

## Historical Recap on EAHS: 2014 – Present



### 2014/2015

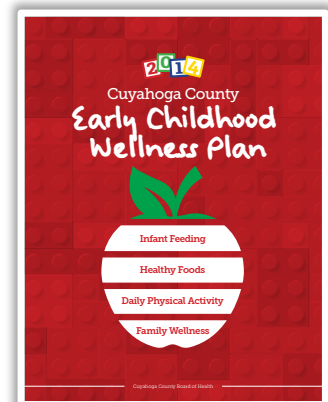
Beginning with preliminary discussions and meetings in 2014, 24 advocates and supporters for early childhood health began working together and drafted a wellness plan, formally launched in 2015, that focused on infant feeding, healthy foods, daily physical activities and family wellness. As a result of that plan, the EAHS coalition was formed with the continued goal to “Improve the environments where young children live and learn. We do this with the understanding that every child, no matter where they are learning, deserves to be healthy.”

#### **Our Mission:**

To work together to create healthy environments for young children in Cuyahoga County.

#### **Our Vision:**

Growing healthy kids, right from the start. Cuyahoga County is a community that provides all children ages 0-8 with the opportunity to establish healthy lifestyles in environments where they live, learn, sleep and play.

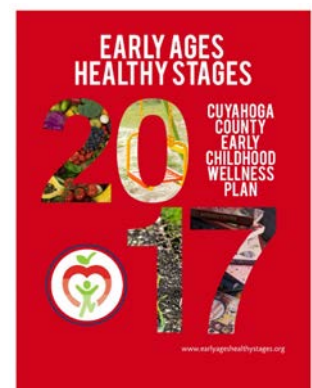


### 2016/2017

As we became stronger in numbers and perspectives, and as we included communities at-large, we all desired to create positive change around childhood health. Accordingly, a new strategic plan was developed that looked ahead from 2017-2020.

[\(Click on the report thumbnail to read the full report\)](#)

Our coalition has become a partnership between early care and education providers, community organizations, health care and social service agencies, businesses and families. We work together to make the healthy choice the easy choice for young children and



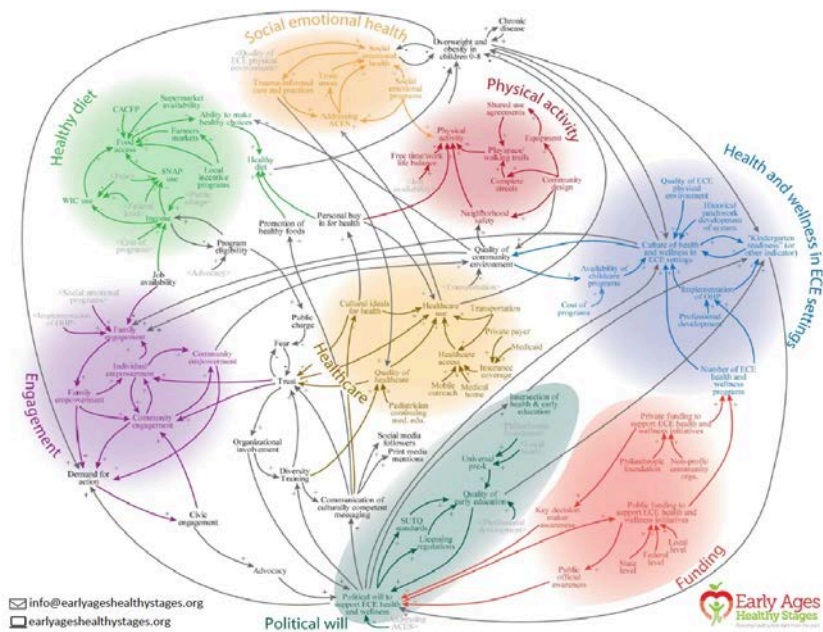
their families. Together, we strive to ensure that young children in Cuyahoga County are given every opportunity to reach their fullest, healthiest potential.

“All of this comes with the acknowledgement,” as shared by EAHS Program Manager Alison Patrick, “that building this coalition is more than just getting together once a month to talk about our programs. Rather, we’ve built a policy and systems approach that establishes a more concrete focus on priorities that include making healthy foods available, providing opportunities for active play, meeting social-emotional needs, ensuring that families are engaged, and making health care accessible.”

With a 2017-2020 plan now in place, the Coalition began thinking about potential pathways that could best streamline execution of the work.

## 2018

In 2018, the EAHS coalition entered into a new partnership with Dr. Christina Economos, a Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. This collaboration stemmed from a relationship between Dr. Economos and Jodi Mitchell, a health strategy consultant working with the EAHS, that began on the National Academics of Science Roundtable on Obesity Solutions. Dr. Economos and her team were excited to partner with the EAHS coalition, to scale their innovative, systems science approach to community-based obesity prevention through this year-long project.



As part of that project, we convened a small subset group from the EAHS coalition called the EAHS Action Building Committee (ABC). The ABC was intentionally created to represent the multiple sectors that make up the EAHS Coalition. The ABC worked together for nine months using Group Model Building, a participatory research method that helps a group build a shared understanding of a complex system. Through that process, a systems map was developed, which shows the relationships and interconnections within the complex system of early childhood health in Cuyahoga County.

We can use it to understand what’s driving early childhood health, in our county, and to prioritize action steps for improvements through the work of EAHS. It helps us see the

interconnections between our priority areas, (e.g., healthy diet, social emotional health, engagement, health care, physical activity, family engagement), and the crucial sub-systems (e.g., early childhood environments, political will, funding) that need to be addressed at the community level to help us address our priority areas.

## *Moving forward in 2019*

With our systems map, the path toward tangible change is clearer. Now is the time to strengthen our Coalition work to change the culture of health and wellness in Cuyahoga

County—and everybody has a role in this work. We don't have to work harder, but we must work more effectively together.

Today, EAHS is approximately 300 individuals strong and represents nearly 150 unique organizations in Cuyahoga County.

- **Do you have resources that you would like to share with EAHS members?**  
We have a broad listserv of individuals and organizations committed to improving early childhood settings.
- **Join us for our next Coalition meeting**  
The coalition meets monthly. To learn about the next meeting dates, please visit our [website](#).
- **Opportunity to learn about ACEs**  
We'll explore opportunities to improve social emotional health March 21, 2019 – Documentary Screening: Resilience with Dr. Nadine Burke Harris at 2:00 p.m. at HIMSS in the Global Center for Health Innovation. Click [here](#) to sign up for the event.

**Stay engaged with our updates!**

