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Mark Mecum is the Associate Director for Government Relations and oversees OACCA's lobbying and advocacy activities at the state and federal levels. He started at OACCA in 2006 as Policy Analyst and was promoted to Associate Director in 2008. Accomplishments and activities at OACCA including convening the Ohio Independent Living Policy Workgroup, co-founding the Ohio Reach Initiative and the Ready to Launch Initiative, serving on the Governor's Anti-Poverty Task Force and the Youth and Young Adults in Transition Steering Committee, staffing the Advocacy Committee and coordinating an annual OACCA Advocacy Conference. Mark is also the state liaison for the Foster Family-Based Treatment Association, the state leader for the Child Welfare League of America, and Public Policy Committee member of the Alliance for Children and Families. Prior to starting at OACCA, Mark interned at the National Assembly for Wales in the United Kingdom, the Cincinnati City Council, and for Congressman Ted Strickland at the U.S. House of Representatives. Mark earned an MA ('07) and BA ('05) in Political Science from Ohio University.