

2022

# ANNUAL REPORT



Illinois  
Collaboration  
on Youth

*A look back on our progress in improving  
outcomes for children, youth, and families and  
our efforts to strengthen the network of  
providers serving them.*



# A Message from our CEO

In 2022, the ICOY Board of Directors entered into another cycle of strategic planning, for the first time explicitly undertaking this periodic activity using a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion framework. The process engaged dozens of Board members, ICOY members and staff, and other key stakeholders that resulted in a clarification of our mission, vision, and core beliefs, as well as identification and definition of our organizational values. Together we described our Theory of Change and even came up with a brief impact statement that summarizes what Illinois Collaboration on Youth strives to do: In all of our work, we **CONNECT, STRENGTHEN, and LEVERAGE** the collective voice of Illinois' child welfare and youth-serving organizations.



Andi Durbin

*We also identified three strategic imperatives that we will focus on over the next three years:*

- 1. System transformation with a prevention focus and intersectional lens*
- 2. Facilitation of collaborative learning and growth among child and youth-serving organizations*
- 3. Humble and transparent field leadership in equity*

Throughout this report, you will see that we have translated those three imperatives into themes that characterize our work and accomplishments over the past year, and that will shape our efforts going forward. Some activities fit neatly under one label or another, while others could easily be categorized into two or three areas. And while frameworks like these are useful in organizing and communicating what we do, let us remember that, ultimately, what we are all united in working toward is a just and equitable Illinois that values and invests in ensuring that all children, youth, and families are healthy, thriving, and intergenerationally successful. Thanks for being our partners in this important work and getting us closer to making that vision become reality.

A handwritten signature of Andi Durbin in black ink.

# Advancing Child & Family Well-Being

ICOY believes that children, youth, and families have the right to have their basic needs met and the opportunities and resources they need to succeed. Services should be trauma-informed, evidence-supported, family-focused, culturally-responsive, and community-based.

Concluded the first research study of the Intact Family Recovery (IFR) Program to evaluate services to keep children safe and families intact while parents engage in substance use recovery.

Introduced Trauma Talks series and expanded access to our Trauma-informed trainings with new topics such as The Effect of Trauma on Behavior, Suicide Prevention, and Complex Trauma & Human Trafficking.

Hosted the Shifting the Narrative on Abuse and Neglect panel discussion highlighting the role of prevention strategies and economic supports in strengthening families.

*Advocated within Congress to improve policies and resources to address the behavioral health needs and trauma of children and youth, and at the state level for investment and expansion of services for children, youth, and families. Partnered with the Illinois chapter of the Foster Care Alumni Association to support young adults in advocating to members of Illinois' Congressional Delegation.*





# Strengthening the Human Services Sector

ICOY seeks to improve outcomes for individuals and families by strengthening the human services organizations that support them. ICOY believes that Illinois only succeeds when all its children, youth, and families thrive. Here is how ICOY continued to build and strengthen Illinois' child and youth-serving infrastructure:

Hosted an Inaugural Workforce Symposium with Illinois Partners for 85+ individuals to share best practices and collaborate on policy and administrative recommendations.

Increased participation by 170% in the Capacity Building Assessment Tool for Organizations to help providers improve their trauma-informed capacity.

Refined our technical assistance for DHS youth services providers to include new site visit protocols, a revamped training for the Community Youth Services Program, and individual Advisory Boards for each program.

*In collaboration with Illinois Partners for Human Service, we passed the Human Service Professional Loan Repayment Program to help recruit and retain qualified service professionals who work for community-based organizations.*



# Addressing Racial Justice & Equity

ICOY envisions a just and equitable Illinois that values and invests in ensuring that all children, youth, and families are healthy, thriving, and inter-generationally successful. We seek to eliminate systemic injustice by working toward a world where everyone has access to the resources and opportunities they want and need.

**Offered a customized training session completely in Spanish for the first time in ICOY's history.**

**Partnered with the Human Rights Campaign to promote the All Children, All Families initiative, which provides training & technical assistance on LGBTQ+ inclusion for child & youth-serving systems.**

**Offered a 4-part DEI series on Organizational Cultural Humility and Diversity, Social Justice & Dismantling Organizational Racism, Hip Hop: Intersectionality & Creating a Shared Language of Connection, and Reducing Racial & Ethnic Disparities.**

*Passed legislation to create a bias-free child removal pilot program for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services with the goal of reducing bias in decision-making during the child protective services removal process, and a resolution protecting the civil rights of youth in virtual court hearings.*



# Member Snapshot



*92 MEMBERS  
& PARTNERS*



*16,000+ FULL  
TIME STAFF &  
EMPLOYEES*



*\$1.5 BILLION  
ECONOMIC  
IMPACT*



*437 MEMBER  
JOBS POSTED*



*287,954  
CHILDREN &  
INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED*



*1,720 INDIVIDUALS  
JOINED 157 ICOY  
TRAININGS*

## WHY BE A MEMBER?

*Being a member of ICOY offers the following key benefits:*

### ADVOCACY

Advocating within the legislative & executive branches on behalf of members to shape practices and policies that improve outcomes for children and youth.

### REPRESENTATION

Acting as a voice for members by serving on committees and work groups addressing children and youth involved in or at risk of involvement in foster care, the justice system, homelessness, or human trafficking.

### NETWORKING

Member-exclusive access to events attended by high ranking state officials, legislators, subject matter experts, and peer organizations from across the state along with a peer-to-peer interactive Virtual Community.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

Professional development resources including weekly newsletters with breaking local and federal news, analysis, and more, plus additional discounts on customized training for staff along with access to liability insurance products and other cost-saving opportunities.

### VISIBILITY

Amplifying members' news & job openings via our website & social media.



Illinois  
Collaboration  
on Youth

Partnering to build brighter futures