

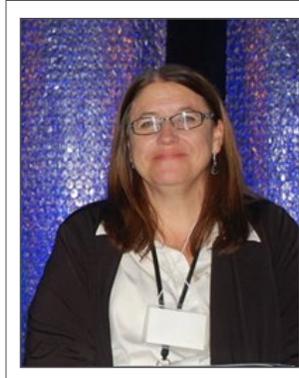


Bulletin

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

STAFF HIRED TO MEET THE DEMAND OF GROWING PROGRAMS

By Kim Donica, Money Follows the Person Program Director



The commitment of our staff, providers, HOME Choice Advisory Group members and others to Ohio's Money Follows the Person program results in Ohio continuing to be a leader in transitions.

In this latest issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin, you will see the many new faces that have joined our HOME Choice team in recent months. Since last year several of our long-time colleagues have

retired or pursued new opportunities to serve Ohioans. While we miss our friends and wish them well in their new endeavors, it remains important that we have enough helping hands to ensure that HOME Choice continues to provide residents across Ohio with choice over where they wish to live and receive care. In the following pages, you will be introduced to eight new members of our team. Each of these individuals brings with them valuable experience and fresh, exciting ideas.

I am excited about working with each of them and ask that you join me in welcoming them to our HOME Choice team!

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OHIO LEADS NATION IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSITIONS

According to a new report from the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, Money Follows the Person: A 2013 State Survey of Transitions, Services, and Costs, published April 25, 2014:

"Ohio...has transitioned the largest number of MFP participants with mental illness (1,100) by working closely with the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

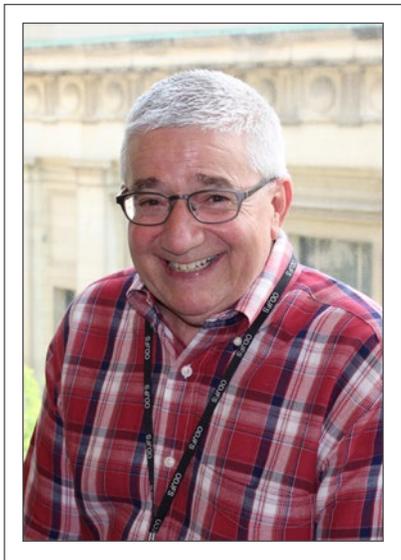
Recently, Ohio began a program called "Recovery Requires a Community" that provides supplemental resources for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who are living in an institutional setting and desire to live in the community; most individuals will enter the program after participating in HOME Choice...and the program provides additional independent living resources for individuals beyond the one-year MFP period."



Read the report online:

<http://kff.org/medicaid/report/money-follows-the-person-a-2013-survey-of-transitions-services-and-costs/>

MEET THE NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Edward Gibson - HOME Choice Education and Outreach Manager

I have a B.S. in Public Administration from Virginia Tech along with 30 years of experience with the American Red Cross. I also have five years in public and private housing property management.

I bring extensive experience with community, state, and federal stakeholders; constituent groups and advocacy to my new position, along with non-profit management and volunteer support in the health and human services field.

My goal is to further the great work and accomplishments of HOME Choice in Ohio by supporting our work in the field and developing strategies to educate individuals, providers and stakeholders about our services. HOME Choice is but a part of the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) initiative and will support those long-term goals and the no wrong door vision.

My initial work is providing staff support to the Olmstead Task Force and HOME Choice Consumer Council with whom I am working to plan the Fall HOME Choice Conference. I am also providing followup to MFP grant funding to Ohio's Centers for Independent Living, Government Resource Center and the Olmstead Task Force. Every day I am learning about the wide world of Medicaid and HOME Choice!

My partner and I consider ourselves honorary New Yorkers and spend lots of time there, visiting friends, enjoying the restaurant scene, theatre and everything the city has to offer. We also travel as much as possible- Cape Town and a safari are on our bucket list!



Daniel Hageman - Intake Coordinator

In addition to managing the intake process of incoming and outgoing HOME Choice applications and information, I will be an initial point of contact for individuals and nursing facility staff who are seeking information about the HOME Choice program and the application process.

I have a B.A. in Communications from The Ohio State University. I previously worked for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) in the Office of Child Support both as a business analyst at the State Enforcement Tracking System Help Desk and as a contract manager. Prior to State of Ohio service I spent 16 years at the Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency as both a supervisor and case manager.

I bring nearly 19 years of government experience in customer service and the know-how in adhering to federal and state rules and regulations. I hope to provide high-quality, efficient services to individuals and to contribute to the overall improvements to long-term care in Ohio.

I enjoy spending time with my wife and two children, playing tennis and I am an Ohio State fan!

Jessica Hawk - Community Living Administrator

As a Community Living Administrator, I will be helping children and youth who are transitioning from facilities back into the community.

I have a bachelor's degree in Marketing Management from Western Governor's



University, and I also am a certified nursing assistant. I completed State Testing Nursing Assistant and pre-nursing classes at Columbus State Community College. My work background includes serving as an administrative assistant in a nursing home, home health aide, and working for Family Voices of Ohio for southeast Ohio.

I have spent the last seven years as an advocate for parents who have children with special needs. A lot of my expertise is from the other side of this process. My son has multiple disabilities, and I am able to understand their perspective.

Right now, I am learning my new position; however, I have been on several committees recently. I work with the Ohio Respite Coalition to improve and increase respite opportunities in Ohio. I have also served on the Front Door Committee, helping with the child assessment tool, and working to improve how families access the programs

they need. I have been involved with the Family Advisory Committee through DODD, and I am involved with BIP.

I hope I can help this department understand what it is like for parents who are facing the daily challenges of raising a child with disabilities, and how we, as a state agency, can make our processes make sense for families.

I love to watch Columbus Blue Jacket hockey games with my husband and my two kids (ages 9 and 12). I also love to go on motorcycle rides with my husband and I'm learning to drive one myself. I run a youth Upward basketball league in the winter with my husband.

Megan McClaskie – Balancing Policy Manager

As the Balancing Policy Manager I will work on policies related to Level of Care (LOC), Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) and HOME Choice. I will also coordinate the Front Door Inter-Agency and Stakeholder meetings and take part in BIP meetings.

I have a B.S. from Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky. I began my career with the State of Ohio in the ODJFS Office of Child Support and have since held positions in the ODJFS offices of Chief Inspector and Legislation. I came to the Department of Medicaid a little over a year ago as the Constituent Affairs Liaison where I helped constituents and elected officials with Medicaid-related concerns.

Working in my previous roles, I have learned a variety of skills including budgeting, communicating with the public and administrative tasks. Working in Constituent Affairs allowed me to gain general knowledge of the Medicaid program.

I am currently involved in the testing of the new Children's Level of Care Tool, working with other ODM staff in reviewing the HOME Choice rules and working on other small projects related to PASRR and LOC.

I want to continue to learn about these great programs so that I can provide thoughtful insight into the rule-drafting process. Thanks to the wonderful staff here in BLTCSS and their understanding, I have learned so much already.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband, daughter and two dogs. I like baking, gardening, camping and spend my winter Saturdays on the ski slope.



**Eric Mundy** – HOME Choice Information Manager

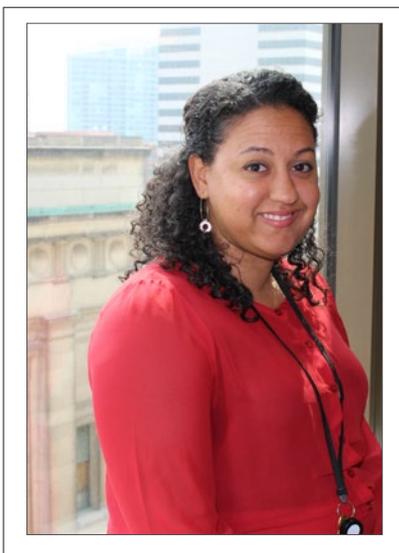
As the new HOME Choice Information Manager, I will coordinate data collection and reporting for the program. I have more than 19 years of experience in research and analysis related to health and human services in the public sector. I am highly skilled in social science research methodology, and have significant skills in data collection, management, analysis, and reporting. Likewise, I have significant skills in research project planning and management.

I have two graduate degrees: a doctorate in Public Affairs and Urban Studies, with concentrations in policy analysis and public administration theory, and a master's degree in economics.

I will utilize my skills, knowledge and experience to fulfill the mission, vision and values of the HOME Choice program.

Besides coming up to speed on a variety of issues, I am currently working on information requests for external research stakeholders such as the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University.

In my free time I enjoy reading classical literature, listening to music, and watching good films.

**Emily Van Buren** – Housing Coordinator

I am one of the two new HOME Choice Housing Coordinators -- Leah Werner and I share the goal to ensure affordable and accessible housing opportunities for people transitioning to the community from an institution. Providing training and support to transition coordinators and case managers about housing issues is a part of the job. We'll also work with state and local organizations to connect housing policy and development to the needs of HOME Choice individuals and others with disabilities.

I started working for Otterbein University, and later went to the Columbus AIDS Task Force. Then I started the Master of Public Health program at OSU, and interned for Susan G. Komen for the Cure. While finishing grad school, I began working for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO).

In the "housing world" I provided education and support to tenants and case managers, so I have extensive experience with housing issues at the local level. I understand the challenges and opportunities that affect housing for vulnerable populations. I'm thrilled to have a job where I can draw from my public health background and my housing experience.

Currently, I'm managing a program to install temporary ramps, the process of HOME Choice individuals receiving a voucher for income-based housing, and a project that explores how health outcomes are positively impacted when access to care is available in a housing environment. I hope to build on linking housing and health care policy to benefit the needs of HOME Choice individuals.

I love music of all kinds and am almost always listening to something in the car, at work, or just hanging out.



Leah Werner – Housing Coordinator

As one of HOME Choice’s two new housing coordinators, I bring to the position 17 years’ experience working in the affordable housing field. I have a B.A. from the University of Cincinnati in Urban Geography and certificate from the state of Ohio in affordable housing development.

My roots are in community organizing, which eventually morphed into affordable housing development. Along the way, I have acquired experience in consensus-building, strategic planning, identifying funding and physical housing development.

In my new position, I will manage two housing-related contracts. One is the SSI Ohio Project, which is a partnership with COHHIO. The goal is to connect people with no income to SSI or SSDI benefits. The other contract is for a pilot rent subsidy program called Home for Good, which works in cooperation with the Ohio Housing Financing Agency. It is targeted to HOME Choice individuals with criminal backgrounds and mental health issues.

My goal is to find a way to create project-based rental housing for people with 18% of the median income. The hope is to leverage additional monies to ODM’s allocation to offset the cost of renting a quality, affordable and accessible home.

Outside of work, I love to cook and host dinner parties as well as take my beagle for walks.



Shirley Williams – Balancing Incentive Program Training and Technical Assistance Manager

In my new role I will be responsible for developing and delivering training material for the new No Wrong Door/Single Entry Point (NWD/SEP) system to our community partners.

My educational background includes a B.A. from Wittenberg University with a major in Business Management. I was licensed by the State of Ohio as an insurance agent for four years. Most of my work experience is from the private sector where I served in various marketing and management positions. I came to ODM from ODJFS where I started first in the Office of Local Operations as a customer service representative, then became a specialist in the Office of Unemployment Compensation (UC), to later become a manager in the UC Technical Services department.

The expertise I bring is the development of training materials, public speaking, and interpreting federal law to develop policy and procedures. I have experience in presenting material to large audiences both live and across the web.

In my role I hope to accomplish a smooth transition for our community partners to the new NWD/SEP system. By developing material that is easy to understand and easily accessible on how to use the new system individuals will more easily obtain information.

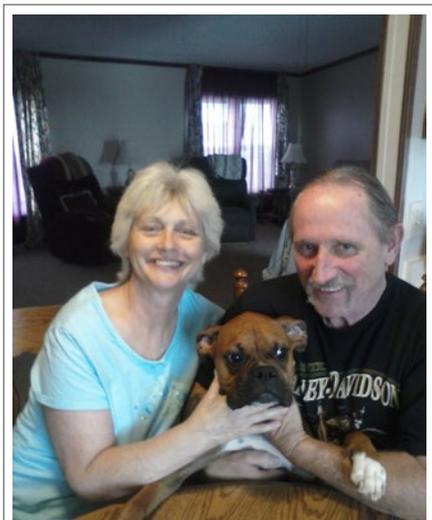
In my spare time I enjoy watching my three children play sports. I play on a rec softball team and I am currently looking for a kickball team to join!

HOME Choice Success Stories

In every issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin we feature people who have transitioned from long-term care facilities to their own homes.

Tamara: Returning Home after a Nearly Fatal Accident

By Jodi Lawson, CareStar Home Choice Case Manager



Tamara, husband John, and friend.

It was a normal Monday morning when Tamara went to work at her medical receptionist job. She recalls walking to her car after work with a co-worker. They waved good bye and headed home. Tamara does not recall anything after that.

Her husband John said the telephone rang and it was St. Vincent's Hospital informing him that Tamara had been in an accident and to meet the chaplain at the hospital. When John arrived at the hospital he learned that Tamara had been in a nearly fatal accident. John did not recognize her due to the traumatic effects from the accident.

Tamara suffered a brain injury, which has left her with short-term memory problems, along with many broken bones that required two surgeries. She spent 20 days in the intensive care unit before being transferred to a nursing facility. After several weeks of therapy Tamara was progressing well enough to return home.

John and Tamara said the first person to assist them was Craig Mossing, Transitions Coordinator/Ombudsman. John stated, "Craig has been a blessing." Without the HOME Choice program neither John nor Tamara were sure of their future.

Tamara said that Tiera Rachael and Jodi Lawson from CareStar helped ensure everything was planned and organized. Tamara stated, "We had the best team members who were caring, organized, and knowledgeable. The HOME Choice program provided funds to pay for deposits on utilities and purchase furniture. Grab bars were also secured in the bathroom and rails on the steps outside. Our HOME Choice program experience has been a joy."

Tamara receives the services she needs in the home and services that will keep her safe and independent.

“Our HOME Choice program experience has been a joy.”

Video from Last Conference Well Received

The HOME Choice Empowerment video was introduced at the HOME Choice: Empowering Community Living Conference held by the HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council last fall in Columbus.

The purpose of the conference was to empower individuals with disabilities to live in the community by providing education and resources on long-term care services and supports available in the community. The highlight was the debut of the

HOME Choice empowerment video. It features adults with disabilities and their family and caregivers who had successful transitions through the HOME Choice program back into the community.

Watch the video here:
<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice>

SAVE THE DATE!

November 12, 2014
HOME Choice
Empowerment Conference

Featuring a welcome by Medicaid Director **John McCarthy** and a lunch plenary session by nationally recognized speaker on disability issues, such as community inclusion, person-centered thinking and self-determination, **Derrick Dufresene.**

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.

STAY CONNECTED!

The *HOME Choice Bulletin* is a newsletter for anyone interested in Ohio's Money Follows the Person HOME Choice Transition Program.

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

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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 Capitol 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