



# Bulletin

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

## HOME CHOICE APPROACHES 6,800 TRANSITIONS THROUGH COLLABORATION!

Readers of the HOME Choice Bulletin know that Ohio is second only to Texas in transitioning individuals from facilities into home and community settings and that Ohio is ranked first in the nation in transitioning individuals with mental health and substance abuse issues.

With that in mind, we have exciting news to share about the collaborative effort to move a special population in Ohio: children.

### TRANSITIONING CHILDREN

Children make up a significant part of the transition population and may require the services of HOME Choice for a variety of reasons, ranging from an extended stay in the hospital to being born to an addicted mother leaving a single father in need of help to get that child into a safe home.

Transitioning each HOME Choice population requires a special set of skills and procedures. In order to maximize the process of moving children into home settings, HOME Choice staff have developed, and continue to cultivate, close working relationships with the many players involved in the transition process.

When a hospital social worker identifies a candidate, he or she sends an application to HOME Choice. A Pre-Transition Case Manager contacts the family and arranges to meet with them personally at the child's setting. The Community Living

Administrator connects the child's family to a Transition Coordinator to assist the family with finding housing, purchasing needed items for the child and applying, if needed, for a home and community based-waiver and public assistance benefits.

This system of supports through HOME Choice lay the foundation for a successful move into the community. Community support coaching and independent living skills are also important resources for parents who are setting up a household for the first time with a child.

The collaboration of compassionate hard-working people and community partners throughout the pre-transition and transition process are at the heart of Ohio's HOME Choice program.

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## A FEW TRANSITION FACTS:

### NEW ENROLLMENTS

HOME Choice currently averages 130 new enrollments (transitions) per month, or six to seven enrollments each business day.

### A PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES

Since HOME Choice began in 2008, the youngest person to enroll in the program was only two months old while the oldest was 101. The average age of all participants has been 47.6 years.

### A MAJOR MILESTONE

HOME Choice is on track to reach a major milestone by the end of 2015 when it completes its 7,000th transition to community. The program is expected to reach 7,300 total transitions by year's end.

## THIRD ANNUAL HOME CHOICE CONFERENCE

25 Years of Empowerment, Celebrating the  
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Ohio.

NOVEMBER 5, 2015 | DOWNTOWN HILTON COLUMBUS

We have another exciting agenda planned for this year's conference, including:

- » Josh Rogers, Trial Attorney, Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice, returns to present a plenary session on the civil rights of those with disabilities.
- » Al Condeluci, CEO of Community Living and Support Services (CLASS), returns to present new insight into Community Inclusion.
- » Highlights from the successful transitions of HOME Choice participants and the many individuals who made each one possible.
- » 10 breakout sessions offering Continuing Education Units.

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS TO ARRIVE VIA E-MAIL!

## SCRIPPS GERONTOLOGY CENTER NOTES OHIO'S SUCCESS WITH AGING POPULATION

Ohio Medicaid and its partners continue to broaden access to home and community-based services (HCBS) across the state.

A new report from the Scripps Gerontology Center, titled *The Road to Balance: Two Decades of Progress in Providing Long-Term Services and Supports for Ohio's Older Population*, describes the ways Ohio has created new opportunities for aging residents to receive services and supports while remaining in the community.

While a great deal of work remains, it is clear that Ohio has already made significant progress in reforming its long-term care.



Learn more about Ohio's  
ongoing efforts

[Read the report online.](#)

## JEANNETTE WELSH JOINS THE HOME CHOICE HOUSING TEAM



Jeannette Walsh, newest member of the HOME Choice Housing Team.

New Housing Coordinator Jeannette Welsh has worked in the housing field for many years as both an attorney and a policymaker. As an attorney, she worked with a development team to create housing for persons with disabilities using the HUD Section 811 program. She also performed legal services on behalf of low-income individuals while working at the Columbus

Legal Aid Society. Between her private practice and legal aid, Jeannette developed expertise in landlord-tenant law, housing benefits, consumer issues, guardianship and domestic matters.

As she began to shift her focus on policy issues, Jeannette worked for the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, where she provided training and technical assistance to Ohio's Balance of State Continuums of Care and served as a statewide trainer for the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery pilot. Jeannette has also worked for state government since 2006 and has held a variety of positions working on homelessness and housing programs and policy. She recently acquired her Housing Development Finance Professional Certification from the National Development Council.

Jeannette's passion for the work of HOME Choice was reinforced by the positive experience of a family member's transition into the community using the program.

*HOME Choice welcomes Jeannette!*

## PROGRAM ACTIVITY AS OF JULY 31, 2015

Program Area	Indicator	Statistic
Program Transitions	Current Number of Enrollees	1,328
	New To-Date in 2015	911
	Total Transitions To-Date (since 2008)	6,724
Current Transitions By Age Group	Children (Birth to 21)	24%
	Adult (Ages 22-59)	47.1%
	Elderly (Ages 60+)	28.8%
Waiver Activity: Proportion of Current Transitions	On Waivers	41.5%
	Non-Waiver	58.5%
Candidates in the Pipeline	Applications Received or Approved (not yet assessed)	8
	Assessed and in Pre-Transition Stage	1,295

### HOME CHOICE WEB UPDATES

We've updated + reorganized the HOME Choice information available online.

Check it out! Visit: [Medicaid.Ohio.gov/HomeChoice](http://Medicaid.Ohio.gov/HomeChoice)

We value your feedback, so let us know what you think! Send a note to: [Home\\_choice@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Home_choice@medicaid.ohio.gov)

## 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.

### NEVER TOO LATE TO START LIVING AGAIN: LELA'S STORY

*By Tiffany Tierney, Ability Center of Toledo Community Support Coach*



Sixty-nine year old Lela was born in Cincinnati and moved to Toledo at age 15 to be close to her mother. She attended Scott High School and studied to become a pre-school teacher. Lela enjoyed cooking and working part time at various jobs including teacher's aide, church assistant, school lunch aide, mental health center psychiatric aide.

Lela has lived with mental illness since she was 17 years old. Several years ago, she was told it would be best if she lived in a nursing facility. The news devastated her.

"I got behind on my rent and I was evicted," says Lela. "I had depression, heart and personal problems, and I did not have family support. I did not want to live in a nursing facility but had no other place to go. I kept asking what I did that was so bad that I had to live in a nursing facility." Residents at the facility told Lela about the HOME Choice program. "I was happy when HOME Choice helped me leave the nursing facility."

"The first three months were uncomfortable," recalls Lela. "I was afraid to go out and shop independently. When you have lived in a nursing facility, you need to rebuild your confidence. I do not feel

that way anymore. I knew it was not too late to start living again, but it would have been too late if I stayed in the nursing facility."

Lela concludes, "I am excited now and grateful for my health. HOME Choice got me started back on my own - new place, household items, etc. I also receive Independent Living Skills and Community Support Coach services along with case management, home care services, home-delivered meals and PASSPORT services."

"I now use TARPS (Toledo Area Regional Transport Authority) services to complete errands, grocery shop or volunteer. I enjoy socializing with my neighbors and at church on Sunday. I am a courageous, honest, outgoing people person. I like people and now I am back among them. Thank you, HOME Choice!"



**I am excited now and grateful for my health. HOME Choice got me started back on my own...**

## TERI: DETERMINATION FOSTERS SUCCESS

*By Susan McKinley, Bureau of Long-Term Care Services*



**If you want to recover,  
you have to hope you  
will recover.**

Before his accident, Teri worked as an independent truck driver, practiced martial arts and lifted weights. He planned to spend his 39th birthday with his son and his brother. However, in the early morning hours of his birthday, he was riding his motorcycle and a drunk driver cut him off.

“I don’t remember much about the accident,” Teri says. “When I came to everyone was telling me what happened. I realized everything I used to do – how I earned my living, how I functioned – everything – had changed.” Teri awakened from his crash with paraplegia and no use of his right arm. He spent three years in a nursing facility. “I didn’t see how I could live on my own – along with mood swings and waking up with nightmares.”

Doctors told him there was no recovery from his injury. “It was hard to move forward with people telling me I could not recover,” Teri said. “They were trying not to get my hopes up but they were doing me a disservice. If you want to recover, you have to hope you will recover.”

Fortunately, Teri had heard of HOME Choice prior to his accident, before Services for Independent Living Transition Coordinator Donna Lanier reached out to him. Despite some ups and downs, he is pleased with his apartment and enjoys peace of mind. Teri has been in his

apartment for almost a year.

Donna says she and Teri navigated the transition obstacles together. Initially, Teri was turned down for his apartment because of an error on his credit report. With Donna’s help the mix-up was corrected and Teri was able to move into the apartment he wanted.

Next, the doors in the apartment needed to be widened to allow for wheelchair access. Recovery Requires a Community helped with that project and provided nursing services until Teri’s home and community-based waiver became active.

Now, Teri says his purpose is two-fold. The first is mental, physical and spiritual self-improvement. His second purpose is to share his story and raise the spirits of others. He and his father talk at church gatherings, community halls and on the streets to youth and adults and encourage them to overcome their obstacles.

When asked if he would recommend HOME Choice to others, Teri said, yes, but with a caveat. “I would recommend it if you are mentally ready for it,” he says. “It is a good instrument to get you on your feet, but if you are not ready mentally, it won’t be of help.”



# 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  
 Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities  
 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.*

## 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 [Home\\_choice@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:Home_choice@medicaid.ohio.gov) if you have comments, information to share, or would like to be added to our e-mail list.