



**HOME**  
Choice

# BULLETIN

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

Winter 2009, Volume 1, Issue 1

## CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS

Access Center for Independent Living  
Achievement Centers for Children  
Advocacy and Protective Services (APSI)  
American Association of Retired Persons (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.  
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 MRDD  
Ohio Association of Superintendents of County Boards of MRDD  
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  
Ohio Department of Aging  
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services  
Ohio Department of Development  
Ohio Department of Mental Health  
Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities  
Ohio Department of Transportation  
Ohio Dietetic Association  
Ohio Health Care Association  
Ohio Hospice & Palliative Care Organization  
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

## Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of the HOME Choice Bulletin, a newsletter for stakeholders and anyone interested in Ohio's Money Follows the Person HOME Choice Transitions Program. It will provide updates, statistics, and other information about the progress and status of Ohio's HOME Choice four times a year.

Please contact [mfp@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:mfp@jfs.ohio.gov) if you have comments, information to share, or would like to be added to our e-mail distribution list.

## Stakeholders Celebrate Kickoff of HOME Choice

In November 2008, ODJFS celebrated the many stakeholders who were involved in developing Ohio's Money Follows the Person (MFP) project by holding a combined meeting/celebration. Stakeholders were treated to a beautiful "HOME Choice" cake, compliments of the ODJFS staff, and punch; as well as a message from Ohio's Medicaid Director, John Corlett; and an update presentation on HOME Choice by Project Director Erika Robbins.

The HOME Choice Transition Program officially "kicked off" on October 20, 2008. What does this mean? It means that Ohioans living in a facility-based setting such as a nursing facility, ICF/MR facility or a hospital may have an opportunity to transition into a community setting by using new services and supports available through the HOME Choice Transition Program. The HOME Choice Transition Program exemplifies one of two core goals of the federal Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant, which is to transition people in long-term facilities to home settings. The second goal of MFP is to modify the current service delivery system to assure choice and flexibility for Ohioans in need of long-term services and supports. The second goal is commonly referred to as "balancing the system."



Please visit <http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/consumers/HOMEChoice.stm> for details on the celebration. We thank all stakeholders for the critical role played in the development of the project! It is true that HOME Choice project was built by Ohioans, for Ohioans – a true partnership – cooperation, responsibility and achievement!

ODJFS staff purchased (**no state dollars were used**) a custom-made cake featuring the HOME Choice logo and thanking the "PAG" – the HOME Choice "Planning and Advisory Group," which was instrumental in developing the program.

## Spotlight on Stakeholders

ODJFS recognizes the following stakeholder groups for their passion and work to improve services and supports for Ohioans in need of long term services and supports.

**“Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential” (LEAP)** received salutation from the U.S. Department of Labor for work accomplished under the “New Freedom Initiative”. LEAP was one of eight winners of the seventh annual New Freedom Initiative Award and has worked successfully to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities. For more information, please visit [www.leapinfo.org](http://www.leapinfo.org) and [www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep).

The **Ohio Department of Aging** received recent grant awards to work toward combating Medicare fraud, assisting older Ohioans to remain independent and supporting Ohioans with Alzheimer’s disease to remain in their homes and communities. These grants were released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in fall 2008. More information is located at <http://aging.ohio.gov/news/pressreleases/2008/20081014.htm>.

The **Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities** received the 2009 Medicaid Infrastructure Grant award to increase Medicaid Buy-In participation, survey employment needs and goals of Ohioans with developmental disabilities, pilot a transition from school to adulthood model, and maximize the income and resources for people with disabilities. The *HOME Choice Bulletin* will provide more information in future newsletters as it becomes available.

The Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities was also designated the lead by the Strickland Administration to coordinate state agency work focusing on autism. To meet this charge, the Department recently assembled key state agency partners to form an Interagency Work Group (IWG) on Autism. The IWG has drafted a work plan identifying six guiding priorities and accompanying activities as a launching point for its work. Please visit the ODMRDD website at <http://mrdd.ohio.gov/topics/iagautism.htm> for more information and to provide feedback to the IWG. You are encouraged to share this information with constituency groups that are interested in effective autism services.

Congratulations to LEAP and our sister agencies, ODA and OMRDD, for their good work!

## Spotlight on Choice

In future issues of the HOME Choice Bulletin, we would like to highlight:

- Efforts to balance the long term services and supports delivery system
- Stakeholder accomplishments
- Successful transition efforts

If you have an accomplishment or a personal story about “balancing efforts” to share, please send it to [mfp@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:mfp@jfs.ohio.gov).

## HOME Choice Statistics

Here are the latest statistics for the newly launched HOME Choice program:

- 37 transition coordination agencies
- 218 providers
- 270 consumers have applied
- 48 consumers have moved

The HOME Choice Program accepts referrals from any source. Please help us get the word out! If you know of a person who may be interested in transitioning into a community setting, please notify the ODJFS HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit at 1-888-221-1560 or fax an interest form to 614-466-6945. Visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HOMEchoice.stm> for interest forms and other helpful information.

## Reminder: HOME Choice Has Many Services

Transition coordinators, case managers and consumers should be aware of the many services provided through HOME Choice. Not only does it move consumers from long-term care facilities, but it provides all the transition coordination activities that are needed, such as learning independent living skills, providing community support coaching and nutrition counseling, and much more.

We urge transition coordinators and case managers to assist consumers with taking advantage of the full spectrum of transition activities!

## Providers Sought for HOME Choice

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is recruiting providers for the HOME Choice Transition Program. At this point in the program, we need:

- Social workers/counselors
- Community support coaches
- Nutritional counselors
- Independent living skills trainers
- Communication aid providers
- Service animals providers

Please visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm> for application procedures and fact sheets about the provider types listed above. If you are part of an association, please share our recruitment needs with your members and encourage them to apply!

## Continuing Education for Transition Coordinators and Case Managers

A repeat of last fall's training for transition coordinators and case managers is planned for March 13 after cancellation of the originally planned date on January 28 due to bad weather.

Details and training materials for all training sessions can be found at [http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HC\\_training.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/HC_training.stm)

In addition to the training, bi-monthly conference calls will be held for Transition Coordinators and Case Managers. Each call will dedicate one hour to a particular topic and a second hour to an open forum to allow for problem-solving and sharing of best practices.

The first call was held on January 29. Mark your calendars for the following upcoming calls (e-mail reminders will also be sent to all for whom we have e-mail addresses for):

**March 26** – Community Transition Service and interface with the HOME Choice Fiscal Intermediary, JEVS

**May 28** – Incident Reporting and Quality under the MFP Grant

**July 30** – Ohio Strategies to Address Housing for HOME Choice Participants

**September 24** – Ohio Balancing Strategies – An Overview of SFY 10/11 Strategies to Expand Choice

**November 19** – Workforce – Employment for People with Disabilities and direct Support for Workforce Capacity and Strategies.

All conference calls are from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. The number for all calls is (614) 644-9301, access number 647765#

## Housing Vouchers Set Aside in Cleveland

The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) has set aside 25 housing vouchers for HOME Choice consumers in 2009. In addition, HOME Choice Transition Coordinators will seek additional housing vouchers for the future through their participation in the Gateway Advisory Board, a group of local advocates for people with disabilities seeking housing.

In other housing efforts, the Ohio Housing Locator is a statewide repository for affordable and accessible housing. Please visit <http://www.ohiohousinglocator.org/> for more information.

## Ohio to Attend National Money Follows the Person (MFP) Conference

As part of Ohio's MFP demonstration grant responsibility, HOME Choice Project Manager Erika Robbins and HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit Manager Laurie Damon will attend an MFP Demonstration Project Conference in March in Baltimore. The U.S. Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) organizes the conference, and all states participating in the MFP Demonstration Project must attend.

In addition to participating in educational and information-sharing sessions, Erika and Laurie will present a poster session that will provide an overview of the HOME Choice transition program, as well as Ohio balancing efforts expected in 2009 and 2010.

They will describe services and supports available under the HOME Choice Transition Program along with providing an overview of Ohio's cross disability service delivery. Their presentation will include a review of Ohio outreach tools as well as forms and documents used to guide Ohioans through the transition process. They will also share the stakeholder process and planning tools used to move toward a balanced system.

Erika and Laurie will share the information they learn from the conference in the next edition of the *HOME Choice Bulletin*. Information from the conference will also be posted on the web.

### 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.

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