

New Coordinator, Members Join HOME Choice Advisory Committee

The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council (HCCAC) is on the move with several exciting activities. For the first time, the Council has a coordinator, Rajai Saleh, who is a consultant assisting the chair with activities such as the meetings, arranging meeting transportation for members, and coordinating the upcoming HOME Choice empowerment video project. Rajai lives in Columbus and comes to HOME Choice with a baccalaureate degree in Rehabilitation Services from Wright State University and experience as a consumer support advocate and rehabilitation specialist.

The Council is energized by the addition of several new members. They participated in an orientation on August 16, 2012, at the Offices of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission. Shelley Papenfuse of The Ability Center of Greater Toledo and the HCCAC chair provided a history of the Olmstead Act and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force, which is serving temporarily as a parent organization to the Council. Leslie Sawyer, HOME Choice statewide outreach coordinator, presented an overview of the Ohio HOME Choice program, and Mary Butler of the Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council, provided information on the various workgroups HCCAC members could choose to join.

More than 30 people attended the meeting, including current and new members, their attendants, and representatives from the Ohio Olmstead Task Force. New members were excited about their participation on the HCCAC. The purpose of the Consumer Advisory Council is to provide direction and guidance to policymakers on HOME Choice program policy formation, issues, and projects.

The Consumer Advisory Council also is charged to advise state agencies, Ohio General

Leslie J. Sawyer, HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator

Assembly members, and interested parties by providing a forum for input, education, and development of consumer consensus on principles, standards, and policy initiatives impacting the long-term services and supports system. The HCCAC addresses issues of access and entry into the delivery system,



Rajai Saleh, HCCAC Coordinator

services and supports, design and redesign, self-direction expansion, housing, and health and human services workforce development.

Perhaps the most exciting activity of the Council is the upcoming production of two HOME Choice videos including one targeting older adults and adults with disabilities and a second targeting the parents and guardians of children and youth with disabilities. The videos are intended to empower people with disabilities living in institutional environments, such as nursing homes, to transition to community settings with the help of HOME Choice extra services and supports. Look for the videos on the HOME Choice web site in the spring.

In This Issue...

+ *Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative Holds Research Conference - p. 2*

+ *Lessons Learned Part One: Best Practices - p. 3*

+ *Meet the Team: Adam Anderson & Karen Jackson - p. 5*

+ *Change to Definition Increases Number of Qualified Institutions - p. 6*

+ *HOME Choice Success Stories: Centenarian Is Home Again - p. 11*

+ *HOME Choice Communication Chart - p. 13*



HOME Choice Updates

Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative Holds Research Conference

Leslie J. Sawyer, HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator

The Ohio Direct Services Workforce (DSW) Initiative sponsored an “Ohio Direct Service Workforce Applied Research Conference” on October 4, 2012, at the Fawcett Center in Columbus. Thanks go to the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) and the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) partners who organized and conducted the successful Conference and presented much of the work at the event.

The conference agenda included results from the Ohio DSW State Profile Tool Survey and seven DSW research projects sponsored by Money Follows the Person enhanced federal Medicaid funding, a presentation of the newly established core competencies, and a state panel discussion of how the competencies may be used to drive better quality standards and training of long-term care direct service workers. Sheryl Larson, Ph.D., from the University of Minnesota’s Research and Training Center on Community Living provided the keynote address. Dr. Larson described various state efforts to enhance the quality of direct service workers.

Conference attendees were energized by the lunch roundtable discussions on issues affecting direct service workers including “Demanding Employees,” “Employees without Competencies,” and “Low Compensation.” A total of 150 people attended the conference including providers, trainers, college faculty, state agency representatives, long-term care services and supports beneficiaries, families who provide natural supports, health care professionals, and direct service workers. Participants were surveyed about their overall impressions of the conference and generally agreed it was a “great conference.” One person shared she thought that “the conference was great especially because of the diversity of the participants.”

For more information on the [Ohio DSW Initiative](#) and the [Ohio DSW Consortium](#), visit the [Ohio DSW web site](#): <http://grc.osu.edu/odsw/>

HOME Choice Took to the Road

Jane Black, HOME Choice Operations Manager

During July and August 2012, Jane Black, Terry Moore (Minimum Data Set (MDS) Section Q manager) and Yvette Weaver (community living administrator for the elderly population) visited the 13 Area Agencies on Aging and 10 of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs throughout the State of Ohio.

Informal sessions were held that provided opportunity for feedback on the HOME Choice program; the MDS referral process and community living specialist role; review of current processes, forms, overview of trends and patterns; home and community-based waiver programs and time to discuss where we are headed and how we can increase efficiencies in HOME Choice in order to better serve those who participate in the program and those who provide services and supports to them.

We thank everyone for their hospitality, for their commitment to HOME Choice, for their advocacy and for their collaboration.

Together, we make transition happen!



Lessons Learned Ombudsmen Providing HOME Choice Transition Coordination Services Share their Best Practices

Part One:

The Winter 2011 issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin ran a list of “best practices” on transition coordinating. Good advice bears repeating. Following is first-hand advice from the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, which is a transition coordinator with the HOME Choice program.

Look for the second installation in our next issue.

1 If there is family available to assist with the purchase of goods and services, setting up the new home, and/or with the actual move, the process is much smoother for the client as well as the transition coordinator (TC). **Family support and assistance is difficult to replicate.**

2 If a client has lived in a nursing home for a long period of time, he or she may have become “institutionalized” and may need psychological support to move through the transition process effectively. **This may mean helping the client to secure psychological support and counseling.**

3 **Early discharge planning meetings** at the nursing home with the client, case manager (CM), TC, the home’s social worker and director of nursing, therapist, family, and others are vital for a successful transition. *Everyone needs to be on the same page.*

4 Clients receive \$2,000 HOME Choice Funds to purchase goods and services. **For many \$2,000 is not enough** to pay for their first month’s rent and deposit, utility deposits, transportation, household goods, furniture, food, etc. *TCs must identify ways to obtain the needed goods and services for the client such as through food banks, donations, “going away showers,” and utilizing their negotiation skills to advocate for lower rent and deposits.*

5 Clients who go home without waiting for in-home services to be set up are less likely to be successful with their transition than those who have them in place. **Clients have a right to leave the nursing home against medical advice, but TCs and CMs have a responsibility, early in the transition process, to educate clients about the risks and consequences of going home without services.**

6 **To make for a smoother, safer transition for the client,** it works better for them to move from the nursing home early in the week compared to a Thursday or Friday. This allows for kinks to be worked out before the weekend, when most agencies are closed or have fewer staff available to help the client.

7 **On the day of discharge, the TC and CM need to visit the client in his or her new home** to ensure all services are set up and available such as a home health aide to assist with unpacking, a nurse to set up medications, medical equipment delivered, etc. In addition, for safety of the client, *there must be a working phone in the home on the day of the transition, even if it is a temporary pre-paid cell phone.* (Sometimes phone companies do not install the phone on schedule.)

8 **TCs may use HOME Choice funds to purchase “start up” food and clothing,** which is necessary for some clients. This includes shoes, coats, underclothing, etc. In addition, *HOME*

...continued on Page 4



...Best Practices, continued from page 3

Choice funds may be used to purchase bus passes, or other transportation vouchers. HOME Choice funds cannot be used to purchase TVs. However, we feel a TV is important to many of our clients because it provides a connection to the outside world and helps to keep them informed about possible dangerous weather conditions and more. TCs find it necessary to identify other resources to purchase or obtain TVs for their clients.

9 The TC must work with the nursing home to make sure the client has enough medications on discharge to last until he or she sees the doctor in the community and/or until the client's Medicaid status is changed from nursing home to community. (Medicaid will not pay for medications until the status is changed.) They usually need at least a one-week supply. In addition, even if the nursing home tells the TC it will send needed medical supplies with the client on discharge, it does not always happen. The TC and CM need to visit the client the day of discharge to make sure he or she has enough medication and supplies to last until he or she sees the community physician to obtain prescriptions.

10 It is important for the client to be the decision maker and to be engaged in the transition process. If a client is unable to visit an apartment, or place where he or she wants to live, the TC can take pictures to show the apartment set-up and complex. In addition, if the client is unable to shop with the TC for household goods, the TC can show options via web sites. The TC can also give the client various tasks such as making a grocery list, contacting a phone or utility company, packing, working with the social worker to get the medical equipment ordered, etc.

11 With the client's consent, it is a good idea for the TC and CM to review pertinent medical records, talk to family members, and

various community resources. **CMs need to have a clear picture of the clients in order to develop an effective service plan.** TCs and CMs need to work together to develop the service plan and include HOME Choice demonstration and supplemental services as needed. These services include HOME Choice nursing, social work counseling, nutritional consultation, independent living skills training, community support coach, service animals, and communication aides.

12 Some clients do not transition well, even with all the right support systems and services. This is not necessarily the TC's or CM's fault. Many of our clients are in nursing homes because of a lifetime of making poor decisions, and the inability to understand consequences. However, TCs and CMs should use such situations to learn how to improve the HOME Choice transition process.

13 Clients tend to minimize their needs when it comes to services needed upon discharge. It is important to educate clients that the amount of assistance that they need at discharge will not change their enrollment in the program. It is better and easier to have services in place than to add services after discharge.

14 Clients benefit from having homemaker services present at their apartment when they arrive on the day of discharge. Some clients are overwhelmed with setting up their apartment and the homemaker can help make their bed, put things away, and prepare their first meal. **Homemaker assistance decreases the anxiety that some clients feel that first day.**

Look for **Part Two** in the next issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin!

Meet the Team: Adam Anderson and Karen Jackson

In each issue we like to introduce one or two HOME Choice staff members. This month it is the HOME Choice Housing Coordinator, **Adam Anderson**, and new Community Living Administrator **Karen Jackson**.

Adam Anderson is HOME Choice's Housing Coordinator. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University with dual Master's degrees in City and Regional Planning and Public Administration. Adam has worked with HOME Choice since April 2011. Before coming to HOME Choice, Anderson worked with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency in the research office and in the planning department in the City of Dublin, Ohio.



Adam Anderson, HOME Choice Housing Coordinator and Karen Jackson, Community Living Administrator

Since coming to HOME Choice, Adam has strived to increase the partnerships between multiple agencies that create and maintain housing through Ohio. This includes collaboration with the Ohio Housing Authorities Conference, the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, the Ohio Department of Development, and many private, affordable housing developers throughout the state.

Additionally, he has managed the process to fill 160 housing choice vouchers in Hamilton and Lucas counties for HOME Choice consumers, as well as worked with multiple agencies to create a new Tenant Based Rental Assistance program for

HOME Choice consumers immediately coming out of institutional settings.

Karen Jackson is a new Community Living Administrator and works with participants who have behavioral health issues. She has been a social worker for 26 years.

Housing News

Innovative Ramp Program Helps Elderly Return Home

Adam Anderson, HOME Choice Housing Coordinator

The HOME Choice program was awarded \$625,000 from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA) Housing Investment Fund (HIF) in 2011 to purchase and install temporary ramps across the state of Ohio. OHFA created the HIF project to allow for innovative and creative ideas that are not funded by OHFA's current programs.

HOME Choice partners with the Centers for Independent Living as part of the larger Local and Housing Services Cooperative Initiative. When the project is complete, no Ohioan will be more than two hours from a facility that can facilitate the installation of a temporary ramp.

Read how a ramp enabled someone to come home from a nursing home:

<http://www.toledofreepress.com/2012/09/10/innovative-ramp-program-helps-elderly-return-home/>

{Toledo Free Press, September 10, 2012}



Change to Definition Increases Number of Qualified Institutions

Effective July 1, 2012, the definition of a **residential treatment facility** changed and will subsequently increase the number of “qualified institutions” for inclusion under the HOME Choice program.

As used in this section (Sub. H. B. No. 487) Sec. 5111.862. (A), “Residential treatment facility” means a residential facility licensed by the department of mental health under section 5119.22 of the Revised Code, or an institution certified by the department of job and family services under section 5102.03 of the Revised Code, that serves children and either has more than 16 beds or is a part of a campus of multiple facilities or institutions that, combined, have a total of more than 16 beds.

ODJFS is revising the HOME Choice definition rule for residential treatment facility (Ohio Administrative Code 5101:3-51-01) to reflect this change but since the new definition was included in the state budget, ODJFS made the change effective July 1, 2012.

As of July 1, 2012, HOME Choice applications for children who reside in an institutional setting meeting the new definition, outlined previously, may be submitted providing they have resided in a qualified institution for 90 days. As long as the 90-day requirement is met a child residing in a facility that meets the new definition is considered to be residing in a qualified institution. In other words, a child’s eligibility is about the length of his or her stay, not about whether the facility has been defined as a qualified institution for 90 days.

Behavioral Health News

Reflections on Serving Those with Mental Health Issues

Andrew Sokolnicki, MFP Grant Liaison to Ohio Department of Mental Health

As the HOME Choice Demonstration Project has moved forward since I joined the team a year and a half ago, one thing has become apparent to everyone I work with: although effectively aiding the Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug population may be a challenge, it will also be a significant accomplishment.

“...a collaborative team approach; providers, consumers, and administrators working together to develop a sustainable community safety net, will lead to more success for HOME Choice participants.”

Mental illness knows no boundaries; not age, strength, or enlightenment can fend off its effects. Because of these realities individuals afflicted with mental illness are, in many circumstances, the most complex and challenging cases to transition into the community.

But readers of this newsletter already know this. The question is how do we effectively address the gaps in services, housing, and social understanding associated with a mental health disability into the future? I believe we are close to a tipping point in the state of Ohio and that HOME Choice has been, and continues to be, a catalyst for guiding home and community-based policy.

I encourage providers to take a significant look at how direct service workers are trained across disabilities, and to invest in increasing cross-

...continued on page 7



...Reflections, continued from page 6

disability education; “the now,” not “the future,” in community integration. We need to collaboratively delineate our objectives, determine our outcomes, share resources and define goals.

We know what has been done and what needs to be done for people with mental disabilities and/or alcohol or drug addictions. Yet, we as providers must capture the holistic approach to confronting mental illness. Compassion, understanding, patience -- these are the “indicators” that we must address and learn more about, because we do not all know them. These, in concert with a collaborative team approach; providers, consumers, and administrators working together to develop a sustainable community safety net, will lead to more success for HOME Choice participants.

When I reflect on my time in the direct service workforce, it is clear to me that the best outcomes were obtained by providers that did not judge, become frustrated or were indifferent to the plight of consumers. It was those that went the extra mile, who demonstrated the intrinsic desire to positively

affect the life of another, which produced the best outcomes.

Moving forward, we must consider that demonstrating understanding, patience, and compassion could be the key to improving the lives of even more of those residing within institutional walls who suffer with mental illness and drug addiction. Think of someone who has waited years to return to a place they can call home. Think of staring at the same ceiling each day, walking the same halls, or being confined to “a unit.” Think of how much courage, perseverance, understanding, patience, and fortitude it must take to even muster the thought that one day “I” can prosper on my own.

As of this writing, we have transitioned almost 500 individuals with mental illness from institutional care into home and community-based settings. This accomplishment exceeds the initial estimations of the project developers. Ohio is a leader in MFP transitions and we should be proud of the work we have done to this point.

HOME Choice Success Stories

This issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin features four success stories, contributed by HOME Choice case managers and a transition coordinator, told in their own words. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services - Office of Medical Assistance thanks all who have contributed the stories.

Angel Grateful to Be Home Once Again

Nicci Seem, Team Case Manager, Home Choice Specialist



Angel Ciskowski

My name is Nicci Seem, and as a team case manager for CareStar and the Ohio Home Care Waiver program who follows many HOME Choice consumers from the nursing facility to discharge, I would like to introduce Angel, who through the HOME Choice Program and Ohio Home Care Waiver benefit, has been able to return home with her husband, Rich.

Post-surgical complications caused Angel to be admitted to Elmwood Care Center in February 2012. After receiving approximately three months of rehabilitation, she was well enough to return home, but her home presented significant accessibility issues and Angel needed assistance with daily tasks in order to be safe at home while her husband was at work.

...continued on page 8

...Angel, continued from page 7

The HOME Choice program assisted with providing Angel a hand-held shower as well as funding for new flooring so that she could utilize her wheelchair in her home. In addition to the assistance received from HOME Choice, Angel was also approved for the Ohio Home Care home and community-based waiver. Her waiver benefit provided her with home care services such as daily nursing services, as well as respite and personal care aide services while her husband is working.

In addition, Angel is obtaining a bathroom modification, made possible by the Ohio Home Care Waiver. The bathroom modification will include a roll-in shower and a handicapped accessible sink and toilet.

Angel's return home would not have been possible without the assistance of these wonderful Ohio programs, for which Angel is grateful.

After Accident and Life in a Nursing Facility, Danny is Home

Tiffany Tierney, Transition Coordinator, The Ability Center of Ohio

Before Danny's accident in 2008, he had a good job as a line leader at the High Tech Factory in Toledo. When not working, he enjoyed spending free time with his life partner, Jackie, his family and friends. He was also active in sports, especially basketball.

In December 2008, while walking to his bedroom, Danny passed out, fell and broke his neck and back. He was admitted to University of Toledo Medical Center where he spent three months. His spinal cord had leaked fluid, which left him paralyzed.

The hospital recommended Danny transfer to a local nursing facility. He chose Darlington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, as it was the first facility with a room available. He stayed there for three years. "I did not like living in the nursing home," Danny recalls. "It bothered me there was no therapy available to me. I just sat around."

One day, a resident shared information about the HOME Choice program with Danny. Danny asked the right questions, connected with The Ability Center, completed the paperwork, and started the process of transitioning.

The first thing Danny did was to meet with Don Smith, the Ability Center's Nursing Home Transition Manager. They discussed goals and the transition process. After the meeting, Don assigned Becky Strieff, nursing home transition coordinator, to assist Danny with transitioning out of the nursing facility. With the assistance of his partner, Jackie, Becky helped Danny find and transition into an accessible

home in Toledo.

Becky also helped him obtain start-up items for his home. "I liked Becky Strieff a whole lot," remembers Danny. "She opened a lot of doors for me. She's real good at what she does."

Once the home and furnishings were in place, and Danny moved in, his new journey really began.

There is a saying: "The accident doesn't just happen to the individual. It happens to everyone who loves the person, too." When Danny's accident happened in late 2008, not only did it change his life, it gave



Danny Smith, center, with his daughter Chardonnay, left, and partner Jackie, right.

direction for his granddaughter, Chardonnay. She said one day, "Papa, I have to go to school so I can take care of you." And, that is exactly what she did. Now Danny's granddaughter plans a significant role

...continued on page 9

...Danny, continued from page 8

in his life, as his evening aide.

A part of Danny's successful transition into the community and onto the Ohio Home Care Waiver program involved minor safety and access adaptations for his home. Danny received a grab bar in the kitchen and two threshold ramps for his home from the Home Modification Program at the Ability Center. Danny said of the contractor, "Scott was a real nice dude, really, really nice." He continued, "The grab bar and threshold ramps make it a lot easier now. It is a blessing I was able to get this home and that it was already accessible with a ramp."

Danny completed his Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service (TARPS) assessment on August 15, 2012. Tiffany Tierney, one of ACT's community connection coordinators, rode the TARPS bus with him to his first appointment. "Now that Danny feels

comfortable with TARPS," she says, "he has the freedom of leaving his house whenever he wants to connect with the community in a number of ways."

Each day to Danny is like starting over. He mentions many times during the interview that he never realized he would have to stop working or not have the ability to walk. But with the love and support of family and friends, he is moving forward. Additionally, thanks to the HOME Choice Program, Danny is receiving the services he needs in the home, services that will keep him safe and allow him independence. Danny has a waiver case manager, home care assistance, therapy and community support coach services. With assistance and support, Danny has begun to regain his connection in the community, confidence in himself and the notion that anything is possible.

Never Give Up on Yourself!

Dan Wilkins and Tiffany Tierney, Transition Coordinator, The Ability Center of Ohio

Jeff used to weigh 270 pounds. He used to drink. A lot. An emergency trip to the hospital led to a diagnosis of chronic liver disease. He was discharged to a nursing home for long-term care.

That was in 2009.

Now, at 50 years old, Jeff weighs 170 pounds, takes medication to help with his liver, and is an active member of the Toledo community. He enjoys cooking (he makes a wicked homemade pizza), playing the guitar and socializing with friends, family, his children and grandchildren.

"I went from death's door to living again," recalls Jeff. How did he get to where he is today?

Around Christmastime 2011, Jeff learned about the HOME Choice program from the social worker at the nursing facility. It took him about three months to complete the steps that connected him to The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (ACT).

He met with Don Smith, ACT's nursing home transition manager, and they talked about goals and

what Jeff wanted out of life, and how The Ability Center could help. Together, they made a plan, and on March 16, 2012, Jeff transitioned out of the nursing facility and back into the community.

With the support of HOME Choice and The Ability Center, Jeff moved into his own apartment, where he now enjoys his independence. Working with ACT's Community Connections Coordinator Tiffany



Jeff, at home with his guitar.

...continued on page 10



...Never Give Up, continued from page 9

Tierney, Jeff explored his goals and dreams. A big one was to stay healthy and fit. To increase his physical activity, Jeff looked into joining a club where he could find camaraderie and support. With Tiffany, he completed a Young Men’s Christian Association/Jewish Community Center (YMCA/JCC) scholarship application. He was approved for services and in June began attending the Fort Meigs YMCA/JCC in Perrysburg, where he is currently working with a personal trainer.

Nice success story, but it does not end there.

This is also a story about giving back, about “paying it forward.” Along the way, in an effort to make his life better at a deeper level, Jeff joined Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and it literally saved his life.

He has become a dedicated member of his group and in a position to realize another of his life goals: giving back to his community. Today, Jeff is meeting this goal by sponsoring two individuals and assisting them with rides to and from AA meetings.

Not only has Jeff stepped out, he’s stepped up. Not content with just being “in” the community, he has become part “of” the community, sharing what only he can share: himself; his story, his experiences,

his spirit, talents, skills and voice. This is the bigger story. This is what it is all about. Jeff is the spirit of HOME Choice personified.

We share the same dream, Jeff and The Ability Center: making the community richer, better for our having been here and contributed. HOME Choice helps us both toward that dream. It provides real opportunities for real people to dream real dreams, dreams that can really happen.

So what’s next for Jeff? Well, remember the wicked homemade pizzas? Jeff is looking toward his next “big” goal, his lifelong dream: starting his own pizza business. Currently, he continues to work with ACT, exploring all that is needed to reach this goal. He is speaking with a local bank about a small business loan. He is looking to attend college and pursue a business degree.

Stepping out and stepping up: with positive thinking and a desire to reach his dreams, Jeff is living a quality life, and helping others in the bargain. He is making a difference in the world. His mantra is “never give up on yourself.” He believes this. He believes he can do anything.

We believe he can, too.

HOME Choice Referrals Welcome

The HOME Choice program accepts referrals from any source. If you know anyone living in a facility who is interested in transitioning into a community setting, please call the ODJFS HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit toll-free at 1-888-221-1560. **You may fax** an application to 1-614-466-6945 or e-mail the application to HOME_CHOICE@jfs.ohio.gov. **The application** and other information can be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HOMEchoice.stm>.

Share News with the HOME Choice Bulletin!

Please share the HOME Choice Bulletin with your HOME Choice beneficiaries. Ask them if they would like to be featured in the “Success Story” section. If you know of a HOME Choice success story or if you would like to submit some interesting or helpful information, please contact Susan McKinley at 1-888-221-1560 or Susan.McKinley@jfs.ohio.gov.

Need a Trainer or Presenter?

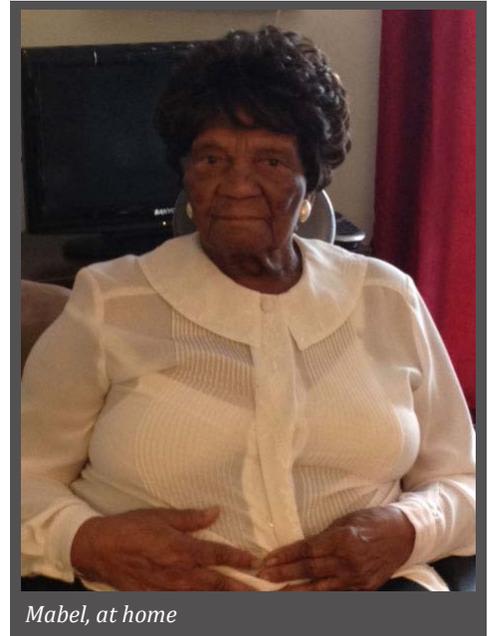
If you would like to have a HOME Choice trainer or presenter attend an upcoming event, please call Leslie Sawyer, the HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator, at 1-888-221-1560.

Centenarian Is Home Again

Audrey Caley, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Area Agency on Aging Region 9

After a living a year in Carriage Inn of Steubenville Mabel, who is more than 100 years old, transitioned to her own apartment in Steubenville, Jefferson County, on March 15, 2012. Her transition coordinator was the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and she receives services from the PASSPORT home and community-based waiver program administered by the Ohio Department of Aging. She has home health aides that assist her with activities of daily living and has help with cooking, cleaning and personal care.

Mabel's daughter, Brenda, aided Mabel in discovering HOME Choice when she spoke to Mabel's social worker at Carriage Inn about independent living options for her mother. The social worker, Jackie, had worked with AAA transition coordinator Audrey in another facility and was familiar with the program. Soon, Audrey became Mabel's transition coordinator and helped her with the transition activities that led to the happy pictures accompanying this story.



Mabel, at home



Mabel, in her kitchen

As anyone can see from the photographs, Mabel exhibits her joy being at home. "I love being 'home' with my own things, doing what I want to when I want. I feel free," Mabel says. "I feel more protected here than at the facility." Her daughter, Brenda, lives about a mile away.

Living on her own affords her many opportunities that were not available in the nursing facility. "I can go to my church and all my church meetings, as well as have family and friends over and be a hostess in my home," she explains.

Mabel recommends HOME Choice to anyone who wants to move into their own home!

News for Providers, Transition Coordinators, Case Managers, and SSAs

Revised Consumer Relocation Handbook Available

The *HOME Choice Consumer Relocation Handbook* has been revised. It is located on the HOME Choice web site at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/HomeChoice/Relocation-Workbook---Revised-Oct-2012.pdf>

We encourage transition coordinators to review and use this revised workbook when working with individuals who will be relocating back into the community.



HOME Choice Statistics

HOME Choice Enrollment Has Not Stopped Growing

Enrollment numbers continue to grow, with current cumulative enrollment at 2,859. This reflects an increase in enrollment of **10%** since the last issue of the *HOME Choice Bulletin*.

HOME Choice Statistics (as of 12.14.12)

Individuals Enrolled: **2,859**
 Individuals Applied: **7,215**
 Active Transition Coordinators (TCs): **135**
 Total Active Providers (including TCs): **542**

Referral Sources (of those who have applied)

3,812	Nursing Facility
1,270	Minimum Data Set (MDS)
1,185	Other
930	Community Agency
365	Self
168	LTC Ombudsman
114	Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation
101	Hospital
79	Not Reported
79	Family
59	Friend
37	Centers for Independent Living
9	Pre-Admission Screening Resident Review (PASRR)
7	Physician



HOME Choice Communication Chart

If you need:	Contact:	Contact Information
Basic Information about the HOME Choice Transition Program	Intake Coordinators: Diane Shinn & Joni Janowiak	Call: 1-888-221-1560 E-mail: HOME_CHOICE@jfs.ohio.gov http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm
Help with an application (e.g., need assistance completing the application or want to check on the status of an application)	Intake Coordinators: Diane Shinn & Joni Janowiak	Call: 1-888-221-1560 E-mail: HOME_CHOICE@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice Caseload for children age 21 and under. Contact for case specific inquiries, service planning, technical assistance for population type, Medicaid services: Waiver or State Plan	Community Living Administrator: Karen Boester	Call: 614-752-3516 E-mail: Karen.Boester@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice Caseload for persons age 22 through 59 with physical disabilities or developmental disabilities. Contact for case specific inquiries, service planning, technical assistance for population type, Medicaid services: Waiver or State Plan	Community Living Administrator: Laurie Damon	Call: 614-752-3576 E-mail: Laurie.Damon@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice Caseload for persons age 22 and older with primary mental health needs and/or Drug & Alcohol Abuse. Contact for case specific inquiries, service planning, technical assistance for population type, Medicaid services: Waiver or State Plan	Community Living Administrator: Karen Jackson	Call: 614-752-3789 E-mail: Karen.Jackson@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice Caseload for persons age 60 and over. Contact for case specific inquiries, service planning, technical assistance for population type, Medicaid services: Waiver or State Plan	Community Living Administrator: Yvette Weaver	Call: 614-752-3555 E-mail: Yvette.Weaver@jfs.ohio.gov
Provider Enrollment Process: Applications, technical assistance, training, criteria, contact information updates, etc.	Provider Enrollment Coordinator: Brock Robertson	Call: 614-752-3577 E-mail: Brock.Robertson@jfs.ohio.gov
Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q (Community Living Specialists): Referrals, technical assistance, criteria, reporting, training, etc.	MDS Section Q Statewide Manager: Terry Moore	Call: 614-752-3638 E-mail: Terry.Moore@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice Operations Program oversight, customer service, process, operations workflow, general questions, etc.	HOME Choice Operations Manager: Jane Black	Call: 614-752-3567 E-mail: Jane.Black@jfs.ohio.gov
HOME Choice MFP Mental Health Liaison	Andrew Sokolnicki	Call: 614-466-9985 Email: Andrew.Sokolnicki@mh.ohio.gov



If you need:	Contact:	Contact Information
Provider Claims, billing issues, etc. <i>Forms, process, questions regarding payment...</i>	JEVS Human Services	For contact information, visit: http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/JEVS_Info-109.pdf
How to Locate a HOME Choice Provider: <i>Locate by provider type and/or by county.</i>	Provider lists are available on the HOME Choice web site and are updated monthly.	http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm
SUCCESS Project: <i>Transitional funds for persons not eligible for HOME Choice who are moving out of a nursing facility and receiving Medicaid. Other eligibility criteria apply. Case-by-case review.</i>	SUCCESS Project Coordinator: Laurie Damon	Call: 614-752-3576 E-mail: Laurie.Damon@jfs.ohio.gov
Housing assistance/questions: HOME Choice or otherwise	Housing Coordinator: Adam Anderson	Call: 614-752-2992 Email: Adam.Anderson@jfs.ohio.gov
Assistance or questions related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide outreach to providers and consumers (e.g., regional shortages, lack of consumer enrollment in certain areas) • Local Housing and Services Cooperatives • SSI Ohio Project - COHHIO • Direct Services Workforce Initiative • HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council • Training and/or conference presentations 	Statewide Outreach Coordinator: Leslie Sawyer	Call: 614-752-3738 E-mail: Leslie.Sawyer@jfs.ohio.gov
Assistance or questions related to Ohio's Balancing Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Policy/Housing Vouchers • Access to Medicaid Services and Supports • The "Front Door" Project including PASRR, Level of Care, single assessment. • Balancing Incentive Payment Program (BIPP) • State Profile for Long Term Services and Supports 	Kim Donica (MFP Director) Adam Anderson (Housing Policy, State Profile project) Tonya Hawkins ("Front Door" and BIPP projects)	Contact: Kim: 614-752-3523 Kimberly.Donica@jfs.ohio.gov Adam: 614-752-2992 Adam.Anderson@jfs.ohio.gov Tonya: 614-752-3526 Adam.Anderson@jfs.ohio.gov
Information regarding HOME Choice data reporting, quality, or web sites	HOME Choice Information Manager: Melissa Senter Nance	Call: 614-752-3641 E-mail: Melissa.Senter@jfs.ohio.gov



HOME Choice
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm>

HOME Choice for Providers
<http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/providers/HOMEChoice.stm>

ODJFS Forms Central
<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/inter.asp>

Office of Health Transformation
<http://www.healthtransformation.ohio.gov/>

Dept. of Developmental Disabilities
<http://odmrdd.state.oh.us>

Dept. of Aging
<http://aging.ohio.gov/home>

Dept. of Mental Health
<http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov>

County Behavioral Health Authorities
<http://oacbha.org/>

JEVS Fiscal Intermediary
http://sfi.jevs.org/ohio/home_choice_information.asp



Contributing Organizations

- Access Center for Independent Living
 - Achievement Centers for Children
 - Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI)
 - AARP
 - American Association of Service Coordinators
 - Amerigroup
 - Assistive Technology of Ohio (AT Ohio)
 - Autism Society of Ohio
 - Bittersweet Inc.
 - Brain Injury Association of Ohio
 - Brethren Care Village
 - Buckeye Community Health Plan
 - Cerebral Palsy Association of Ohio
 - Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
 - Creative Housing Corporation
 - Definitive Home Health Care
 - Delaware Creative Housing
 - Easter Seals of Ohio
 - Episcopal Retirement Homes, Inc
 - Family Services Council of Ohio
 - Good Samaritan Hospital
 - Greater Dayton TRA
 - Heritage Day Health Centers
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Heritage Health Care Services
 - Housing Leadership Institute
 - Legislative Services Commission
 - Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP)
 - Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program
 - Mercy Saint John's Center
 - Miami Valley In-Ovations, Inc.
 - Midwest Care Alliance
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio
 - National Church Residences
 - Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes
 - Ohio Advocates
 - Ohio Alliance for Direct Support Professionals
 - Ohio Assisted Living Association
 - Ohio Association Adult Caregivers
 - Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
 - Ohio Association of County Boards of DD
 - Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of DD
 - Ohio Board of Regents
 - Ohio Association on Area Agencies on Aging
 - Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing
 - Ohio Centers for Independent Living - CILS
 - Ohio Conference of Community Development Organizations
 - Ohio Council for Home Care and Hospice
 - Ohio Department of Aging
 - Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
 - Ohio Department of Development
 - Ohio Department of Mental Health
 - Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
 - Ohio Department of Transportation
 - Ohio Dietetic Association
 - Ohio Health Care Association
 - Ohio Council for Home Care
 - Ohio Hospital Association
 - Ohio Housing Authority Conference
 - Ohio Housing Authority Finance
 - Ohio Jewish Communities
 - Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association
 - Ohio Legal Rights Service
 - Ohio Office of Budget and Management
 - Ohio Olmstead Task Force
 - Ohio PATHS
 - Ohio Provider Resource Association
 - Ohio State University-Public Policy, Assistive Technology
 - Ohio United Way
 - Rehabilitation Service Commission
 - RHC, Inc.
 - Sarah Care Adult Day Services
 - Service Employees International Union - SEIU 1199
 - The Ability Center
 - The Advocate of Not-For-Profit Services for Ohioans (AOPHA)
 - The Success Group
 - Wright State University - School of Medicine
- And, all consumers and families who have participated

HOME Choice Vision Statement

Ohioans who need long-term services and support . . .
 Get services and supports they need in a timely manner
 In settings they want from whom they want,
 And if needs change, services and supports change accordingly.

The *HOME Choice Bulletin* is a newsletter for anyone interested in Ohio's Money Follows the Person HOME Choice Transition Program. It provides updates, statistics, and other information about the status and progress of Ohio's HOME Choice Program four times a year.

Please contact mfp@jfs.ohio.gov if you have comments, information to share, or would like to be added to the *HOME Choice Bulletin* e-mail distribution list.

This document was developed under grant CFDA 93.791 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. However, these contents do not necessarily represent policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.