

## 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

## Spotlight on Choice: The Wonderful Choice of Returning Home Two Profiles of Recently Transitioned HOME Choice Participants

### Ronald Clutter

The HOME Choice program -- 'Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice'-- helped Ronald Clutter go home.

Nursing home residents have an opportunity to transition back into the community by using services and supports available through HOME Choice Transition Coordination. Since the program's inception in October, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 Inc. (AAA7) is opening the door for residents' dreams of returning home to live. HOME Choice is the Ohio initiative of the federal Money Follows the Person Demonstration grant.

In the past, it has often been difficult for long-term care residents to return home or back into the community. A previous lack of coordinated supportive services is now provided by the AAA7 Regional Long-term Care Ombudsman (RLTCO) team of professionals. Nursing home residents sat waiting due to lack of money and resources to pay for rental and utility deposits, transportation expenses, furniture, and other household items. With the new HOME Choice Transition Coordination services, these barriers have been erased.

February 27th was 'move day' for Mr. Clutter, a long-time resident of Edgewood of Wellston.

Mr. Clutter was able to return to his hometown of Toronto, Ohio. This became a reality with the assistance of his daughter, Edgewood of Wellston's social worker and other nursing facility staff, his PASSPORT case manager, and the transition coordinators/ombudsmen from AAA7.

His personal journey began on November 18, 2008, with a HOME Choice referral. The transition coordination team of AAA7 visited him at the nursing home to identify the types of services and supports he would need to transition back into the community.

Mr. Clutter had a choice to make. Did he want to return home? His answer was immediate and never changed.

He wished to return to the place where he grew up and where he raised his family.

Kaye Inoshita, Director of the RLTCO transition coordination team for HOME Choice, is quick to point out, ". . . Mr. Clutter was fortunate to have the staff of Edgewood of Wellston to support him and help make this possible. They are special people who will continue to care about Ronald."

The transition coordinator identified and secured appropriate, affordable housing in his hometown and worked with the PASSPORT case manager to secure long-term care services for him in Toronto, Ohio. They assisted his daughter in purchasing the household items he would need to successfully transition into an apartment.

After Ronald's move to Toronto, his daughter told the transition coordinator, "He is a different person now, smiling all the time." She said she visited her father last Saturday and found him enjoying leisure time with his new neighbor.

Her father is now living with old friends, too, and his family is close by so they can visit him regularly. The AAA7 transition coordinator spoke to Mr. Clutter on his new cell phone and he was doing well. He was waiting for a visit from his PASSPORT home health aide. He said he has everything he needs and is happy since he is on his own again.

This article was provided by Beverley Laubert, Ohio Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

## Spotlight on Choice: The Wonderful Choice of Returning Home (continued) Two Profiles of Recently Transitioned HOME Choice Participants

### Sandra Sterba

Sandra Sterba was referred to the HOME Choice program on October 29, 2008, and moved into her new apartment on January 28, 2009, with The Ability Center of Greater Toledo providing transition coordination services for her.

ODJFS staff Erika Robbins and Brock Robertson had the honor of meeting Ms. Sterba in her apartment in April. Of her new home and life, Ms. Sterba told them, "This is a home -- much better than the nursing home! The activities are the best part of living here. I love being active, not having to sign in or out, and having a place of my own with my own stuff."

Ms. Sterba spent three and a half years in a nursing home before moving into her new apartment near downtown Toledo. The apartment complex has a general store, a social service office, offers numerous social activities and is near a bus line.

Ms. Sterba is grateful for the assistance she received through the HOME Choice program. The program provided transition coordination, funds to pay her rent deposit and funds to purchase furniture for the apartment, startup grocery items, bus passes, a computer, a JAWS 10 software program to assist with reading and computer use for persons with visual impairments.

CareStar, Ms. Sterba's case management agency, continues to assist her and she is taking advantage of independent living skills training through the Ability Center of Greater Toledo to improve her ability to live on her own.

## Spotlight on Stakeholders

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (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:

The **Front Door Stakeholder Group** worked for many months with the Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities, and Aging to propose modifications to Ohio's Preadmission Screening and Resident Review Policy (PASRR). The group has worked diligently to craft policy changes that (1) enable Ohioans flexibility and choice as well as placement in the most appropriate settings; and (2) clarify and simplify PASRR processes for providers and local and state administrators.

Ohio Administrative Code Rules around PASRR were placed into clearance for stakeholder feedback on April 22, 2009. ODJFS appreciates and thanks the following organizations for the many hours of work and intense energy necessary to reach consensus on key policy areas: **County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Superintendents Association, Ohio Council for Home Care, Ohio Health Care Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health Care Providers, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes, Centers for Independent Living, Ohio Olmstead Task Force, Area Agencies on Aging and Ohio Legal Rights Services.**

Special recognition and thanks are due to **Megan Lisboa, Ombudsman with the Regional Long Term Care Ombudsmen Program in Central Ohio** for her advocacy for the elderly, persons with mental illness and persons with physical disabilities. Ms. Lisboa worked with the Delaware County Housing Association to ensure that a grant for young adult housing includes Ohioans needing housing because of a nursing facility placement. ODJFS applauds this wonderful advocacy!

**The Ability Center of Greater Toledo** has developed a transition coordination database and is willing to share it with other transition coordinators! Many thanks and congratulations to the Ability Center staff for the countless hours put into the database and for the generosity to share it. The database tracks all components of transition coordination work, includes the components of the Relocation Handbook, tracks expenditures and time, and is an excellent resource for coordination with the case manager.

Transition coordinators that are interested in viewing and possibly using the database for their own transition coordination activities should notify ODJFS at [mfp@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:mfp@jfs.ohio.gov) for an opportunity to learn more.

## HOME Choice Statistics

Here are the statistics for the HOME Choice program as of press-time.

- 149 consumers enrolled and moved to community
- 584 people have applied
- 45 transition coordination agencies providing services in each of Ohio's 88 counties
- 115 agency service providers
- 141 non-agency service providers

The HOME Choice program accepts referrals from any source. Please help to get the word out! If you know anyone who is interested in transitioning into a community setting, please notify the ODJFS HOME Choice Intake and Care Coordination Unit toll-free at (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 information.

## HOME Choice Fares Well at National Conference

Five staff members from the Medicaid sister agencies represented Ohio at the federally funded National Money Follows the Person (MFP) Conference in Baltimore on March 2-4. They were Erika Robbins and Laurie Damon from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services; LaTosha Still from the Ohio Department of Aging; Jane Black from the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities; and Terry Watts from the Ohio Department of Mental Health.

Each of the 31 states receiving MFP grants participated in the conference, which included sessions on home and community-based service programs, community inclusion, self-direction, housing and direct service workforce. Ohio received much interest in its HOME Choice program and many positive comments on its poster session.

Presentations and handouts from the conference are available at <http://www.taformfp.com/TAforMFP/nationalConference.aspx>.

## Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Awards 25 Vouchers to HOME Choice Participants

In April 2009, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) became the first public housing authority in Ohio to approve an award of 25 vouchers to participants of HOME Choice. It has also agreed to work with area Transition Coordinators to access additional vouchers throughout the grant's demonstration period.

The 25 vouchers are designated for persons with disabilities receiving assistance from Services for Independent Living and Connections- Health. Wellness. Advocacy.

ODJFS thanks CMHA's Priscilla Pointer-Hicks for her advocacy and partnership on behalf of Ohioans with disabilities in need of housing support!

## Introducing HOME Choice's Fiscal Agent: JEVS

To effectively manage HOME Choice financial services, ODJFS has contracted with JEVS (Jewish Employment and Vocational Services), a fiscal agent with an extensive background in providing fiscal management services for state programs. JEVS' responsibilities to the HOME Choice program include:

- Processing and paying for pre-approved goods and services for consumers enrolled on the HOME Choice program.
- Managing the individual budgets of HOME Choice consumers.
- Providing monthly and quarterly budget reports to HOME Choice consumers
- Paying HOME Choice providers for supplemental and demonstration services.

HOME Choice transition coordinators or providers who have questions about payment requests or reimbursements should call JEVS toll-free at 1 (866) 940- 1934. In addition, steps for applying for reimbursement can be found at provider page on the HOME Choice website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/providers/HOMEChoice.stm>

Although JEVS provides payments to HOME Choice providers, it does not manage HOME Choice provider enrollment. HOME Choice provider enrollment is handled by the Bureau of Community Services Policy at the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. (Please see HOME Choice Providers Needed on page 5.)

## A Review of HOME Choice Services

Many people ask what services HOME Choice provides and how they are different from other programs, such as waiver programs. HOME Choice is a demonstration program, funded by a “Money Follows the Person” grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. It is different from other programs because it “transitions” people who are living in a long-term care facility or an intermediate care facility/mental retardation (ICFMR) into the community – or “home.” For an example of how it has helped people to transition, please see page 1, **The Wonderful Choice of Returning Home.**

HOME Choice provides services in three categories:

1. **Qualified Services**, which mean participants in the HOME Choice program will likely enroll on one of Ohio’s existing waiver programs or on the Medicaid State Plan program.
2. **Demonstration Services**, which are available during the 365-day demonstration period after transitioning (except for community transition services that can be accessed through the pre-transition phase – that is, before the participant moves “home.”) These include goods and services to help transition to the community, independent living skills training, a community support coach, HOME Choice nursing, social work and counseling, and nutritional consultation.
3. **Supplemental Services**, which are also available during the 365-day demonstration (except for transition coordination). Supplemental services include communication aids and service animals.

### Types of Services for Consumers and Providers Who Can Provide Them

- o **Independent Living Skills Training.** Independent Living Skills Training develops or increases a person’s knowledge or ability to live independently. Training such as this is especially critical for people who lived in a facility or ICFMR for a long time and who are accustomed to relying on others. Independent Living Skills Training can be provided to participants one-on-one, or in a group or classroom setting, and can be provided by non-profit agencies or by an Ohio Department of Mental Health-certified center.
- o **Community Support Coach.** A community support coach is someone who provides guidance and education to empower HOME Choice participants, their authorized representatives or their family members. Coaches help participants learn to make informed independent decisions; set and achieve goals; identify and solve problems; and manage multiple tasks. The coach must have personal experience in successfully transitioning either themselves or other people into the community. Coaches can be non-agency providers or can work for an agency.
- o **Nursing.** HOME Choice participants can receive intermittent nursing care in amounts greater than is available in Medicaid State Plan. Nursing can be provided by an accredited home health agency, as well as by a non-agency provider.

- o **Social Work/Counseling Services.** Social work and counseling services are available to HOME Choice participants to promote physical, social and emotional well-being. Social work and counseling services can be provided by agency or non-agency providers.
- o **Nutritional Consultation Service.** This service provides guidance to participants with special dietary needs, taking into consideration their cultural and ethnic background, and dietary preferences or restrictions.
- o **Communication Aids.** HOME Choice provides participants aids to help communicate in a personal or community setting, such as augmentative communication devices or systems, computers and computer equipment; mechanical and electronic communication devices; cable and Internet access; and cost of the installation, repair maintenance and support of any covered communication aid. Providers for this service include Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers who have signed a HOME Choice addendum.
- o **Service Animals.** Service animals available to HOME Choice participants include seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, and service monkeys. Services include the first-year costs associated with raising of the animal; housing, feeding; upkeep and medical care of the animal during training; training of the animal and related transportation and administrative activities; and equipment and supplies. Service animal services are provided through agencies that have been certified by the Ohio Department of MRDD.
- o **Community Transition Services.** This service provides HOME Choice participants up to \$2000 in goods and services that will help them to successfully transition to the community, such as paying for utility deposits and furniture or household items.

We encourage HOME Choice transition coordinators and case managers to make program participants aware of all the demonstration and supplemental services available to them in the first 365 days, so participants can take full advantage of them.

## It Is Easy to Become a HOME Choice Provider

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is pleased to report that it has least one transition coordinator providing services in each of Ohio's 88 counties. And, the list of demonstration and service providers continues grow. However, more providers are needed and we continue to recruit them for the HOME Choice Transition Program.

The customer-friendly enrollment process to become a HOME Choice provider makes it simple to enroll and reimbursement through JEVS is easy. Please visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm> to find all you need to know about becoming a provider for the HOME Choice program. The website includes:

- Fact sheets, applications, and reimbursement rates for each provider
- A Provider Tool Kit with information about the HOME Choice rules, incident reporting and more.
- A list of enrolled providers for each demonstration and supplemental service.

ODJFS processes accurately completed applications within five business days. Applications with errors are returned to the sender for more (or the correct) information.

The HOME Choice program currently needs more:

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

If you are part of an association, please share our recruitment needs with your members and encourage them to apply!

## Training for Transition Coordinators and Case Managers Fills Room

The March 13 training for transition coordinators and case managers, which was re-scheduled from January 28 because of bad weather, was filled to capacity. More than 100 people attended the event held at the Ohio Department of Commerce in Franklin County to hear about transition coordinating and case managing roles, forms and processes. This training was a repeat of the training held in Fall 2008 due to popular demand.

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

As well as the training, bi-monthly conference calls continue to be held for transition coordinators and case managers. Each call dedicates one hour to a particular topic and a second hour to an open forum to allow for problem-solving and sharing of best practices.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming calls. ODJFS will e-mail reminders and agendas to all for whom it has e-mail addresses. To be added to the e-mail list, please e-mail [MFP@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:MFP@jfs.ohio.gov) and ask to be added to the list.

**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 code 647765#.

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](mailto: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.

### 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.

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.