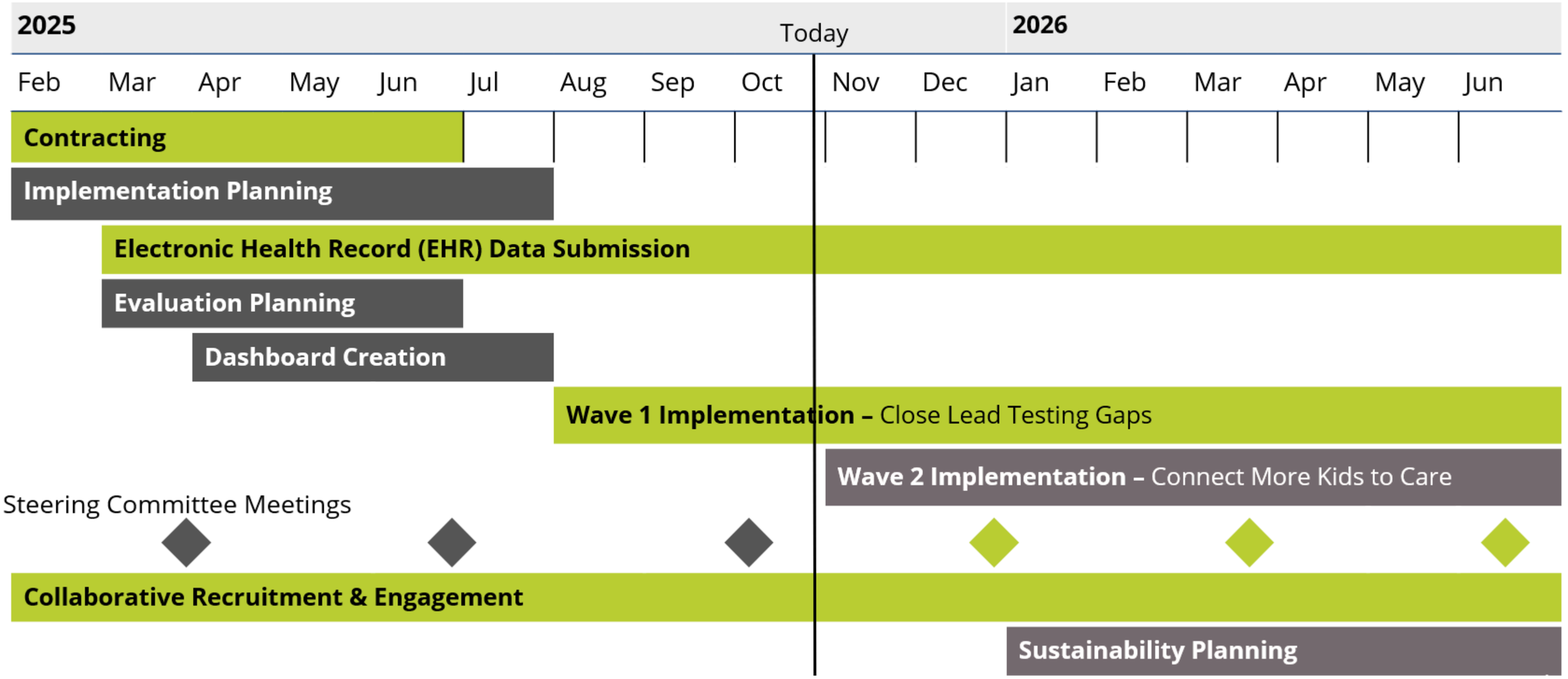

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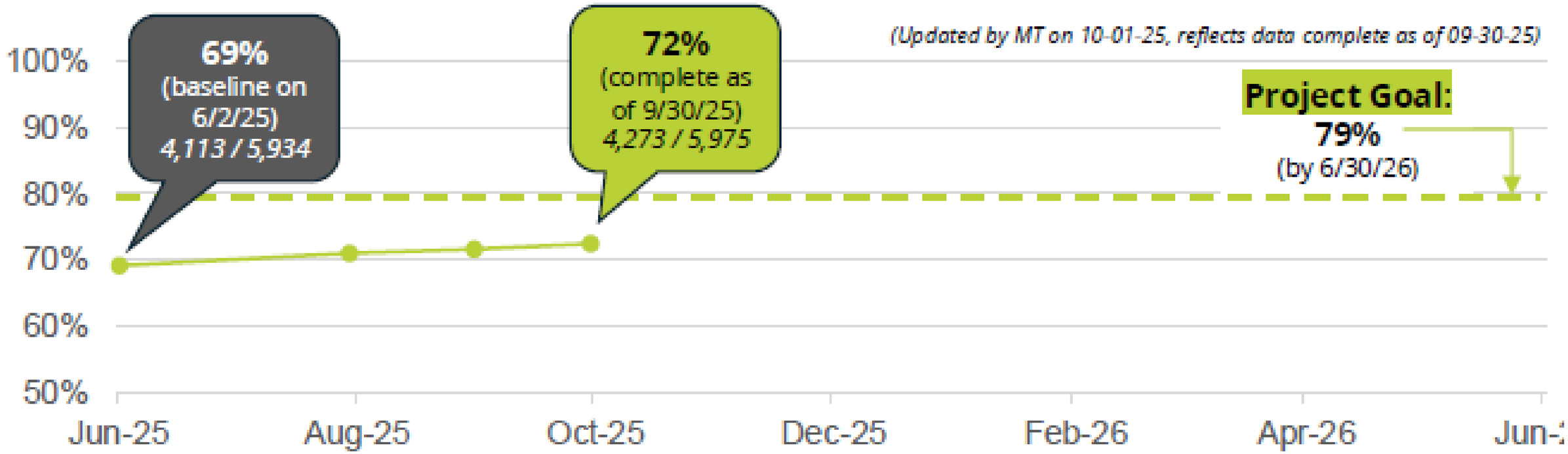
Lead Screening & Testing

In Partnership with the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

Progress to Date



Data Source: Epic Cosmos Database (Electronic Health Records)

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Lead Screening & Testing

In Partnership with the Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition

In-Office Testing → Better Outcome

In-Office Testing

Lab Testing

	Percent (%) with Lead Ordered by Provider	Percent (%) with Lead Test Completed
In-Office Testing	89%	89%
Lab Testing	77%	46%

Pathways HUB

Assessing & Addressing Unmet Social Need to Improve Health

Scale & Reach: A Growing Network

Our Network

- **17 contracted Care Coordination Agencies** spanning diverse neighborhoods and populations
- **Approximately 75 Community Health Workers and CHW supervisors** serving families

Payer LOB Growth

Expanding beyond Medicaid into **Medicare and Dually-Eligible Individuals**, opening pathways to coordinated social care for older adults and people with disabilities

Expanding Populations

Growing capacity to serve **LGBTQIA+ communities**, **newcomers and refugees**, and **seniors**—ensuring culturally responsive care for Cleveland's rich diversity

Pathways HUB

Assessing & Addressing Unmet Social Need to Improve Health

BHP Pathways HUB Impact Since Inception (February 2020)

5,092
Total Clients Served
Adults: 3,392 | Pregnant: 1,252 | Pediatric: 548

23,015
Pathways Completed
Documented need resolution across diverse health-related social needs

969
Total Deliveries
84% normal birthweight—a powerful testament to wraparound prenatal support

~$1 million
to **Non-Hospital** CCAs
Investing in community-based organizations building local capacity

~$1 million
to **Hospital** CCAs
Partnering with health systems to enable CHW-led interventions as a vehicle to health and value-based success

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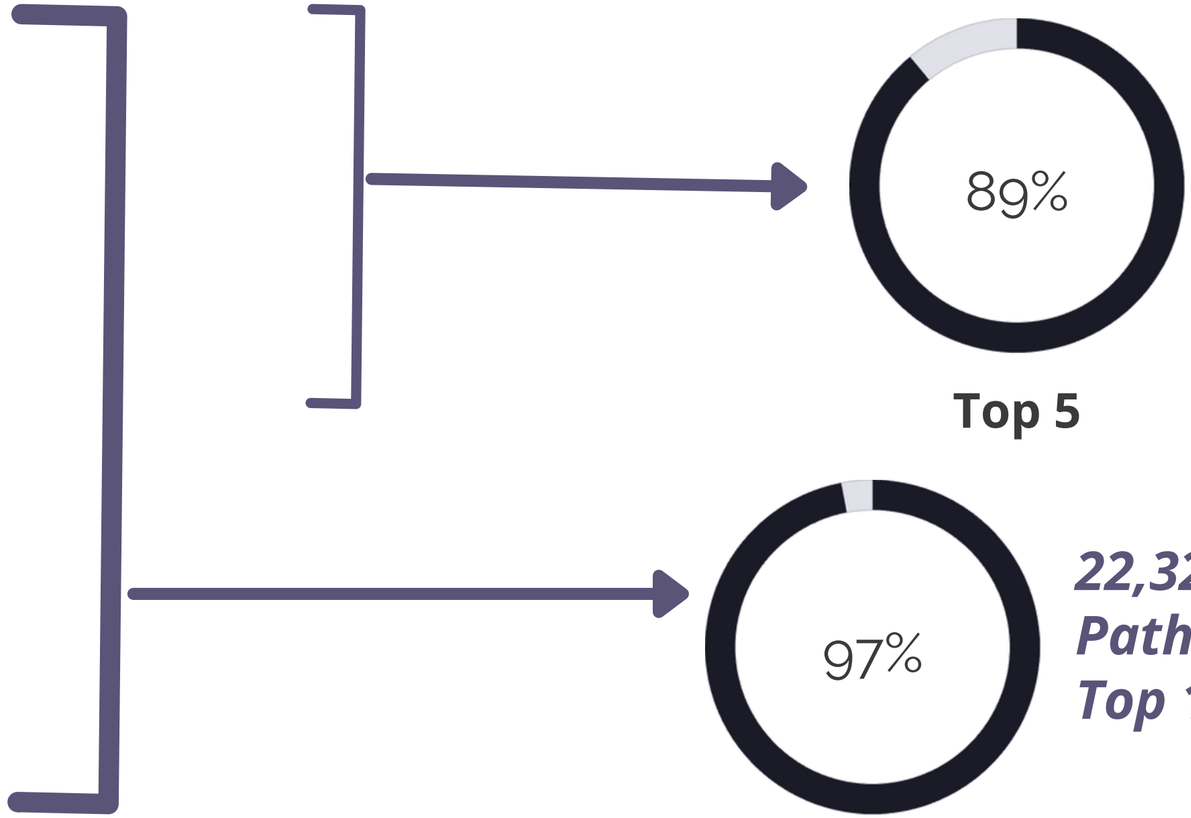
Pathways HUB

Assessing & Addressing Unmet Social Need to Improve Health

Top Ten Pathways Completed Since 2020

- *Learning*
- *Social Service*
- *Medical Referral*
- *Food*
- *Pregnancy*
- *Postpartum*
- *Health Coverage*
- *Medical Home*
- *Transportation*
- *Housing*



20,483 Completed Pathways across Top 5

Top 5

22,325 Completed Pathways across Top 10

Top 10

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Pathways HUB

Assessing & Addressing Unmet Social Need to Improve Health

Connections Underway: 2,700 Currently Open Pathways

679

Medical Referral

Highest volume of open pathways requiring clinical coordination

629

Social Service

Significant ongoing support needs across multiple domains

405

Pregnancy

Prenatal care coordination and maternal health support

231

Medical Home

Primary care establishment and continuity of care

148

Food Security

Nutritional support and resource connection

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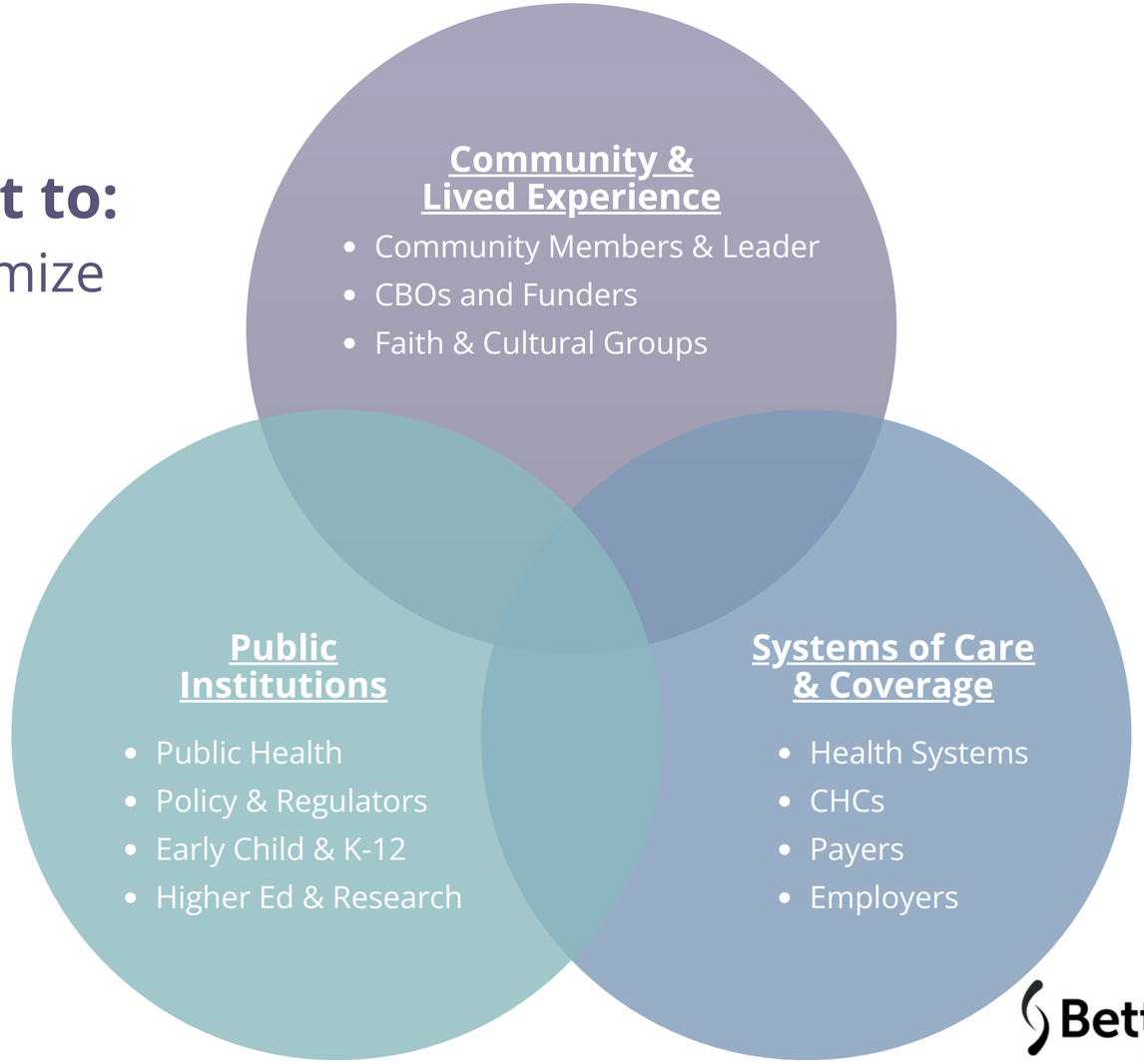
What's Ahead

Harnessing the power of collaboration for healthier communities

Our path ahead reflects a commitment to:

1. Working at the interface of sectors to optimize impact
2. Co-designing and scaling evidence-based models to improve health
3. Centering & strengthening community partnerships as central to our work



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What's Ahead

Harnessing the power of collaboration for healthier communities

Pathways HUB: Scale + QI Focus

Expand CHW capacity and network. Integrate pathways with broader initiatives (perinatal, lead, BH). Bolster policy & payment across LOBs for value-based success. Embed continuous QI approach.

Lead Screening Action

Scale point-of-care testing and implement follow-up pilots across clinical & community settings. Ensure continued, community-centered co-design. Next phase & sustainability.

Infant Vitality

Implementation of *Partner for Change* initiative as partner of First Year Cleveland, via co-design with OB leaders and community voices. Implement shared measurement frameworks, identify and scale best practices, and center community expertise.

Strengthen Backbone Supports

Bolster shared quality improvement, data, co-design, implementation, & evaluation shared backbone services, enabling sustained improvement for partners & communities.

Coverage & Benefits Continuity

Multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure seamless benefit access for Medicaid and SNAP recipients as policy landscapes shift at state and federal levels.

Gratitude & Acknowledgements

- Our Team
- Our Communities
- Our Partners
- Our Board

...Thank you!!

Brittany Battle, MHA

Pathways HUB Care Coordination Supervisor

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Additional Partner Highlights

- ***NE Ohio QI HUB***
- ***Cardi-OH***
- ***Heart Health Equity (CDC)***

NEO QI Hub

NORTHEAST OHIO QUALITY IMPROVEMENT HUB

Regional Quality Improvement Hubs

Reliably translate best-evidenced care into clinical practice, offering structure to collectively support health improvements that can be measured at the levels of Ohio's populations.

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY School of Medicine

Northeast Ohio MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

In partnership with

medtapp Medicaid Technical Assistance & Policy Program

OHIO COLLEGES OF MEDICINE GOVERNMENT RESOURCE CENTER

QI HUB

Project Lead Introductions

NEO QI HUB

Executive PIs

Michael W. Konstan, MD
Case Western Reserve University

Shari Bolen, MD, MPH
Case Western Reserve University

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Northeast Ohio Medical University

Quality Improvement Leads

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Deb Hrouda, PhD, LISW-S
Northeast Ohio Medical University

Managed Care Engagement Lead

Kirstin Craciun, MPP, MSW
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Health Equity Leads

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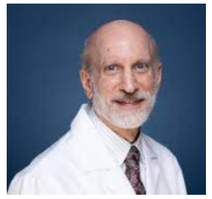
Prakash Ganesh, MD, MPH
Case Western Reserve University

Data and Evaluation Leads



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Case Western Reserve University

Chris Mundorf, PhD
Better Health Partnership

Practice QI Coach

Amanda Glenn, MSN, RN
Case Western Reserve University

Project Management Leads

Julie Fisher MHA, BSN, RN, CPHQ
The MetroHealth System

Cathy Sullivan, MS, RD
The MetroHealth System

Project Overview

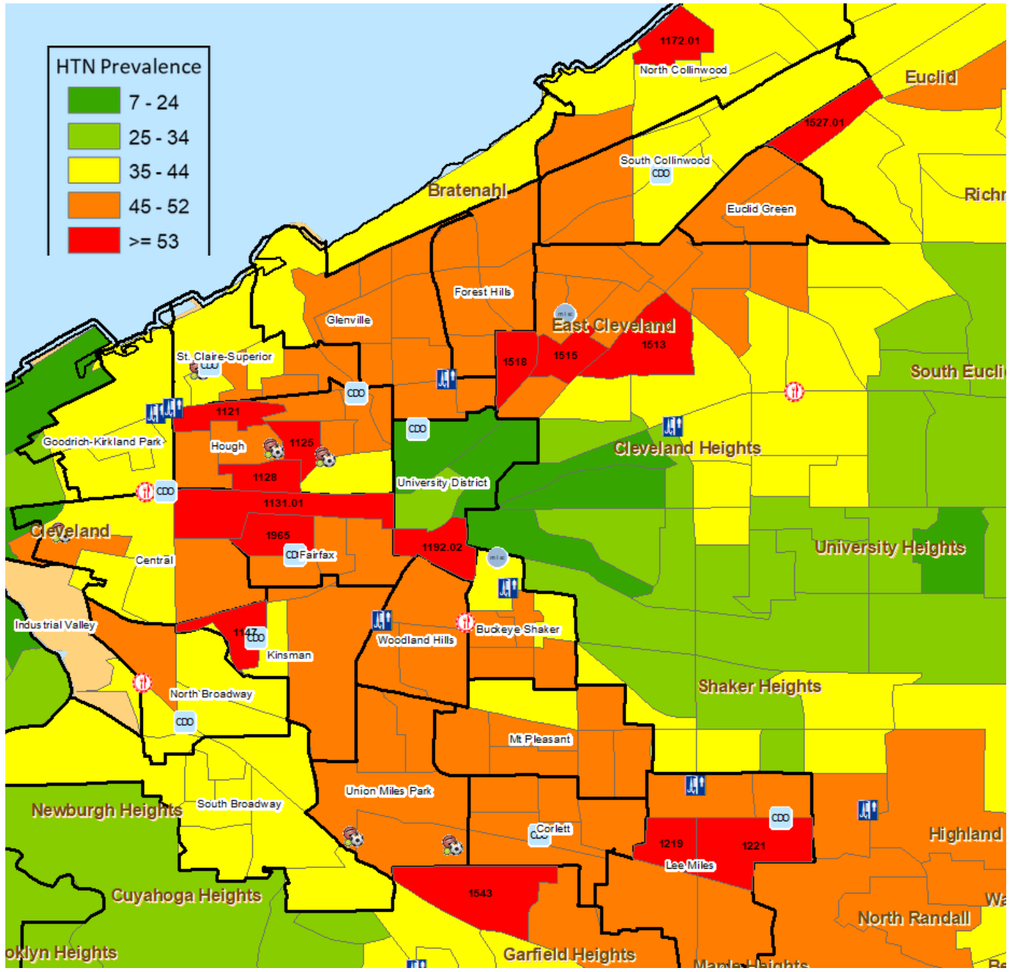
- The Ohio Department of Medicaid has established Regional QI Hubs across Ohio to advance population health improvement for Medicaid enrollees.
- The NEO QI Hub is led by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in partnership with NEOMED, regional healthcare systems, and FQHCs.
- The initial QI project of the NEO QI Hub, AHEAD (Achieving HEAlth Equity in Diabetes), seeks to improve the health of adults living with diabetes in NEO by using QI science to improve glycemic control and eliminate disparities.
- To date, 47 NEO primary care practices enrolled: 25 in Wave 1 and 22 in Wave 2.

Practice sites have improved glycemic control by 10%-13% relative to baseline.

Heart Health Equity in Cuyahoga County Communities

<u>Purpose</u>: improve high blood pressure and cholesterol within identified neighborhoods at highest cardiovascular risk through:

1. Tracking and Monitoring Clinical and Social Needs Measures
2. Implementing Team-Based Care
3. Linking Community and Clinical Services



***Red census tracts on the map are the required neighborhoods of focus for the grant due to high rates of high blood pressure (>53%); Funded by the CDC

Key Community Engagement Initiatives

- **Patient Advocate Team**
  - Nine patient advocates with lived experience meet bi-monthly to advise on project strategies
- **Healthy Heart Ambassador Program**
  - Developed by the CDC and YMCA, helps adults with high blood pressure build healthy habits through regular self-monitoring and lifestyle support.
- **B/Pressure Barbershop Pilot**
  - Community-based blood pressure screening, education, and linkage to clinical care
  - Partnership with American Heart Association, The MetroHealth System, Major League Barbershop, and Molina Healthcare of Ohio
- **Farmacy Initiative**
  - Engaging priority food pantries through nutrition education seminars and materials

CARDI·OH

Ohio Cardiovascular and Diabetes Health Collaborative

About Cardi-OH

Founded in 2017, the mission of Cardi-OH is to improve cardiovascular and diabetes health outcomes and eliminate disparities in Ohio's Medicaid population.

WHO WE ARE: An initiative of health care professionals across Ohio's seven medical schools.

WHAT WE DO: Identify, produce, and disseminate evidence-based cardiovascular and diabetes best practices to primary care teams.

HOW WE DO IT: Online library of best practices resources available at Cardi-OH.org and via our web app, including monthly newsletters, podcasts, webinars, and quality improvement using the Project ECHO® virtual training model.

Learn more at Cardi-OH.org

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY School of Medicine

In partnership with

University of CINCINNATI College of Medicine

Northeast Ohio Medical University

Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

The Ohio State University College of Medicine

College of Medicine and Life Sciences The University of Toledo

Boonshoft School of Medicine Wright State University

Government Resource Center

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Ohio Department of Medicaid