



# 2021

## Annual Report

*Mission: To achieve equitable access and promote a healthier Aurora for everyone.*

*AHA envisions a community where all residents have an opportunity to achieve optimal health.*



*Some members of the AHA Board braved the cold and wind to meet briefly in person (October 2021)*

Aurora Health Alliance used the space provided by 2021 to improve our focus. In many ways, we used the year to bridge the high stress of the COVID-19 to the future endemic state. AHA is here to provide a forum and serve as a convener to elevate the work of partner organizations in the community.

You will see our equity statement in this annual report. This is a key component to the work we do. Also note our engagement in new areas, such as the unhoused community and a webinar series on youth suicide. The gathering and work of our interest groups continues to expand – we hosted twenty-two interest group meetings in 2021!

Thank you to our members for continuing to be engaged with AHA. We know workloads are heavy, but so is the need in the community. AHA is proud to provide structure for our community to virtually gather and have solutions-focused conversations on how to improve access to care in Aurora for all.

## AHA Health Equity Statement

Aurora Health Alliance's commitment to health equity means we strive for and promote the highest possible standard of health for all people.

To Aurora Health Alliance, health equity means everyone has a fair opportunity to be as healthy as possible, regardless of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, language, physical and mental ability, and other core aspects of identity. It requires the dismantling of structural racism through the removal of barriers to health. It requires both improving access to the care and resources needed to thrive, along with equitable treatment once that access is gained.

# Notable Events & Accomplishments

## Videos on Vaccines

In 2021 AHA:

- Created and published videos with information about the **COVID-19 Vaccines** in **English** and in **Spanish**.

[Watch the videos.](#)

## Aurora Unhoused Community

- **Convened** a network of organization working with the **unhoused population** in Aurora for the sharing of information, services, and other collaborations.
- Created and published a video of 2021 **City Council Candidate Interviews** on their campaign's plans to support and address the unhoused community, if elected. [Watch the Video.](#)

## Addressing Youth Suicide Series

In August and September, our **Kids** and **Behavioral Health** Groups combined to present a two-part webinar on **Youth Suicide** featuring CO Dept. Public Health & Environment, Tri-County Health Dept., Partners for Children's Mental Health, Denver Dept. of Public Health & Environment, Aurora Mental Health Center, Cherry Creek Schools, Aurora Public Schools, and Children's Hospital Colorado.

Total Attendance: 74

[Watch the videos of our Youth Suicide Series.](#)

## Quarterly Community Meetings

Our 2021 meetings included topics such as the Juvenile Assessment Center; YMCA of Denver; All of Us; LGBTQ+ Hub; Safe Babies Court; Data/strategy re: vaccine equity; Ready to Work; and Mile High Behavioral Health, with a total attendance of 197 people.

Total Attendance: 197

[Watch videos of our QCMs](#)

## Aurora Smiles

Various organizations and AHA collaborate to improve access to oral health in Aurora. We created and distributed a **Guide to Low Cost Oral Care in Aurora** in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) with a flowchart for adults to help navigate oral health services. **Delta Dental Foundation of Colorado** again awarded us a three-year grant to support the Aurora Smiles work.

## AHA Board

Board Member	Organization
Julie Beaubian	Children's Hospital Colorado
Troy Bowman	Signal Behavioral Health Network
Bonnie DeHart	Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Laura Don	Tri-County Health Department
Maisha Fields	Salud Clinic
Genevieve Frasier	The Medical Center of Aurora
Heather Logan	CU Medicine
Rich McLean	Community Advocate
Julia Mecklenburg	Colorado Access
Keith Peterson	University of Colorado Hospital
Chanell Reed	Families Forward Resource Center
Regina Richards, PhD, DSW	University of Colorado School of Medicine
Maribel Sandoval	PASCO (Personal Assistance Services of Colorado)
Kathie Snell	Aurora Mental Health Center
Susan Todd	STRIDE
Virginia Visconti, PhD, MAT	Colorado School of Public Health

# AHA 2021 Interest Groups

## Access to Specialty Care Group

This group focuses on understanding and addressing the barriers to accessing specialty care services. 2021 saw the completion and results of the **Access to Specialty Care Needs Assessment**, having collected data from area providers around the key priorities of specialty care access in Aurora.

[View a summary of the results.](#) We also heard from the **CU Dermatology Clinic** and **Dr. Duane Pearson on rheumatology**. Thanks to Co-Chairs: **Heather Logan**, CU Medicine, **Molly Markert**, CO Access & **Rich McLean**, AHA Board.

[Watch videos of our ASC Group meetings, including the Assessment Results.](#)

Total Attendance: 53

## Behavioral Health Interest Group

In 2021, our Behavioral Health Interest Group heard from the **Colorado Department of Human Services** on the **Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force** blueprint, reviewed Legislation and Policy affecting behavioral health in Colorado, and joined the Kids Group in presenting the special webinars on Youth Suicide. Thanks to Co-Chairs: **Kathie Snell**, Aurora Mental Health Center, **Laura Don**, Tri-County Health Dept., and **Addison McGill**, The Medical Center of Aurora.

Total Attendance: 99

[Watch videos of our Behavioral Health Group meetings.](#)

## Kids Interest Group

The **Kids Interest Group** focuses on building community-wide collaborations and strengthening children's health initiatives, including immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities. In 2021, our meetings covered a variety of topics including "**Envision: You**," a project to help LGBTQ+ youth overcome disparities, and special webinars on **youth suicide**. Thanks to Co-Chairs: **Rebecca Rapport**, TCHD & **Shi Lynn Coleman**, Partners for Children's Mental Health.

Total Attendance: 150

[Watch videos of our Kids Group meetings.](#)

## Senior Circle Group

The **Senior Circle** Interest Group convenes individuals and organizations engaged with Aurora's older adults to focus on the strengths, challenges, and resources affecting older adults. In 2020 this group explored **low vision/hearing resources**, the **Respite Coalition**, **firearms and dementia**, and many other relevant topics. Thanks to Co-Chairs: **Johanna Glaviano**, AHA & **Shirley Proppe**, Audio Information Network.

Total Attendance: 61

[Watch videos of our Senior Circle meetings.](#)

## Social Determinants of Health Group

The **SDOH Interest Group** discusses social determinants of health such as transportation, food, and other factors that impact health. 2021 meetings included topics such as the **Colorado Health Equity Task Force**, **Black Community Health Awareness Response Team (BCHART)**, and **COVID-19 vaccine equity** clinics. Thanks to Co-Chairs: **Tessa Carlson**, CU Office of DEICE & **Julia Mecklenburg**, Colorado Access.

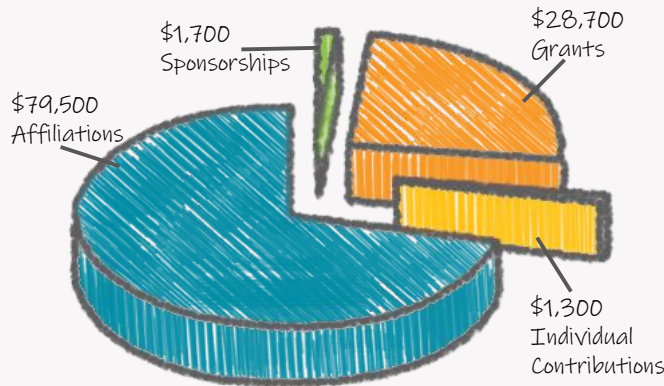
Total Attendance: 94

[Watch videos of our SDOH Meetings.](#)

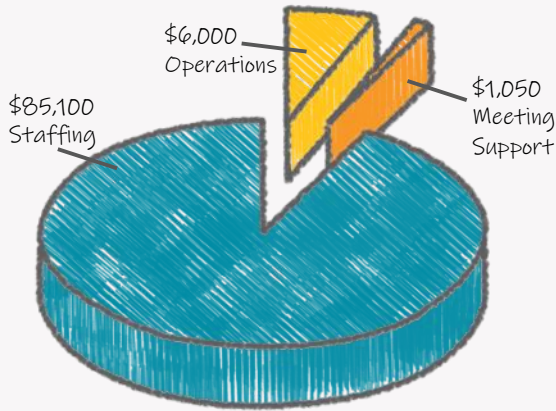
# AHA 2021 Budget

Thanks to Aurora Mental Health Center for serving as AHA's Fiscal Sponsor.

## AHA Revenues 2021



## AHA Expenses 2021



### Our Staff

Mandy Ashley, Executive Director  
 Jo Glaviano, Program Coordinator  
 Bobbie Morrell, Communications Coordinator

"AHA is a trusted community partner with extensive reach... bringing valuable information to a wide range of people and organizations, & creating a platform for discussion/ innovation/ progress."

