


 HOME
Choice

BULLETIN

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

Summer 2011, Volume 3, Issue 3

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
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Miami Valley In-Ovations, Inc.
Midwest Care Alliance
National Alliance on Mental Illness
of Ohio
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Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes
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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
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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 Services
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 Consumer Advisory Council Provides a Voice and Advocacy for Consumers

By Leslie J. Sawyer, HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator

The **HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council** is a cross-disability group convened by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and the Olmstead Task Force, which is charged with advising the state, General Assembly members, and interested parties on principles, standards, and policy initiatives impacting Ohio's long-term services and supports system. It is included in the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Ohio Operational Protocol for HOME Choice. The Operational Protocol states that the Consumer Advisory Council's purpose is to monitor the HOME Choice transition program and ensure full participation of Ohioans with disabilities. The council also is charged with monitoring the State Profile Tool, which provides an overview of Ohio's progress in balancing the system of long-term services and supports, and monitoring the implementation of balancing recommendations.

The Consumer Advisory Council provides a forum for input, education and development of consumer consensus. Examples of issues the Consumer Advisory Council addresses include access and entry into the delivery system, services and supports, design and redesign, self-direction expansion, housing, and health and human service workforce development. The Consumer Advisory Council encourages expanded advocacy across disability groups and provides support and guidance to local advocacy efforts. It represents all Ohioans in need of long-term services and supports through the leadership of the Ohio Olmstead Task Force.

The Consumer Advisory Council first met in October 2010. ODJFS assisted in the development of a charter and a plan of action, and coordinated the recruitment of members. The membership is comprised of 10 to 15 individuals from across Ohio representing all disability groups, including individuals with developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and those representing children with physical disabilities, individuals with mental illness, traumatic brain injury, in recovery from alcohol and/or drug addiction/abuse, and persons who are elderly. The HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council works closely with the Ohio Olmstead Task Force and Shelley Papenfuse, Disability Rights Advocate with The Ability Center of Greater Toledo, chairs both groups.

The Consumer Advisory Council and the Olmstead Task Force will join with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council to sponsor an annual conference in the fall. The focus of the conference this year will be housing and the title will be *Keys to Housing Options*. It will be held November 8-9, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus. Sue Willis, of the AXIS Center for Public Awareness in Columbus, is the conference coordinator and is chairing the Conference Planning Committee. For more information, contact Sue at mcgwillis@aol.com.

HOME Choice Updates

Assisted Living Pilot Project Results in New Transition Coordinator

HOME Choice is concluding a fruitful pilot project with InCare Home Health Services, an affiliate of **National Church Residences (NCR)**, the leading developer of affordable housing for people with disabilities, mental illness and the elderly. The pilot project involved locating housing for beneficiaries of the Assisted Living waiver, a waiver administered by the Ohio Department of Aging.

In its work to resolve barriers people with disabilities face in finding affordable accessible housing, NCR has committed some of its subsidized housing to HOME Choice participants. By using HOME Choice as a wrap-around service for individuals to move to two of NCRs Assisted Living projects, elderly people who desire more independent living may obtain it.

Although the pilot project draws to a close in August, we are pleased to announce that NCR will remain a partner with HOME Choice by providing additional Assisted Living Waiver housing opportunities and potentially other housing opportunities in the future. Additionally, InCare Home Health Services has come on board as a Transition Coordinator.

HOME Choice Partners with Ohio Department of Mental Health

As part of a continued commitment to helping individuals transition to their communities and a redoubled effort to serve the mental health population in Ohio, HOME Choice has partnered with the Ohio Department of Mental Health to create a Money Follows the Person (MFP) Liaison position. The new liaison, Andrew Sokolnicki, is working closely with HOME Choice staff and is reaching out to mental health service providers across the state and encouraging them to participate in the HOME Choice program. Such partnerships will create a stronger and more effective network of professionals that can provide the critical services needed for consumers who wish to transition back to the community.

Locating Possible HOME Choice Candidates through MDS

By Robert F. Jones, MA, LSW, Home Choice Manager, CareStar, and Terry Moore, MDS Section Q Statewide Manager, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

The Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Section Q (Participation in Assessment and Goal Setting) is intended to determine nursing facility residents' expectations and overall goals, including needed community living referrals (See the Winter 2011 edition of the HOME Choice Bulletin for details on MDS). Section Q was expanded in October 2010 to give residents a voice in the survey process, to increase communication and collaboration between providers of community services and facility staff, and to identify residents who are interested in returning to the community. In doing so, CMS granted Ohio approval to implement MDS 3.0 Section Q as the clearinghouse for the MDS referral process to our HOME Choice Community Living Specialist (CLS) providers. HOME Choice has 16 CLS providers statewide participating in MDS Section Q referrals.

Terry Moore (ODJFS), Robert Jones (CareStar) and all of HOME Choice's CLS providers have been collaborating through the spring and summer to process the MDS Section Q referrals. Their aim is to identify individuals who need person-centered assistance moving into settings that are more suitable to their preferences and needs. The CLS service provision is designed to help individuals move from qualified institutional settings into their communities. Additionally, the CLS providers are documenting their face-to-face visits in detail in order to help us understand individuals' needs, preferences and barriers to Ohio's long-term care (LTC) system. Their goals are to:

- Promote choice and independence for the individuals they serve
- Maintain effective working relationships with the nursing facility staff and the CLS regarding transitional discharge planning matters and appropriate follow-up on future referrals.
- Work in partnership with the HOME Choice Intake Care and Coordination Unit, Nursing Facilities (NF), CLS and other service providers to:
 - Provide education and support to the NF regarding the CLS provider role and function.

- Develop partnerships with the MDS referrer, guardian, CLS, NF social worker and other team members to ensure successful outcomes for the NF resident.
- Clarify with the NF the benefit of the resources and supports identified for the MDS referral.
- Collaborate with the NF, CLS and HOME Choice Intake Care and Coordination Unit to problem-solve and identify resolutions to barriers and other challenges.
- Establish follow-up protocols with the CLS and the NF concerning future MDS referrals.

MDS Success Stories

Below are success stories that the CLS providers and the NF staff have shared regarding the MDS Referral Process. The first was provided by CareStar CLS staff Ashley Barrow regarding social worker Betsy Mann at the Clifton Care Center.

"I have seen a lot of residents at Clifton Care Center. The staff is very friendly and helpful. The residents are happy with their stay at the facility; they are just ready to return home. Betsy Mann, the facility social worker is resourceful. She truly knows her residents and no matter how busy she is, she will return calls and help you with any situation. Her answer to community living is always "yes" if it is humanly possible. She is knowledgeable of Ohio HOME Choice program services and community resources. It has truly been a pleasure working with this facility, and I know if residents are appropriate for HOME Choice, they will return to the community, and live longer thanks to this social worker and staff."

The next story was shared by a NF social services unit regarding CareStar CLS Tonya Craig.

"Dear Tonya: We wanted to let you know about positive feedback we received on your work as one of our HOME Choice CLS providers: "... just got off the phone with Social Services at a nursing facility and wanted to pass on a compliment from the facility regarding the Community Living Specialist that had seen several residents in her facility. The facility said that the CLS provider was great in speaking with the residents and gaining their trust regarding making plans for going home."

Updated HOME Choice Brochure Spotlights Children

The HOME Choice brochure was recently updated to reflect a new emphasis on enrolling children in the program. To see the new brochure or to order copies, please visit the ODJFS "Forms Central" website: <http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/results1.asp> and enter JFS 08006 in the search field.

Housing News

ODJFS Staff Honored with Fair Housing Award

Brock Robertson, HOME Choice Community Living Administrator, was honored with a 2011 Fair Housing Award by the Ohio Department of Development in April, Fair Housing Month. Brock was given the award for his advocacy efforts to advance fair housing for people with disabilities. In particular, he has furthered the HOME Choice program's goals by helping individuals in Ohio find the safe, quality housing they need to successfully transition to and live independently in the community.

HOME Choice Working to Fill HUD Housing Vouchers

With the September deadline approaching, HOME Choice has been working to fill all the HUD-awarded housing vouchers that have been set aside for HOME Choice consumers in Hamilton and Lucas counties. Setting aside the vouchers, reduces the time that it takes for individuals who wish to move into community settings to do so. Additionally, efforts are underway to expand the network of service providers and transition coordinators to ensure that as many people as possible can take advantage of this HOME Choice housing program and housing voucher opportunity.

Workforce/Employment News

Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative

The Ohio Direct Service Workforce is the foundation of the long-term services and supports system in Ohio. This workforce is comprised of individuals who provide personal care assistance, help with home care, and/or provide assistance with activities of daily living in a variety of settings, including (home and community-based settings, hospitals, nursing homes, and other long-term care facilities). They also interface with a variety of Ohio agencies, including the departments of Aging, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services, Developmental Disabilities, Health, Mental Health and Job and Family Services. Depending on the sector and setting in which they work, direct service workers, may have one of a variety of titles. Some examples include home health aides, personal care aides, home care attendant, nurse aide and residential worker.

The Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and Aging (ODA) are co-leading a state-level **Direct Service Workforce (DSW) Initiative** to help Ohio identify and address the education and training, credentialing, registration, and career advancement needs of direct service workers. Also through this initiative, Ohio will strive to improve the quality of services provided and address health workforce shortages.

Through the federal Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant, ODJFS has contracted with the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center (GRC) and the Center on Education and Training for Employment (CETE) at The Ohio State University. GRC and CETE will provide key information and implement strategies and activities to advance Ohio's efforts to enhance its direct service workforce, career opportunities for workers, the quality of service provided, and ultimately, better meet health workforce supply and demand.

To date, GRC and CETE have established a **Direct Service Workforce Faculty Research Consortium**. They also have facilitated faculty research, conducted a business information session and stakeholder summit, and provided reports of the findings from those efforts. They also created a synthesis report that includes a review of literature on health and human services workforce initiatives and related recommendations.

Beginning in August, ODJFS and ODA will establish a joint group of the Direct Services Workforce Faculty Research Consortium, the Interagency State Partners, GRC, CETE, and others, including consumers, caregivers, providers and provider associations. The Ohio DSW Consortium will provide input and guidance for the implementation of the Ohio Direct Service Workforce Initiative. Among other things, the initiative will define and document the current direct service workforce situation.

An exciting development for the initiative is work that ODJFS and ODA have been doing with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation (OHT) and other state agencies on aligning the Direct Service Workforce Initiative with the four key OHT budget initiatives: (1) Medicaid Waiver Consolidation, (2) Dual Eligibles Project, (3) Patient-Centered Medical Home, and (4) Behavioral/Physical Health Integration, to ensure that changing workforce needs are addressed.

Solidarity '11 Conference: Consumers, Providers and Advocates Hear about HOME Choice

As in previous years, the Solidarity '11 Conference was a success. It was the 11th biannual conference and the single largest conference in the state for individuals with disabilities. This year's conference was held April 26 - 27 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Columbus. The theme was "One Common Voice, One Common Cause!" and the focus was on employment.

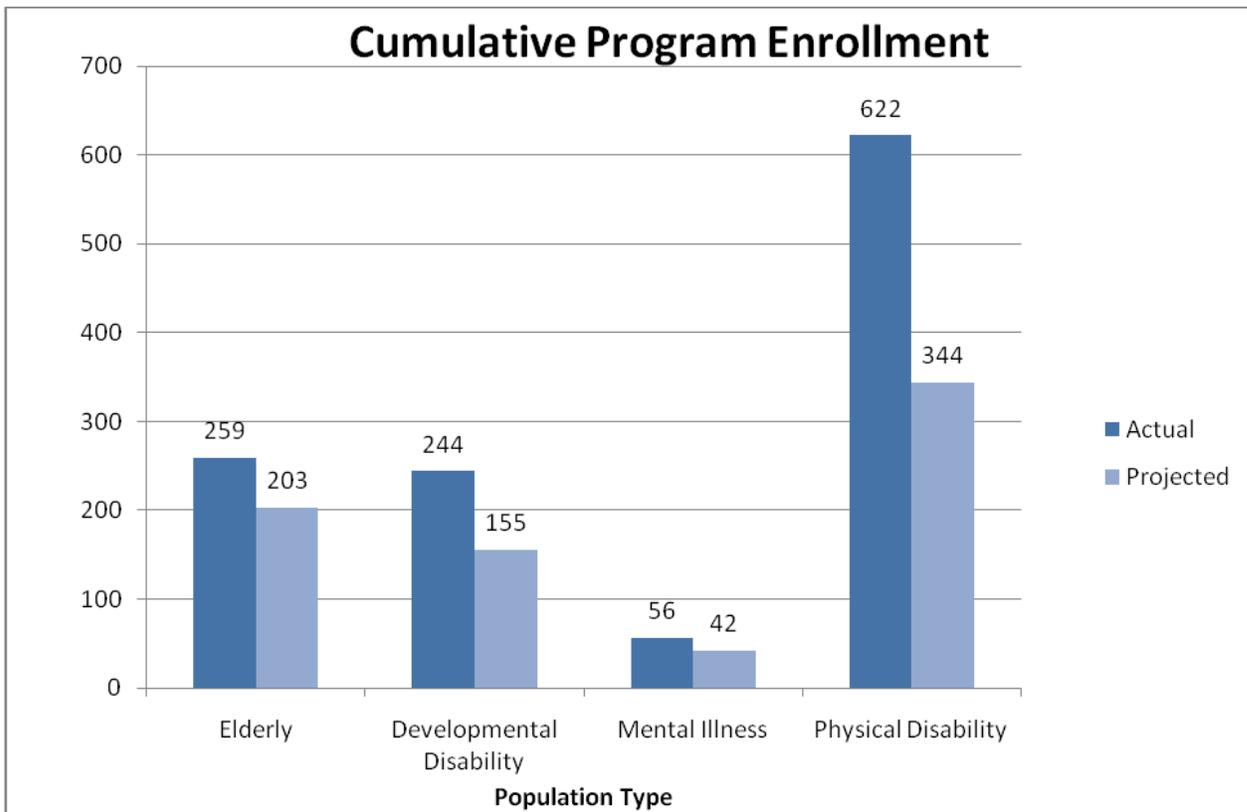
Staff representing the HOME Choice program conducted a workshop that helped individuals across all disabilities populations, families, caregivers, service providers, and advocates learn about this wonderful program and how they could participate.

Leslie J. Sawyer, HOME Choice Statewide Outreach Coordinator, presented an overview of the program, including its vision statement that those individuals who need services and supports: *"Get services and supports they need in a timely and cost-effective manner, in settings they want from whom they want and, if needs change, services and supports change accordingly."* She shared examples of how HOME Choice is helping to implement strategies for long-term services and support system reform.

Robert Jones and Michele Hammond of CareStar, one of the case managers for HOME Choice participants with disabilities, described the “extra” or “wrap-around” services available through HOME Choice and how those services can help people transition from nursing homes or other long-term-care facilities to home and community settings. The HOME Choice workshop was well-attended and included enthusiastic audience participation and discussion. The HOME Choice presenters were pleased to have an opportunity to share the benefits of the program and to learn first-hand from participants about successes and challenges.

HOME Choice Statistics

HOME Choice Enrollment Continues to Exceed Projections. HOME Choice enrollment projections continue to exceed expectations, as the chart below shows. The higher numbers are attributed to excellent ongoing partnerships and networking in the physical disability community and growing momentum in aging and mental health communities.



HOME Choice Statistics (as of press time):

- Individuals Enrolled: 1,169
- Individuals Applied: 3,323
- Transition Coordinators (TCs): 91
- Total Providers (Including TCs): 447 unique providers (many with multiple locations)

Referral Sources (of those who have applied):

- NF: 1,881
- Community Agency: 492
- Self: 142
- CF/MR: 75
- Family: 41
- Friend: 37
- Hospital: 22
- Long-Term-Care Ombudsman: 10
- Minimum Data Set (MDS): 6
- Physician: 2
- Other: 587

HOME Choice Success Stories

This issue features four success stories of people who have transitioned from facilities to community settings. Three stories were written by Tammy Hubbard, an advocacy intern at The Ability Center of Greater Toledo. One of her stories is an update of a previously featured beneficiary.

Booker Brown - Living Independently

In His Own Words

By Tammy Hubbard, Advocacy Intern, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

"I am a 51-year-old African-American male. My home was originally in Cleveland, Ohio. However, I relocated to northwest Ohio due to the medical treatment that was available in this area. I was successfully transitioned into my own apartment at the end of June 2010.

"My diagnoses were obesity, hypertension, diabetes and lymphedema. This combination of conditions is why I was admitted into a nursing home. While I was regaining my health, I learned that my home in Cleveland was being foreclosed. Not wanting to become a burden to my friends and family, I decided to stay in the Gibsonburg area, which is where I was introduced to the HOME Choice program. I was thrilled to hear of this program because I knew that in the end it would mean I could move out of the nursing home facility.

"I looked at several rental options before signing the lease where I am. I signed the first lease that was available and probably should have waited a bit longer. Living on a fixed income with rising utility costs is a rough task to handle.

"The funds that I was provided through the HOME Choice program were very helpful. I used these funds for my deposit and first month's rent. They also helped me get the furniture I needed as well as the movers to get the furniture to me. I just love the blankets, towels and various kitchen utensils I was able to buy with HOME Choice funds. I also loved the experience of shopping for them. Without the HOME Choice program I would have been in this apartment without anything. In fact, I probably would not even have this apartment!

"I am happy with the HOME Choice program. Tiffany Tierney the Community Support Coach from The Ability Center of Greater Toledo calls me each month to check on me. I think that is such a selfless and caring act for her to do. What a great program I was a part of!"



Peggy Cly - Living Independently for the First time Ever

In Her Own Words

By Tammy Hubbard, Advocacy Intern, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo



"I am a 52-year-old female living in Gibsonburg, Ohio. Living on my own is something that I had never done until September 10, 2010. Thank you HOME Choice program, for allowing me to have this awesome experience! It is such a great feeling to know that I am doing this on my own. For the 14 months prior to September 2010 I had lived in a nursing facility.

"Coming into the nursing home I was not physically able to properly care for myself. I was cared for and given guidance to get to where I could, and I wanted out of the nursing home. When I first heard of the HOME Choice program, I was wowed to the fact that there was money available for me. I just was amazed that because I was in a nursing home, I got assistance. The thought of getting out was great. I was ready to leave all the rumors that went with living with other patients.

"The process seemed to roll along pretty smoothly for me. I did get discouraged at points when I was trying to get transportation to do what needed to get done. But just as easily as I got frustrated, solutions were found and I got where

I needed to be. The HOME Choice program seemed to know how to work with me to make it happen.

“The funding that was available through the HOME Choice program was so helpful. When I first started thinking about going out on my own, I kept thinking, ‘I cannot do that, I don’t have monies for all the start ups.’ Then HOME Choice went to bat. It was able to help me with my first month’s rent and deposit for the apartment and also utility deposits. What a relief it was having those taken care of.

“Then I got the opportunity to go shopping and purchase the things I needed for my apartment. I remember going to the store and getting to pick out my groceries. I loved picking out my food, which I later was able to prepare the way I wanted. I am again thankful that the HOME Choice program was there to help me with that.

“My biggest accomplishment since getting into my own apartment is [to get] my cat. I recently was able to go to the Humane Society and adopt Jackilyn. She is a beautiful black-and-gray, short-haired tabby cat. I had fun naming my cat, and I ended up naming her after both of my parents. She brings joy to me every day. I also enjoy playing cards and watching television.

“I am so thankful for all of the help that I was given from the HOME Choice program. Being able to get in the community and staying close to friends and family is important to me, and I received Community Support Coach training that helped me to get things done that I would have otherwise procrastinated. I would get in a mood and it seemed like those were the days my Community Support Coach would be scheduled to come out. Tiffany Tierney was able to encourage me to accomplish a new challenge and that alone would bring me back up and positive again.

“I cannot say enough how beneficial the HOME Choice program was for me. I am so glad I was given that opportunity.”

Hope Talkington

By Susan McKinley, ODJFS Bureau of Long-Term Care Services and Supports

“I don’t forget about good people,” says Hope Talkington, speaking of her Transition Coordinator, Linda Smith, of PASSPORT Administrative Agency 10B. It was a letter written in praise of Ms. Smith and the HOME Choice program that led us to learn of Hope Talkington’s success story.



Hope, who was discharged from Hickory Ridge Nursing and Rehab Center in Akron in December 2010, has spent most of her life in institutions. However, a Pre-Admission Screening and Resident Review assessment revealed she was too independent to live in a facility. The nursing facility social worker and ombudsman recognized a good candidate for HOME Choice, and recommended the program to Hope.

She was intrigued and applied. Later, Hope listened attentively as Linda Smith explained the program and transition process to her. Hope was inspired and took the initiative to look for her own place to live. She found just the right place. Her new home is a fourth-floor, two-window HUD efficiency apartment in Cuyahoga Falls. “I love it!” she says.

When she left the nursing facility, Hope’s possessions were limited to a TV, DVDs, music and clothes. The HOME Choice Goods and Services helped her purchase furniture, pots, pans and dishes, and other necessities with which to set up her home.

Linda helped Hope with many aspects of her transition such as how to access community services and helped her purchase items she would not have thought to buy. For example, Linda recommended that Hope buy a flashlight. Hope did not see the need for one, but bought it anyway. Later, when her apartment lost electricity, she was grateful for the flashlight and Linda’s foresight.

Hope enjoys routine activities many people take for granted, such as doing her own laundry, cleaning her apartment, and smoking and going places when she wants – none of which she could do when she lived in the nursing facility.

“Freedom to me is a beautiful thing. I’ve never had it before,” says Hope. She visits her parents regularly and stays in touch with her three sisters.

Hope's case manager is Terri Shaffner from CareStar. Terri visits Hope quarterly and stays in contact between visits. Hope is benefitting from the help of a HOME Choice Community Support Coach who is teaching her to use public transportation, a challenging new prospect for her.

Hope returns to the nursing facility every week to visit friends, especially the barometric patients, and most especially, the facility's black Labrador Retriever, Tar. She loves dogs, and used to take Tar for walks when she lived at the nursing home. Tar misses her and scratches at the door of her old room. One of Hope's long-term goals is to get a dog of her own.

Hope is a writer and has pen pals throughout the United States. She loves all kinds of music and, of course, dogs. She plans to maintain her weight and move forward with her life. She hopes to someday write a book.

She is pragmatic and hopeful. "Life isn't a bowl of cherries," Hope says. "I still have struggles. But I plan to stay independent and healthy."

Karen Palacios - Enjoying the Peace and Quiet

In Her Own Words

By Tammy Hubbard, Advocacy Intern, The Ability Center of Greater Toledo

(Karen was originally profiled in the Winter 2011 issue. Here is an update on her progress.)

"I am a 42-year-old lady from Toledo, Ohio. I have been living in my apartment since August 5, 2010. I am enjoying the freedom that comes along with living independently. Before moving into my apartment I had lived in the nursing home environment for eight years. This time was spread among three different nursing homes.



"I had knee replacements, carpal tunnel surgery and weight loss procedures that landed me in the nursing home living situation. I was very happy to hear about the HOME Choice program when I was ready to be released to go live in the community on my own. I thought that the program sounded like it was worth trying. Now that I am living in peace and quiet I am beyond thrilled to have completed the program.

"There was a point in the process where I became discouraged by not having a doctor I needed for my post-nursing-home care. However, I was helped to resolve the issue and continued with my successful placement through the HOME Choice program.

"I used the funds that were provided through HOME Choice to help with establishing my apartment. Funds were also used to purchase furniture, personal care items, food and a phone line. Remaining funds also helped me to purchase new wheelchair batteries to allow it to run properly. The funds were helpful and appreciated.

"Now that I am living independently in my apartment, I am enjoying life. I enjoy getting out of the apartment and going to a center that is close to my apartment. While I am there, I participate in the activities, such as playing Bingo, attending the auto show, going to lunch and just the chatting with others who are also involved at the center. I am trying to do these activities routinely. I also enjoy other hobbies right in my own apartment, which include arts and crafts and building different things.

"My Ohio Home Care Waiver care consists of an aide in the home seven days a week as well as nurse visits one time a week. These people help me with my basic housekeeping, bathing, doing my laundry and also doing my shopping.

"When I am asked about leaving the nursing home and how it felt, I sum it up by saying, 'Independence is bliss.' I am happy to be living out in the community and enjoying the peace and quiet that comes with living on my own. I am glad I was given the opportunity to use HOME Choice and am also glad that I went with the opportunity. It is a great feeling to be living on my own again."

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 technical assistance conference call schedule for the rest of 2011. Watch for emails and the HOME Choice Bulletin for announcements and instructions for the calls. If you would like to be notified by email, please contact MFP@jfs.ohio.gov to be added to our listserv.

August 11	Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction presentation by the state agencies
October 13	Housing
December 8	Tentative: Balancing the system update

Please 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>. Old forms will no longer be accepted after August 19, 2011. Please do not alter the forms.

Need a Trainer or Presenter?

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