



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 15, 2020

Kevin R. Walter, Press Secretary, Ohio Department of Medicaid
614-752-3688 | kevin.walter@medicaid.ohio.gov

Lisa Lawless, Communications Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
614-813-5358 | lisa.lawless@medicaid.ohio.gov

Pacesetter prize awarded to Ohio Medicaid for improvements in long-term services and supports

Ohio MyCare program and other Medicaid-funded waivers recognized for collaborative policies and practices that advance care for older adults and people with disabilities

Columbus, OH – The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has been awarded the Pacesetter Prize by The SCAN Foundation in recognition of its continued efforts to improve the lives of older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers across the state. ODM was specifically recognized for its leadership in transitioning people who need long-term services and supports (LTSS) out of institutions and back into the community.

Determined by an analysis of Ohio's performance on [AARP's 2020 Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard](#), ODM was honored as the Pacesetter Prize winner because of its collaboration with sister state agencies and stakeholders in developing innovative practices to improve care transitions throughout the state. They include:

- Launching the ODM [HOME Choice](#) transitions program to leverage [Money Follows the Person](#) (MFP) funding and integrate transitions into multiple facets of its state LTSS programs. Since 2008, HOME Choice has transitioned more than 14,000 individuals from institutional to home- or community-based settings.
- MyCare and fee for service 1915(c) waiver programs added community transition services to their service packages to advance the goal of balancing Ohio's LTSS and to make HOME Choice permanent and financially sustainable.
- MyCare and Medicaid-funded waivers added community integration services as part of waiver alignment to provide additional supports to individuals assisted by the MFP program.
- Funding two programs – *Recovery Requires a Community* and *Access Success II* – operated by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) to support successful transitions.
 - *Recovery Requires a Community* offers support to people with behavioral health challenges transitioning out of a nursing facility. It facilitated more than 1,500 community transitions since 2015.
 - *Access Success II* focuses on transitioning individuals from state psychiatric hospitals to community settings. During state fiscal year 2019, 49 individuals returned to community residences and receive ongoing supports.
- Supporting [Ohio's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program](#) in partnership with the Ohio Department of Aging. The program addresses skilled nursing facility closures and facilitates transition assistance to community based LTSS programs.



Department of Medicaid

Mike DeWine, Governor
Maureen M. Corcoran, Director

NEWS RELEASE MEDICAID.OHIO.GOV

“We are both honored and humbled by this recognition,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid. “The progress made to safely transition Ohioans back to their hometown communities comes through commitment, collaboration and caring – characteristics that will enable Ohio to one day ensure every resident facing physical, mental or developmental hardships has the option and resources available to live as independently and productively as possible.”

The LTSS State Scorecard finds national and state support for long-term services and supports (LTSS) is trending in the right direction overall, but more needs to be done, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By 2030, 20% of the nation’s population will be age 65 or older, and more than 70% of Americans who reach age 65 will require a high level of assistance for a period of time with LTSS, such as bathing, eating, dressing, and transportation, among other routine activities. These services are costly, running up to \$100,000 a year for nursing home care and \$59,000 annually for a home health aide, whose services can be difficult to access depending on where you live.

The AARP Scorecard and The SCAN Foundation’s data analysis paint a picture of LTSS system performance *prior to* the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has drawn attention to why strong LTSS systems are needed in every state.

“The Pacesetter Prize was created in recognition of states ‘setting the pace’ for building a high-performing system of care for people who need long-term services and supports,” said Bruce Chernof, president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. “Winning states have made a fundamental commitment at every level of government to build infrastructure that supports people as they age. These states are leading the way and encouraging other states to consider opportunities for improvement.”

To learn more about The SCAN Foundation and Pacesetter Prize, visit [2020 Pacesetter Award](#).

###

About The SCAN Foundation

The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence.