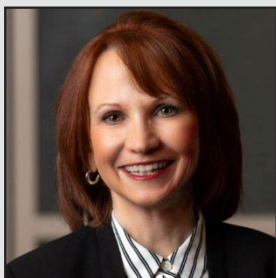




# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE  
COMMUNITY

## TO THE COMMUNITY



Better Health Partnership (BHP) has been a hallmark collaborative leader in Northeast Ohio since 2007. We bring health and social service providers together with other sectors, to share best practices and accelerate data-informed improvements in equitable population and community health. Our partners now span a 17 county footprint, consisting of 18 health systems that collectively report health metrics on nearly 600,000 adults and children cared for in their primary care practices. In 2020, our Better Health Pathways HUB joined a growing network of HUBs across Ohio that collectively served over 4,000 clients in 2020 through 192 community health workers.

Working collectively, our partners proudly deliver evidence-based solutions derived from actionable analytics, resulting in sustainable, system-level, positive change for the community. BHP supports the advancement of high-quality, coordinated care to increase the value of health care and wrap-around support services for those in greatest need and we help create equitable opportunities for all individuals to be healthy and thrive.

With sincere gratitude for your continued partnership and support,

Rita Horwitz, RN  
President & CEO

## OUR VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY

BHP's collective impact on quality of care improvement, population health outcomes and reduction of disparities across Northeast Ohio is well documented and widely recognized. As a result of our members' commitment to sharing clinical data and best practices, racial and ethnic disparities in adult diabetes care have nearly been eliminated, and thousands more adults now have good blood pressure control. BHP's collective impact on reducing health care costs is equally significant. An independent study, published in *Health Affairs*, February 2018, documented nearly \$40 million saved from approximately 6,000 cardiovascular-related avoidable hospitalizations over 6 years in Cuyahoga County.

Additionally, our collaboration is mobilizing new connections and better care coordination between primary care, behavioral health providers and community resources to address societal factors that influence an individual's health, quality, and longevity of life. BHP and United Way 2-1-1 created the first, closed loop, electronic referral system to better manage health and social needs for children with asthma and obesity and adults with hypertension. The Pathways HUB brings scalable and sustainable community health worker care coordination for our most vulnerable residents living in Cuyahoga County.

Achieving improved health and health equity across the region requires using a disciplined and systematic process supported by a strong backbone organization for facilitation of all collaborative activities. BHP's portfolio of services provides the infrastructure and resources needed to ensure partner organization goals are met, as well as the needs of the diverse communities we serve.



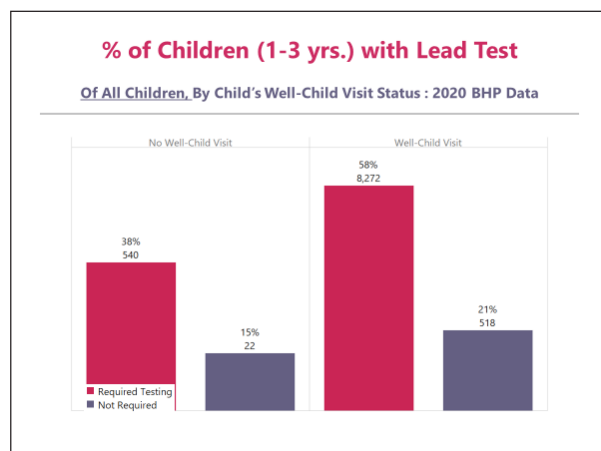
## ELEVATING CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Every child receives comprehensive well care

Better Health Partnership's Children's Health Leadership Team, co-chaired by Steven Spalding, MD, VP Population Health, Akron Children's Hospital and Andrew Hertz, MD, Pediatrician, University Hospitals, Founder and CEO Teknion Health Equity, and with participation from

pediatric health providers, continues to grow its impact on children's health across Northeast Ohio. Better Health's data show significant gaps in well care including testing for lead, and immunizations. Other studies reflect upward trends in anxiety, depression, drinking alcohol and suicide in children – partially due to the pandemic and other social unrest. Understanding the importance of comprehensive well care for children, our leadership team and subcommittees bring primary, behavioral, and school-based providers together with community health worker wrap around support services from the Better Health Pathways HUB, to mobilize strategies that ensure every child receives timely and appropriate well care – including mental/ behavioral health, social health screenings, and lead testing.

In addition to screenings, we are also shaping the path to improve care coordination and communication between primary care and behavioral health providers so children receive appropriate and timely follow up for their needs. We are beginning to work with Circle Health/ The Centers and UH Rainbow Babies and Children's providers to uncover best practices that will be further disseminated and scaled to improve outcomes.





## COMMUNITY COVID COLLABORATION Community Health Centers minority vaccination rates outpace all other Cuyahoga County providers

The global pandemic brought new health challenges for minority and low-income populations, creating a call to action for our Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) partners to ensure equitable access to testing and vaccines. BHP quickly facilitated partnerships with government, payers, public health, and the faith-based community to assist the FQHCs in collectively addressing barriers to access. These efforts resulted in FQHCs achieving testing and vaccination rates for minority populations at a pace that far exceeded other vaccine providers throughout Cuyahoga County.

## BETTER HEALTH PATHWAYS HUB

Our Better Health Pathways HUB joins a growing network of HUBs; 35(+) nationally, and now ten in Ohio, that collectively served over 4,000 clients in 2020 through 65 agencies and 192 community health workers.

### Representatives for Ohio’s HUB network testify at State House

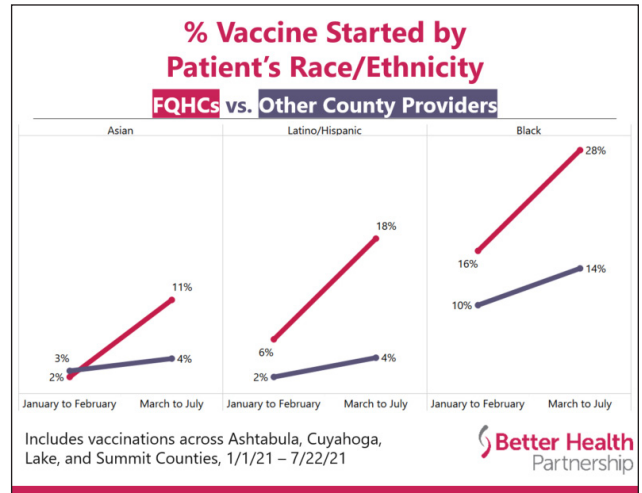
HUB leaders joined the Ohio Commission on Minority Health in 2021 to help influence legislators such as Senator Mark Romanchuk, to advocate for funding to continue to support expansion and impact of the evidence-based model so HUBs can reach many more Ohioans to achieve better health outcomes and equity.



We are grateful to our Care Coordination Agency Partners listed below, for their dedication to helping Cuyahoga County’s most in need pregnant women, children and adults.

- Beech Brook
- Birthing Beautiful Communities
- Care Alliance Health Center
- Carmella Rose Health Foundation
- Circle Health/The Centers
- Joseph’s Home
- Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON)
- The MetroHealth System
- Pregnant with Possibilities Resource Center
- Village of Healing

The HUB brings scalability and sustainability of social services to the region by creating a large, centralized network of care coordination agencies who employ community health workers to work “pathways” to meet client needs and are reimbursed by Medicaid managed care organizations for achieved outcomes.



# BETTER HEALTH PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATIVE

## FOUNDERS

The MetroHealth System  
Health Action Council  
The Center for Community Solutions  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Akron Children's Hospital  
Asian Services in Action  
AxessPointe Community Health Centers  
Care Alliance Health Center  
Circle Health/The Centers  
Cleveland Clinic Health System  
Lake Health System  
Medina County Health Department  
The MetroHealth System  
Neighborhood Family Practice  
Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON)  
Northeast Ohio VA Healthcare System  
Senders Pediatrics  
St. Vincent Charity Medical Center  
Summa Health Care System  
UHCMC Douglas Moore Health Center  
UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital

## FOUNDATIONS

The Bruening Foundation  
The Cleveland Foundation  
The George Gund Foundation  
HealthComp Foundation  
Huntington-Akron Foundation  
Mt. Sinai Health Foundation  
Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland  
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

## EMPLOYERS AND HEALTH PLANS

Buckeye Health Plan  
CareSource  
Health Action Council  
Medical Mutual of Ohio  
Molina Healthcare  
Paramount Healthcare  
UnitedHealth Group  
Vitamax

## COMMUNITY

Beech Brook  
Birthing Beautiful Communities  
Bright Beginnings  
Carmella Rose Health Foundation  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cleveland Central Promise Neighborhood  
Cleveland Department of Public Health  
Cleveland Metropolitan School District  
Cleveland State University  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Cuyahoga County Board of Health  
Environmental Health Watch  
First Year Cleveland  
Greater Cleveland Food Bank  
Health Improvement Partnership- Cuyahoga  
Hospice of the Western Reserve  
Institute for H.O.P.E.  
Joseph's Home  
Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition  
Neighborhood Leadership Institute  
Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement  
Ohio Association of Community Health Centers  
Ohio Commission on Minority Health  
Ohio Department of Medicaid  
Old Brooklyn Community Development Corporation  
Pregnant with Possibilities Resource Center  
Say Yes to Education  
Summit County Public Health  
United Way 2-1-1  
Village of Healing  
Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging

## Better Health's BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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West Side Catholic Center

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Ohio Association of  
Community Health Centers

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JB Silvers, PhD  
Professor of Healthcare Finance  
CWRU

## Our Vision

Northeast Ohio is one of the healthiest places to live and best places to do business.

## Our Mission

We bring health care providers, social services, and other sectors together to share best practices and accelerate data-informed improvements in equitable population and community health.

## Our Values

Making a difference in the communities we serve is a core value. We prize trusted collaboration, transparency, data, shared learning, and a culture of continuous improvement to advance health and health equity.

Connect with us!



[www.betterhealthpartnership.org](http://www.betterhealthpartnership.org)  
216.778.3901