



PACE Association of Ohio (PAO) Launches to Advocate for and Support PACE Providers in Ohio

For Immediate Release

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June 27, 2024 (COLUMBUS) – Today, the PACE Association of Ohio (PAO) formally launched as an independent trade association with a membership that includes Ohio’s only current Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organization in Cuyahoga County and the PACE organizations selected to serve Franklin, Hamilton, Montgomery, Lorain, Lucas, Summit, Trumbull, Ashtabula, and Mahoning counties as part of the historic expansion of the program enacted through the passage of Ohio House Bill 45 in 2022.

Founding members of the new association include the following: McGregor PACE (Cuyahoga, Summit, and Lorain Counties), Acutecare Health System/BoldAge PACE (Franklin, Montgomery, and Lucas Counties), TriHealth (Hamilton County), and One Senior Care (Trumbull, Ashtabula, and Mahoning Counties). McGregor PACE will partner with Ohio Living to provide services in Summit County, and TriHealth will partner with Edenbridge Health and the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio in Hamilton County.

“Creating a State PACE Association is essential for the successful growth of the PACE program across Ohio,” said Ann Conn, President & CEO of the McGregor Foundation and the incoming Board Chair of PAO. “Ohioans deserve a variety of senior care options, and PAO is eager to work with our partners statewide to ensure a smooth and successful launch.”

PAO will advocate on behalf of PACE providers, participants, and staff before the Ohio General Assembly, the Governor’s Administration, and all Ohio policymakers and interest groups who interact with PACE, healthcare, and services and supports for older adults. PAO will also share knowledge and provide education for its members, seeking to advance the care model, support participants and staff, and pave the way for a bright future for PACE in Ohio.

“The ability to speak in one collective voice through the PAO will allow PACE organizations to advocate for state policies and practices that allow for high quality care for frail older adults in Ohio,” said Shawn Bloom, President & CEO of the National PACE Association.

The Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides comprehensive medical and social services to certain older adult participants living in the community, serving as both the care provider and insurer. The program provides all needed health care, medical care, and ancillary services across all settings. Services include primary and specialty care, adult day health services, personal care services, inpatient hospital care, prescription drugs, occupational/physical therapies, and nursing home care, offered through an interdisciplinary team responsible for coordination of 24-hour care delivery. The majority of those served by PACE are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

In 2021, providers and advocates began a focused advocacy campaign in Ohio to expand the PACE program, pointing to the program’s proven track record of providing quality care, high rates of participant satisfaction

and re-enrollment, and the potential cost savings to the state of Ohio in serving more nursing home eligible adults in their homes, with access to the right services and supports. This mission was achieved via the passage of House Bill 45 in 2022, followed by Governor DeWine's signing of the bill and the announcement of site locations and selected providers by the state in December of 2023.

PAO will serve as a state affiliate of the National PACE Association (NPA), the national trade association representing PACE providers, and maintain a strategic partnership with LeadingAge Ohio, a nonprofit trade association that represents approximately 400 long-term care organizations, hospices, and senior housing providers. PAO will work with High Bridge Consulting and LeadingAge Ohio for state lobbying and advocacy services on behalf of its members.

To learn more about PAO, visit www.PACEOH.org.