



BULLETIN

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

Fall 2011, Volume 3, Issue 4

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
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Heritage Day Health Centers
Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
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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
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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

HOME Choice Reaches Out to Children and Youths

By Karen Boester, Community Living Administrator for HOME Choice

In spring 2009, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) began outreach efforts to accomplish the goal of moving more children back home to their families. Since then, we have established relationships with 22 county Family and Children First Councils or their designees, which has resulted in 68 children and young adults under 22 returning to the community and their families. At press time, we have more than 75 children in the transition process and continue to enroll more children in HOME Choice every week.

The HOME Choice Program is available to children up to age 22, whether they are on a waiver or state-plan-only services. Why is the HOME Choice program so beneficial to children? It offers valuable wrap-around services, not always available through Medicaid or a waiver, such as nutritional counseling, respite services, community support coaching and social work/counseling services.

Additionally, the HOME Choice Program has funding available to help participants return to their communities by allowing them to pay for such things as birth certificates, first month's rent, start-up groceries, furniture and/or clothing. There is also funding that allows participants to travel to visit prospective apartments, foster care families or family members to assist in determining where they would like to live once they are ready to leave the facility in which they are residing.

While the HOME Choice Program benefits children directly, it also assists families through the transition-to-community process by helping them maneuver the many systems available at the local level. This is done with the help of the transition coordinator, who may identify and connect the family to local resources beneficial for the child.

HOME Choice is committed to giving children the opportunity to succeed in the community with services that support their needs.

CMS Recognizes Ohio for MDS Referrals

By Terry Moore, MDS Section Q Statewide Manager

We are proud to announce that Ohio was recognized during a national conference call with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for having the second highest percentage of Minimum Data Set (MDS) Section Q referrals from January through June 2011. Section Q referrals identify individuals interested in moving from nursing facilities back into their communities through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program.

ODJFS gives special thanks to all of Ohio's community living specialist providers – CareStar; PASSPORT administrative agencies; Area Agencies on Aging; Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential of Northwest Ohio; and the Center for Independent Living in Cincinnati – for their efforts to connect nursing facility residents with Ohio's MFP program, HOME Choice.

HOME Choice Updates

Introducing . . .

Beginning with this issue, the HOME Choice Bulletin will begin introducing the staff “behind the scenes” – in other words, the people who make Ohio’s Money Follows the Person (MFP) transition program, HOME Choice, an exciting, successful program.

We will begin with new MFP Project Director Kim Donica and (fairly) new MFP Assistant Project Director Jane Black.

New MFP Project Director: Kim Donica

Kim Donica is the newly appointed MFP project director for ODJFS. As such, she is responsible for the operation of the HOME Choice program and for “front door,” workforce and systems reform activities.

Prior to her appointment, Kim was chief of Clinical Operations in the ODJFS Bureau of Long-Term Care Services and Supports. In that position, her responsibilities included operation and management of all three ODJFS-administered waiver programs – Ohio Home Care, Transitions Developmental Disabilities and Transitions Carve-Out – monitoring and oversight of “protection from harm” activities for all consumers enrolled in home and community-based services waivers, prior authorization of fee-for-service durable medical equipment, private-duty nursing, and other services.

Kim has been employed by ODJFS since 2004 and has held a variety of positions during her tenure.

She has more than 21 years of experience working with people with disabilities in a vast array of settings. Kim is a graduate of Indiana University.



Kim Donica, left; Jane Black, right

Assistant MFP Project Director: Jane Black

Jane Black is the assistant MFP project director for ODJFS. She joined the team in October 2010. Her primary responsibility is operations management of the HOME Choice program.

Prior to working at ODJFS, Jane worked at the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) as a Medicaid policy lead and Pre-Admission Screen and Resident Review (PASRR) manager for nursing facility admissions. During her tenure at DODD, she was responsible for rule and policy development for PASRR and waivers, development of data systems design, and management of day-to-day operations for waivers and PASRR.

Before joining the state, Jane worked for two county boards of developmental disabilities and as a developmental disability service provider.

Jane has more than 20 years of experience working with people with disabilities. She is a graduate of the University of Albany.

HOME Choice Rule Changes

Changes to three HOME Choice rules went into effect on August 1, 2011.

The key changes in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Rule 5101:3-51-04 concerned HOME Choice service specifications and provider requirements:

- Community support coaching was amended to allow HOME Choice participants to receive the service *prior to*, during and after a participant’s transition from an institution into the community.
- Community transition services are being expanded to \$2,500 and will now include a maximum of \$500 for *pre-transition transportation expenses*, which may include, but are not limited to, visits to potential housing and to local agencies for the purpose of establishing benefits.

The other rule changes were minor:

OAC Rule 5101:3-51-02, which governs eligibility and hearing rights, was amended to specify that, in addition to participating in the development of their service plans, participants must also participate in the implementation of their plans.

OAC Rule 5101:3-51-06, which governs reimbursement rates and billing procedures, was amended to reflect an increase in funds available for transportation prior to transition; it also clarifies the maximum rates for specific services.

Mental Health Population Now Benefitting from HOME Choice

*By Andrew Sokolnicki, MFP Grant Liaison**

HOME Choice's ability to address the mental health/alcohol or drug (AoD) population transitioning out of institutional settings is expanding through growing partnerships not only across agencies, but with community organizations, as well. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Mental Health have been able to combine data resources to more effectively identify potential HOME Choice consumers by optimizing MDS 3.0 and PASRR Adverse Determinations data. In the community, HOME Choice continues to expand its mental health transition coordinator network through targeted campaigns and presentations.

As of October, 38 counties have a primary mental health/alcohol and drug provider delivering transition coordination services. As recently as May 2011, only two counties had a mental health/alcohol and drug provider delivering transition services.

A significant increase in HOME Choice referrals for the mental health/AoD population has occurred since marketing and educational efforts have increased. To illustrate, summer 2011 referrals were significantly higher than spring 2011 referrals. There were 76 referrals in June, 63 in July and 70 in August – compared to 28 in March, 43 in April and 40 in May. As of October 4, 90 individuals receiving mental health services have transitioned out of institutional settings.

The HOME Choice Project Team is excited about the progress that has been attained in the Mental Health/AoD population and looks forward to continued expansion of services in this area with the assistance of community providers around the state. With the quantitative data analysis done on the state level and the qualitative data gathering currently done by the HOME Choice Community Living Specialist, CareStar, we are confident that more individuals from the mental health/AoD population will be positively affected by the HOME Choice program.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in holding up the values and ideals of the Supreme Court's Olmstead Decision – which affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities to live in their communities – for the mental health/AoD consumer population.

**Andrew Sokolnicki is the MFP grant liaison from the Ohio Department of Mental Health.*

Update on Front Door Project: Work Progresses on Finalizing Level of Care Rules

By Tonya Hawkins, Balancing Policy Manager

The **Front Door Project** is a key MFP balancing initiative. Its main goal is to help balance Ohio's long-term services and supports (LTSS) system to align with the MFP mission, vision and values. The term "front door" refers to an individual's entry point into the LTSS delivery system; it encompasses individuals in all age and disability groups. The front door includes all settings in which the individual receives LTSS, including home and community-based settings and institutional settings.

1. Home- and community-based settings include settings funded by waivers or State Plan Medicaid.
2. Institutional settings include hospitals, nursing facilities, ICF-MRs, etc.

The work of the Front Door Project is divided into four phases. The purpose of each phase is to develop and implement short- and long-term policy changes to improve the front door. The phases are:

- **Phase 1:** Short-term Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) impact – PASRR rules (completed)
- **Phase 2:** Short-term level of care (LOC) impact – LOC rules (in progress and nearing completion)

- **Phase 3:** Long-term LOC impact.
- **Phase 4:** Long-term PASRR impact

Phase 2 of the Front Door Project is now under way, with an emphasis on short-term changes to the nursing facility-based level of care process.

The **Front Door Project's Stakeholder Group** includes representatives from state agencies such as ODJFS, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Ohio Department of Aging, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Ohio Department of Health, as well as Area Agencies on Aging, the Ohio Health Care Association, Ohio Legal Rights Service and Ohio Hospital Association. The large stakeholder group has several subgroups: the Interagency Group, the NF-Based Subgroup and the ICF/DD Subgroup.

The Interagency Group, NF-Based Subgroup and Stakeholder Group have been meeting regularly to draft an LOC definitions rule and a NF-based LOC process rule. The definitions rule pulls all of the existing LOC definitions from the many LOC rules and places them into one rule.

The new NF-based LOC process rule is a revised version of OAC rule 5101:3-3-15 (the current NF-based LOC process rule). The new 5101:3-3-15 rule has been rewritten for clarity and consistency. Efficiencies and flexibilities in the process were created where possible; however, no changes to the LOC criteria were made. Long-term changes to the NF-based and DD-based LOC criteria and process will happen in Phase 3.

Phase 4 of the Front Door Project will focus on long-term Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) changes.

Housing News

HOME Choice Receives Subgrant for Ramps

By Adam Anderson, HOME Choice Housing Coordinator

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

HOME Choice will partner 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. The project is expected to begin in January 2012.

"Keys to Housing Options" Conference Slated for November

By Adam Anderson, HOME Choice Housing Coordinator

On November 8 and 9, the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council and the Ohio Olmstead Task Force will host a "**Keys to Housing Options**" conference at the Hyatt Regency in Columbus. This conference will cover topics that will help individuals learn the basics of managing a household. It also will feature multiple panels of experts discussing state and federal policies affecting those with disabilities in Ohio.

Workforce/Employment News

Ohio's Direct Service Workforce Initiative Is Moving Forward

By Leslie J. Sawyer, HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator

Ohio's Direct Service Workforce (DSW) Initiative is moving forward quickly. The first meeting of the new DSW Consortium was held on August 24, 2011, with the enthusiastic participation of approximately 50 representatives from several state agencies, health providers and professional health care associations, university faculty and researchers, employers, trainers, and consumers. Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy and Bonnie Kantor-Burman, director of the Ohio Department of Aging

(ODA), delivered the opening remarks. They represent the two state agencies co-leading the initiative: ODJFS and ODA. The DSW Consortium will provide input and guidance in the planning and implementation of activities to advance the DSW Initiative, with a focus on person-centered, person-directed care for the direct service workforce in all settings and across all disability groups. For example, the DSW Consortium will help identify the core competencies needed by current and future direct service workers to execute their job tasks.

The Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC), which ODJFS contracts to provide deliverables in support of the Ohio DSW Initiative, and the Center on Training and Education for Employment (CETE) have several projects under way as part of Phase 2 of the initiative, which is the implementation phase.

The MFP Demonstration Grant Project at ODJFS is funding seven research projects to study and share findings on various issues that impact a successful direct service workforce in Ohio. These research projects cover such issues as turnover rates and factors, identification of skill sets and competencies needed by future long-term care workers, and identification of top-performing nursing homes and home care agencies and their best practices.

GRC is convening review teams comprised of the research faculty for the selected projects and representatives from the DSW Consortium membership to encourage the progress and offer suggestions on the projects.

During October and November, GRC and CETE will hold focus groups of direct service workers from across the state representing four service sectors: home health, developmental disabilities, behavioral health in community-based settings and nursing homes. They also will conduct interviews to identify core competencies for each group.

Additionally, GRC is creating an enhanced website and brand for Ohio's DSW Initiative.

HOME Choice Statistics

HOME Choice Enrollment Increases 10 Percent

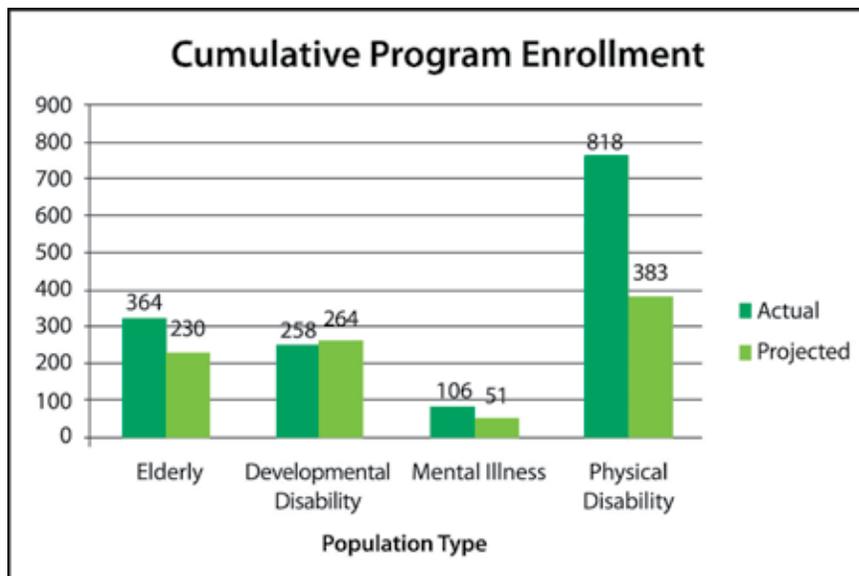
HOME Choice enrollment numbers continue to exceed expectations, as the chart below shows. This reflects an increase in enrollment of 10 percent since the Summer *HOME Choice Bulletin* was distributed.

HOME Choice Statistics (as of press time):

- Individuals Enrolled: **1,546**
- Individuals Applied: **4,190**
- Transition Coordinators (TC): **106**
- Total Providers (Including TCs): **531** unique providers (many with multiple locations - 582)

- Referral Sources (of those who have applied):

- » Nursing Facility: **2,360**
- » Community Agency: **618**
- » Self: **194**
- » ICF/MR: **76**
- » Family: **48**
- » Friend: **44**
- » Hospital: **26**
- » Long-Term Care Ombudsman: **64**
- » Minimum Data Set (MDS): **16**
- » Physician: **2**
- » Centers for Independent Living **13**
- » Other: **691**



HOME Choice Success Stories

Cynthia Davis – Friend Introduced Her to HOME Choice

In Her Own Words

Transcribed by Tammy Hubbard, Advocacy Intern, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

"I am a 53-year-old African-American female. I have been living in my apartment since September of 2010. I am glad that I was able to transition into this apartment with my cat. Prior to living here, I spent four years living in a nursing home.

"I was diagnosed with kidney failure and depression. Therefore, I was placed in the nursing home to receive proper care. I was introduced to the HOME Choice program by a friend that had previously been a part of the HOME Choice program. My friend thought that the program would be something good for me to try. When I got the details for the program, I thought it sounded just like what I had been searching for. I am so thankful for all the help the program has given me since I started working with it in February of 2010.

"The money that I was given through the HOME Choice program was very helpful. I used my dollars to help cover the cost of many different things. Deposit, first month's rent, electricity deposit and getting furniture were just a start. I also purchased miscellaneous household items to help make my apartment feel more like home.

"If you were to ask me what I thought about the HOME Choice program, I would tell you it is a great opportunity. The help that I received from the staff involved with the HOME Choice program is simply amazing. I cannot praise and thank these individuals anywhere near enough for helping me get settled into my apartment. This program has made a tremendous impact on me and others in the community around my apartment. I could have not asked for a better group of people to work with me through the transitions. They were great. I am so glad to be living on my own with my cat.

"Thank you, Ability Center and HOME Choice, for helping me make this happen."



Jeff Hunter Leaves Facility and Works at New Job

By Allison Lewis, Community Communications Coordinator, The Access Center, Dayton



Many people living in nursing homes and other institutions are struggling to transition out and into the community. Jeff Hunter, The Center's volunteer coordinator, is someone who has done just that.

Jeff was able to transition out of a nursing home and into the community with the help of the Ohio HOME Choice Program.

The process of transitioning out of a nursing home is unique to every person. Each person is presented with his or her own set of challenges to overcome in order to live independently. Jeff has overcome a number of challenges in the past few years. He was hospitalized in 2008 for a bowel obstruction and went into a coma for 45 days due to complications. Those complications led to the use of a feeding tube, tracheotomy, colostomy bag and ileostomy bag.

"It was a hard time," said Jeff. "I stayed in Miami Valley Hospital for six months. During that time, my tracheotomy was removed so I had to relearn to eat and swallow."

He was transferred to Maria Joseph Living Care Center for respite care and stayed for just 30 days before being transferred to another facility called Forestview. Jeff stayed at Forestview for a year and a half. During that time, he had several more surgeries, and his colostomy and ileostomy bags were removed.

Jeff was able to go home briefly with the assistance of a social worker at Forestview. The social worker helped him get a grant to move into the community, but Jeff eventually was transferred to Shiloh Springs Care Center due to further complications from his surgeries.

"I first heard about the HOME Choice program while at Forestview but didn't actually meet anyone involved in the program until I got to Shiloh Springs," said Jeff.

After filling out the initial HOME Choice paperwork, Jeff met Wendy Siervogel, a HOME Choice transition coordinator at The Center. She helped him apply for a voucher to move from the nursing facility back into the community.

After Jeff was awarded the voucher, Wendy and others in the HOME Choice program gave him a list of apartments that would accept the voucher. After calling several places on the list, he was able to find a place that worked for him. The voucher Jeff was awarded helped pay for his security deposit, first month's rent and utilities, as well as furniture.

"Finding a place wasn't the most difficult part. The biggest obstacle was figuring out how I was going to maintain it long-term," he said. "I knew I had to find employment in order to continue paying rent and utilities, but I didn't know what type of job to look for."

Before his health declined, Jeff laid carpet for a living. Because of complications from his surgeries, however, he knew he could no longer do heavy lifting when he was out of the nursing home. At a loss for what to do, he asked his HOME Choice transition coordinator for help. It was then that he learned about the need for volunteers here at The Center.

"I decided to volunteer because it seemed like a great way to give back," he said.

Jeff was very dedicated as a volunteer at The Center and, within a few months, was offered the position of volunteer coordinator.

"I was very excited to accept the position," he said. "I see it as another opportunity to give back. I was literally on the rim of death, and The Center helped me, and I want to help this place in return."

Jeff was in Shiloh Springs until January 2011. Since then, he has adjusted very well and has enjoyed regaining his independence.

"I will always be grateful to the HOME Choice Program," he said. "They have really helped me through the transition. Any problem I've faced, they've faced it, too. All I have to do is call my case manager for help. I highly recommend the program to anyone who needs the help I did."

News for Providers, Transition Coordinators, Case Managers and SSAs

Share 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 they are interested, please contact Susan McKinley at 1-888-221-1560.

Transition Coordination/Case Manager/SSA 2011 Conference Call Schedule

Below is the last technical assistance conference call scheduled for 2011. Watch for emails for more information and instructions for the call. If you would like to be notified by email, please contact MFP@jfs.ohio.gov to be added to our distribution list.

December 8 *Tentative topic:* Balancing the System Update

Reminder to Use New Forms!

Forms for the HOME Choice program were updated earlier this year. Please be sure you use the most current forms, which can be accessed at <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/inter.asp>.

Need a Trainer or Presenter?

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

Would You Like to Contribute an Article?

The *HOME Choice Bulletin* is always looking for interesting and helpful information to share. If you would like to submit an article, please call Jane Black at 1-888-221-1560.



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 or fax an interest form to 1-614-466-6945. Interest forms and other information can be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HOMEchoice.stm>.

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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.

The *HOME Choice Bulletin* is a newsletter for stakeholders and 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.