



Bulletin

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

BALANCING INCENTIVE PROGRAM: OHIO HITS HOME CARE TARGETS ONE YEAR EARLY

From his first days in office, Governor Kasich instructed the Office of Health Transformation to “rebalance” long-term care spending toward the less expensive and more independent lifestyles of home and community-based alternatives to institutions.

In 2011, Ohio was spending more of its Medicaid budget (64 percent) on high-cost nursing homes and other institutions than all but five states, and Ohio taxpayers were spending 47 percent more for Medicaid long-term services and supports than taxpayers in other states.

As a result of the state’s commitment to direct half of all Medicaid long-term care funding to home and community-based alternatives by September 30, 2015, Ohio was awarded \$169 million in additional federal Medicaid matching funds in June 2013.

The federal award was made under the Balancing Incentive Program, which also requires states to make structural improvements in their long-term care delivery system, such as a “no-wrong door” approach for information, referral and benefits, conflict-free case management services, and a standardized assessment tool for determining a person’s level of care needs.

On September 10, 2014, the Ohio Department of Medicaid announced it surpassed the 50-percent spending target one full year ahead of the federal deadline. Now, more than ever, Ohio seniors and people with disabilities have the opportunity to live with dignity in the settings they prefer, especially their own home, instead of an institution.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOME CHOICE CONFERENCE

The 2014 HOME Choice Conference, **MAKING THE JOURNEY: Empowerment, Inclusion, Community**, was held at the Columbus Downtown Hilton on November 12, 2014, to a packed house. The conference focused on pathways for the disability community as it continues to strive toward more “Empowerment, Inclusion, and Community.”

The HOME Choice Conference was

created for older adults, persons with disabilities, families, caregivers, service providers, social service and health care professionals, government agency representatives and other interested persons.

It featured presentations by Ohio Department of Aging Director Bonnie Burman; Project Manager and HOME Choice Program Developer Kimberly Donica; Derrick Dufresne, a nationally

known speaker on disability issues, and Al Condeluci, CEO of Community Living and Support Services.

Subject matter experts presented 10 breakout sessions with a wide range of topics.

Look for more conference coverage in the upcoming Winter issue!

In this Issue:

Kim Donica Honored:
Page 2

Ohio Temporary Ramp Project
Page 3

Cheryl's Success Story:
Page 4

KIM DONICA HONORED



Kim Donica and Shelley Papenfuse, Chair, Ohio Olmstead Taskforce, at the HOME Choice Conference in November.

Kim Donica, Project Manager and HOME Choice Program Developer, was recently honored with the first **Spirit of Inclusion Award** in recognition of her work “actively promoting community inclusion for person with disabilities.”

The award is granted by Services for Independent Living with the citation that Kim “is fair and approachable and has the vision and willingness to think outside the box for creative, meaningful solutions to issues.”

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH REPORTS HOME CHOICE PRAISE

The HOME Choice program gained the attention of The Columbus Dispatch, which published a major Sunday edition news feature and following editorial praise on the program reaching a nationally recognized milestone. Excerpts from the news piece published August 17, 2014, explored the positive personal and budgetary impacts of the program. The article read, in part:

“The Ohio Department of Medicaid recently transitioned its 5,000th individual from a long-term care facility into a home. That well surpasses its goal of 2,000 for the six-year-old HOME Choice program and dispels the notion that once people move into a nursing home, they’ll be there the rest of their life.

...Ohio has become a leader among the 44 states participating in the federal program known as Money Follows the Person [HOME Choice]. HOME Choice has enhanced

independence and provided a second chance to thousands of Ohioans — all at costs lower than those incurred in institutional settings,” said state Medicaid Director John McCarthy.

Advocates for the elderly and disabled give the program high marks.

“People are thrilled to be in their own place again,” said Cindy Farson, director of the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, which helps identify and transition individuals from nursing homes.”

Editorial praise of the program followed a few days later with More Seniors Get Chance to Go Home.



Find the articles online:

<http://medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice.aspx>

PROGRAM ACTIVITY AS OF 11/19/14

Program Area	Indicator	Statistic
Program Transitions	Current Number of Enrollees	1,104
	New To-Date in 2014	1,102
	Total Transitions To-Date (since 2008)	5,593
Current Transitions By Age Group	Children (Birth to 21)	23.3%
	Adult (Ages 22-59)	46.6%
	Elderly (Ages 60+)	30.1%
Waiver Activity: Proportion of Current Transitions	On Waivers	39.6%
	Non-Waiver	60.4%
Candidates in the Pipeline	Applications Received or Approved (not yet assessed)	15
	Assessed and in Pre-Transition Stage	1,137

RAMPING UP ACCESS

HOME Choice has worked its way over - and around - temporary access issues that may challenge some people who want to take advantage of the program's liberating benefits. Modular (temporary) aluminum ramps are available for Ohioans currently on Medicaid through the **Ohio Temporary Ramp Project**. The project seeks to serve people in need of an accessible entryway to safely return home from a nursing home or rehabilitation facility. Regional information is available below.

General questions can be directed to Emily Van Buren at Emily.VanBuren@medicaid.ohio.gov

Northwest
<i>The Ability Center of Greater Toledo</i> Email: mmetzger@abilitycenter.org Phone: (419) 885-5733
Southwest
<i>Independent Living Options, Inc. (CILO)</i> Email: cilo@cilo.net Phone: 513-241-2600
Central
<i>Mid-Ohio Board for an Independent Living Environment (MOBILE)</i> Email: info@mobileonline.org Phone: 614-443-5936
North Central
<i>Linking Employment, Abilities, and Potential (LEAP)</i> Phone: 216-696-2716
Northeast 1
<i>Services for Independent Living, Inc. (SIL)</i> Phone: 216-731-1529
Northeast 2
<i>Western Reserve Independent Living Center (WRILC)</i> Phone: 330-372-3325 or 855-260-4084 (toll free)
Northeast 3
<i>Tri-County Independent Living Center, Inc. (TCILC)</i> Phone: 330-762-0007 or 800-750-7416 (Ohio Relay)
Southeast
<i>Area Agency on Aging Region 9</i> Email: rjohnson@aaa9.org Phone: 740-435-4900 or 844-932-7277 (toll free)



STAFF PROFILE: CAROL SCHENCK



The newest member of the HOME Choice team is Carol Schenck, Provider Oversight and Compliance Manager. In this position, she will work with HOME Choice providers in various capacities such as trainings, technical assistance, monitoring reviews, and other ways that will increase their ability to facilitate successful transitions of participants back to the community.

In addition to working with providers, she will manage the HOME Choice Incident Reporting System. This system helps to ensure that the people who return to the community have the services and supports they need to be safe in their homes.

Carol has a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration and a

Master's in Social Work, both from The Ohio State University. As a social worker, she has worked more than 17 years in the field of geriatrics, including with the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA).

Carol is working to develop Protection from Harm policies and practices to meet the needs of all HOME Choice stakeholders and the federal government.

Carol has two adult children, both of whom are getting married next year. She has been spending much of her time lately on wedding planning, but she also likes to cook, entertain and enjoy the outdoors.

HOME Choice Success Stories

In each issue, we feature the stories of Ohioans who have transitioned from long-term care facilities to their own homes.

CHERYL: HAPPY TO BE HERE

By Tiffany Tierney, ACT's Nursing Home Transition Community Support Coach



Born and raised in Bowling Green, Cheryl earned a degree in Criminal Justice from Brown Mackey College before settling down to raise a family. Most recently, she worked as a custodian for Bowling Green State University. For fun, she loves to bowl on a league team, but if you ask her about the highlight of her life, she will be quick to tell you: her grandchildren.

In 2013, life for Cheryl changed abruptly when she was hospitalized with vascular issues, after which she was transferred to a nursing home to recuperate from the loss of her left leg. She then became sick and was admitted to intensive care for three weeks.

Later she transferred to a nursing facility in Bowling Green where complications resurfaced, leading to the amputation of her right leg. After this, Cheryl resided in a nursing facility for an additional six months.

But she wanted to go home, so the nursing facility's social worker told her about the HOME Choice program and assisted her with the application. Cheryl recalls how supportive the HOME Choice workers were: "The Ability

Center’s Transition Coordinator, Becky Strieff, was wonderful,” Cheryl said. “She helped me locate an apartment in Bowling Green where I grew up and where my family lives. Becky also helped me purchase household items and set me up in my new home. Additionally, I am thankful for Joni Huls, my HOME Choice Case Manager through the waiver, who helped me locate other resources I needed for my home.”

“**To know I am in my own home, able to spend time with my grandchildren is amazing.**”

“The day I left the nursing home and moved into my apartment was hectic! But it was wonderful to live on my own again, independently! I started the process of relearning how to take care of myself, complete daily tasks and make my own meals.”

For Cheryl, HOME Choice has been a godsend. “I am blessed and thankful to be part of the waiver program. I have an aid and a nurse that comes throughout the week. With these supports I am able to be on my own.” As she has settled in, Cheryl has needed some new tools and durable equipment to help complete tasks in a new way. Some of this equipment has come through The Ability Center’s Equipment Loan program, including a gently used scooter.

To truly understand the power and importance of HOME Choice, all one needs to do is watch Cheryl’s face light up when she talks about her grandchildren. She says they are the biggest plus of having her own home. “When they are over, we bake brownies and watch movies. They show me what they have learned on the computer at school and we take walks.”

HOME Choice is about giving someone the opportunity to reconnect with life, with community and family. “To know I am in my own home, able to spend time with my grandchildren is amazing.”

NEW EDUCATIONAL TOOLS ONLINE

The HOME Choice staff recently presented several webinars addressing topical issues impacting individual care and community transition, including Effective Nursing Facility Transitions, Fair Housing, HOME Choice for Persons 18 and Under, and Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Rule Changes. For those unable to participate, or who wish to review the presentations, they are available online: <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice>.

Also available online are the redesigned HOME Choice Information Card (which replaces the original HOME Choice brochure) and an updated HOME Choice Fact Sheet. Both may be saved and printed from the website.

HOME Choice

Greater Choice. More Control.

Ohio's HOME Choice program has helped more than 5,000 Ohioans return home. HOME Choice gives participants the help they need to move back into the community. The program provides greater choice and control over the services they receive - and in the setting they prefer.

In addition to providing help finding housing and setting up a household, HOME Choice also connects people with services that make it possible to live in the community.

Examples of services include:

- health care,
- medications,
- personal assistance,
- and many more.

Who is eligible?

HOME Choice is available to Ohioans of any age who:

- has lived in a facility setting for at least 90 days,
- are eligible for Medicaid,
- have certain care needs, and
- move to a qualified residence.

Bring choice to Ohio's aging population and people living with disabilities.

HOME Choice

Learn More:
Call the Ohio Department of Medicaid toll free: (888) 221-1560 or go online: www.medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice

Ohio Department of Medicaid
Get Better. Stay Well.

Information Card

Ohio Department of Medicaid fact sheet

HOME CHOICE

HOME Choice is a transition program that assists persons of any age with any type of disability to move from a long-term care facility (like a nursing facility, hospital, or residential treatment facility) into a home and community based setting.

OVERVIEW

HOME Choice is part of the Federal Grant Program known as Money Follows the Person. The program is available to provide "wrap-around" services & supports for persons whether or not they enroll on a Medicaid waiver.

The individual or their family/guardian will work with the long-term care facility and HOME Choice transitional staff to apply, discuss options, find housing and coordinate benefits and services through the discharge planning process.

For more information about HOME Choice, contact:

Ohio Department of Medicaid, HOME Choice Unit.
Phone: (888) 221-1560
E-mail: HOME_CHOICE@medicaid.ohio.gov
Applications are available online: <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice>

A CLOSER LOOK AT HOME CHOICE:

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Eligibility criteria for HOME Choice requires that an individual:

- Has lived in a Medicaid facility for at least 90 days at the time of discharge;
- Qualifies for Medicaid;
- Has care needs evaluated by HOME Choice staff.

AND:

- Moves into qualified housing.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED QUALIFIED HOUSING?

- A home owned or leased by the individual or family member;
- An individually leased and lockable apartment (with sleeping, bathing, and cooking areas within unit in which the individual or family member has domain and control);
- A community based residential setting with no more than four unrelated persons.

SERVICES & SUPPORTS:

HOME Choice is not a waiver program. It is a wrap-around program that provides "extra" services & supports to individuals for the first 365 days post discharge.

SERVICES & SUPPORTS MAY INCLUDE:

- Case Management (before & after transit)
- Community Transition Services (like help with first month's rent, etc.)
- Transition Coordination,
- Independent Living Skills Training,
- Community Support Coaching, and
- Other services necessary as identified by discharge planning team.

HOME Choice

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

Fact Sheet



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.

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.

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
- Services for Independent Living
- 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.