



Bulletin

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

WINTER 2014, VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

HOME CHOICE CONFERENCE EMPOWERS COMMUNITY LIVING

By Rajai Saleh, Coordinator/Consultant, HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council

On November 21, 2013, the HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council (HCCAC) held its first HOME Choice conference at the Hilton Downtown Columbus. The purpose of this 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. For that reason, the conference was named *HOME Choice: Empowering Community Living*.

More than 200 attendees, including individuals with disabilities, their families and caregivers, case managers, social workers, transition coordinators, and providers, attended.

The Morning Plenary Session began with a welcome from Jessica Hawk (parent/advocate and member of HCCAC) and Shelley Papenfuse (chair of HCCAC) followed by Kim Donica (Money Follows the Person Project Manager) introducing Medicaid Director John McCarthy who thanked everyone for coming and spoke

about the successes of Ohio's HOME Choice program. Leslie Sawyer (HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator) then

introduced members of HCCAC and member Michael Mosley talked about what it is like to be a member.

The conference provided morning and afternoon breakout sessions, detailed sessions on the HOME Choice program, how to find and train personal care attendants, MyCare Ohio, respite care, Balancing Incentive Program/front door, health care reform, and Medicaid Buy-in for Workers with Disabilities. Between sessions, attendees visited and collected information from conference supporters and sponsors' exhibits, including Disability Rights Ohio, CareStar, Centers for Independent Living, managed care companies, Caregiver Homes, Easter Seals, the Ohio Olmstead Taskforce and HCCAC.



Attendees enjoy one of the HOME Choice: Empowering Community Living Conference breakout sessions.

The highlight was the debut of the long-awaited HOME Choice empowerment videos. The videos feature adults and children with disabilities and their family and caregivers who had successful transitions through the HOME Choice program back into the community. Participants range

from 77-year-old Kara living in the small town of Ironton, who didn't even know she could leave the nursing home until her social

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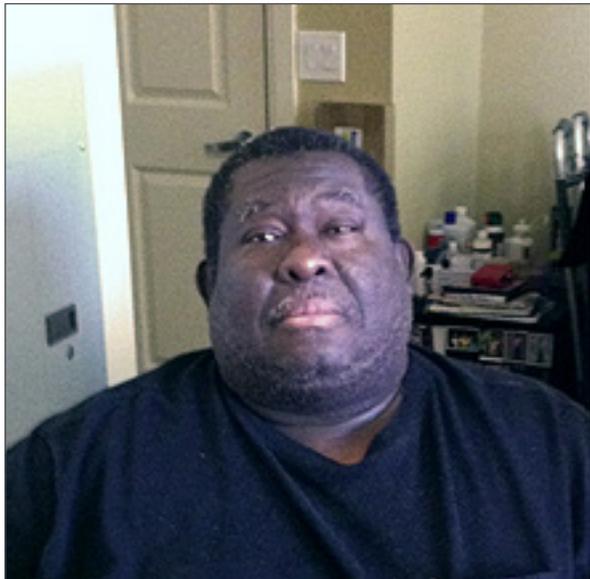
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HOME Choice Success Stories

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

RONALD LOVES NEW LIFE

By Ruth Utacht, Community Living Specialist, CareStar



Ronald

When I had the pleasure of meeting HOME Choice individual, Ronald I was struck by his positive outlook toward his transition back into the community and his desire to overcome adversity. Ronald worked in restaurants all his life, starting as a dishwasher and working up to co-manager. In 2005, Ronald's health took turns for the worse. He lived in a nursing facility for most of 2007 through 2013. His previous attempt at community living, between 2009 and 2010 was unsuccessful.

In May 2013, Ronald moved into an apartment at Commons on Third, a National Church Residences-managed building. This move was made possible through the HOME Choice program. His Transition Coordinator, from Catholic Social Services, assisted Ronald with the move by securing housing and purchasing household goods such as kitchen items and furniture.

Commons on Third acts as a support system as it has an in house physician, nurse practitioner, and a HOME Choice service provider for Community Support Coaching and Independent Living Skills Training. Ronald has taken advantage of these HOME Choice services, but has his own primary care physician in the community and receives skilled nursing services from a home health care provider.

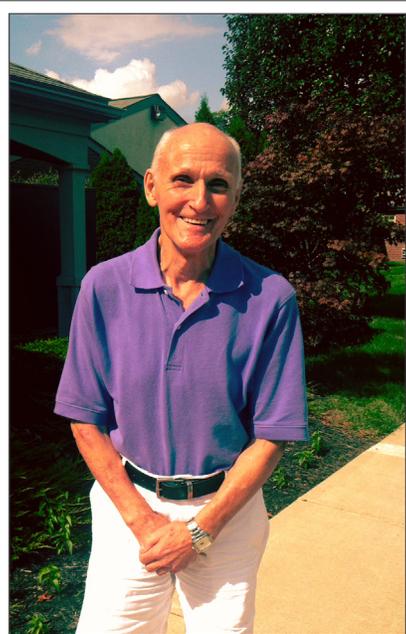
Once when visiting Ronald, I found him listening to music and he greeted me with a smile. When I asked Ronald about the HOME Choice program he said, "It gives people a chance that never had a home to get one. It helps a lot of people start their life again."

Ronald is determined to regain his strength and overcome his health difficulties. He said that he "feels positive" that with the assistance of skilled nursing, a personal care aide, physical therapy, and HOME Choice services he can reach his goal to walk. Ronald plans to look into computer classes offered at Commons on Third, which he hopes will lead to online schooling and job training so that he can get a part-time job.

When asked what inspires him, Ronald stated, "Other people. I like to be around positive people." Ronald is grateful to the HOME Choice program and the people on his team. He has been approved for home and community-based waiver services and I am confident that with he will meet his health and community living goals.

LLOYD: 76 IN AGE BUT 16 AT HEART

By Sally Johnston, CareStar HOME Choice Case Manager



Lloyd

It is easy to summarize Lloyd in one word: Energetic. He is 76 and lives in Columbus; however, he says he feels and acts like a 16-year-old. Lloyd loves to dance, shop and has always been an animal lover.

Lloyd grew up in “the sticks” of a farm town in upstate New York. In 1955, at only 16, he joined the Air Force and his parents had to sign for him due to his youth. Lloyd became an Airman Second Class, had two stripes, and was discharged just before the Korean War.

Lloyd stated that he’s always had a spunky disposition; however, this happy-go-lucky character was not always free of concern. More than a year ago Lloyd was living in a home with friends, paying his rent and keeping up with his bills. However, the landlord did not pay the mortgage and the house was headed for foreclosure. At the same time, Lloyd’s roommate and friend committed suicide in the home. To top it off, Lloyd tripped in his apartment and broke his hip. Needless to say, Lloyd was in a dark place in his life. He considers this as the time when he hit rock bottom.

After hip surgery, Lloyd discharged to Heartland of Uptown Westerville, a ManorCare Health Services nursing and rehabilitation facility, where he worked at regaining his mobility with physical therapy. During this time he had to find new homes for all of his pets, a heartbreaking task. Still, he forms relationships wherever he goes, and Lloyd became close to the staff at the nursing facility. But, he knew that he didn’t belong there and pursued the freedom and independence of the community.

After nine months in the nursing facility, Lloyd was linked with HOME Choice through the Ombudsman program in Region 6. His transition coordinator with Easter Seals found housing and was able to help him get back on his feet in the community. Since then I have worked with Lloyd as his case manager, linking him with community resources designed to make the transition back home a smooth one. Lloyd moved into his own apartment, or as he calls it, his “bachelor pad,” in August 2013.

Lloyd now thrives. He is linked with various community programs and is self-reliant in all activities of daily living. Lloyd plans to stay active and engaged in his community. He wants to join a senior center where he can mingle and continue to form new relationships. He made a Facebook page to connect with old friends. And, he rescued a stray kitten that he named Angel.

“ Lloyd feels like he can conquer the world. ”

Lloyd feels like he can conquer the world. Between his spunky attitude and energetic personality, I believe he will.

COMMUNITY LIVING PLAN ADDENDUM WEB AUTOMATION: UPDATE

By Becky Kuhn, MDS Section Q Coordinator



Becky Kuhn

As of January 6, HOME Choice's MDS Section Q referral process is now captured electronically! The **Community Living Plan Addendum** is now a web application, which helps HOME Choice staff analyze the data collected from Community Living Specialist providers' face-to-face visits with Ohio nursing home residents.

It will help identify those individuals who have community living potential and help HOME Choice staff understand the barriers to community living in all of Ohio's regions. HOME Choice staff believe the web automation will help the program to better serve Ohioans in nursing facilities.

HOME CHOICE CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

about the program, to 2-year old Logan who had endured severe injuries and whose mother was told he would always need a ventilator. HOME Choice helped Logan's mother find a house that was safe and would accommodate Logan's new needs.

Other participants included Larry, a veteran and an artist, who has paraplegia from a car accident and now lives independently in a high-rise apartment; Rowena who transitioned to a comfortable and accessible apartment with her husband who also has disabilities; 18-year-old Ricki, who had been a troubled teen, was in juvenile detention and then placed in several foster homes, who now goes to school and is on her way to becoming a successful, independent young woman; and finally young AJ, who was born pre-mature and has multiple disabilities, received help from HOME Choice to be able to get services at home so he can live like any other boy with his family in Chillicothe.

Following the video, some video participants participated in a panel to talk about their experiences of transitioning.

The conference ended with a funny and motivational speech by guest speaker and comedian Alex Valdez who is visually impaired. Alex spoke about the importance of seeing the person and not just a disability. He demonstrated through his own personal experience, work and relationships over many years how a person's attitude about life, disabilities and individuals with disabilities can be an ability or disability.



Ohio Medicaid Director John B. McCarthy and Kim Donica, Money Follows the Person Project Manager at the HOME Choice: Empowering Community Living conference.



UPDATE ON OHIO'S BALANCING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

By Tonya Hawkins, Balancing Incentive Program Manager

Since July 1, 2013, when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio for the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP), Ohio has been moving forward with implementation activities. We have established a BIP Implementation Group and Advisory Group, comprised of both internal and external stakeholders as well as other interested parties.

States that have BIP programs are required to make three structural changes:

1. Utilize a core data within all long-term services and supports (LTSS) assessment instruments
2. Establish a no-wrong-door, single entry point system for individuals seeking LTSS
3. Provide LTSS case management services that are free from conflicts of interest (i.e., conflict free case management)

In addition to the structural changes, states with BIP programs must meet a balancing benchmark of 50% of total Medicaid LTSS expenditures on community-based (non-institutional) services by September 30, 2015.

CMS has contracted with Mission Analytics to provide technical assistance to states with BIP programs to help implement the structural change requirements. The Ohio Department of Medicaid submitted a BIP draft work plan to CMS on September 30, 2013. We have revised that work plan based on feedback from CMS and Mission Analytics and have submitted the final work plan to CMS, which will post it to the Medicaid.gov website soon.

We are revising that work plan based on feedback from CMS and Mission Analytics. Current work revolves around making final edits and additions to the work plan. After the submission is made, CMS will approve Ohio's BIP Work Plan and post it to the CMS website.

An important BIP milestone was reached on December 10, 2013, when the new case management and comprehensive assessment system Request for Quote procurement document was released. The new system will provide critical technology support to the BIP single entry point agencies, which is essential for Ohio to move forward with BIP implementation. This new system will provide a person-centered platform to more effectively establish an individual's eligibility for LTSS, including home and community-based waivers. The new system will also modernize case management activities for all HCBS programs that require a nursing facility-based level of care. This new case management and assessment technology is a huge step forward in the balancing efforts for Ohio, Medicaid, and BIP!

IMPORTANT BIP LINKS:

<http://www.balancingincentiveprogram.org/>

<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services-and-Support/Balancing/Balancing-Incentive-Program.html>



Bulletin

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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.

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

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