



HOME
Choice

Bulletin

Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

HOME CHOICE TRANSITIONS EXCEED 6,000!



Innovation and collaboration are two cornerstones necessary in building a Medicaid program that is both sustainable and of high quality. Seemingly, any initiative undertaken by the Ohio Department of Medicaid is founded on these core values. The Ohio HOME Choice program not only exemplifies these principles, but also illustrates the great work that is achieved when dedicated individuals share a common goal.

In March, HOME Choice reached another milestone as we completed our 6,000th institution-to-community transition. In fact, since the start of 2011, the program

has seen more than 5,000 individuals complete home and community-based transitions.

News like this is gaining national attention. The program leads the nation in transitioning individuals who live with mental illness and ranks second in overall transitions. In recent years, the Department of Medicaid has added staff to its HOME Choice program so more residents may have the opportunity to receive long-term care services and supports in the community.

Together, with our external partners across Ohio, we are moving the needle. This most recent achievement is a collective one and any commendation should be shared with all those who are working to build a better Ohio.

I ask that you join me in recognizing this latest HOME Choice achievement.

John B. McCarthy



Director, The Ohio Department of Medicaid

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“The program leads the nation in transitioning individuals who live with mental illness and ranks second in overall transitions.”



HOME Choice Operations Manager, Jane Black, third from left, and Community Living Administrator Jessica Hawk, receive the Nationwide Children's Hospital 2015 Compassionate Partner of the Year Award.

HOME CHOICE HONORED

NATIONWIDE HOSPITAL'S
COMPASSIONATE
PARTNER OF THE YEAR

THE HOME CHOICE PROGRAM WAS HONORED THIS SPRING AS NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S 2015 COMPASSIONATE PARTNER OF THE YEAR. THE HOSPITAL GAVE THE HONOR IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH.

The Compassionate Partner of the Year is awarded to an agency or organization in the community that collaborates with Nationwide Children's Hospital to foster better health outcomes for patients.

On March 24, HOME Choice staff members Jane Black and Jessica Hawk accepted the award on behalf of the program and received special recognition for their work in the HOME Choice Operations unit.

Angela Osalt Morelli, a social worker in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Nationwide Children's Hospital, praised HOME Choice saying, "The HOME Choice program staff go above and beyond to assist children and families transitioning from a long-term inpatient stay to their home."

NICU social work staff referred nearly 100 families to the program in 2014, and most families followed through in

linking up with the program.

"HOME Choice staff are tireless in their efforts," Morelli says. "Their support in assisting with these families is invaluable."

Please congratulate Jane, Jessica and the rest of the HOME Choice team on this achievement!

SEE RELATED STORY, "BABY BRODRICK COMES HOME"
ON PAGE 5

INTRODUCING... OHIO BENEFITS LONG-TERM CARE

Later this year, Ohio Medicaid will launch *Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care*. The new website is part of Ohio's efforts related to the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP). This federally funded program incentivizes states to improve access to home and community-based long-term services and supports while also balancing all long-term care spending.

Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care is the State of Ohio's new single-entry point system for accessing long-term care services and supports. It takes a "no wrong door" approach to linking individuals to vital information and helps ensure that they are aware of options to receive services at home or in the community.

The program goals include furthering balancing efforts by ensuring individuals are provided options for services at home; streamlining access and breaking down barriers to better link individuals to information; improving system performance by streamlining the eligibility

and enrollment process related to assessments, determinations, and services; and improving quality measurement and oversight by developing a process for conflict-free case management.

Ohio's Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN) will serve as the lead for single entry point (SEP) agencies, which will work with ODM to provide a physical location for accessing services. Other components of the "no wrong door system" will include the *Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care* information and referral website, which will include an online portal for individuals interested in accessing services, and a new statewide toll-free number that will connect individuals with the SEP in their area.

No matter the age, disability, or potential outcome for individuals, the *Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care* system will link them with the appropriate resources that fit their needs.

SAVE THE DATE!

THIRD ANNUAL HOME CHOICE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

**DOWNTOWN HILTON
COLUMBUS**

*This year's theme is **Twenty-Five Years of Empowerment, Celebrating the ADA in Ohio.***

Once again, the conference will offer exciting and inspirational plenary speakers, including Josh Rogers from the Department of Justice as well as 10 informative breakout sessions. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered for most sessions and the conference is offered at no cost to participants.

REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

*Last year's conference, **Making the Journey: Empowerment, Community, Inclusion**, sold out in three weeks! It was a huge success with more than 325 participants from across the state and more than 25 presenters from across the country. Guests were inspired by the message from our plenary presenters, Al Condeluci and Derrick Dufresne.*

The conference also honored the legacy of Deborah Nebel, a true champion, advocate and tireless worker for the rights of those with disabilities in Ohio.

Ohio

Benefits

LONG-TERM CARE
benefits.ohio.gov/longtermcare

ODM SUBMITS PLAN TO SUSTAIN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HOME CHOICE PROGRAM

Ohio's HOME Choice program will remain strong and viable through 2020 and beyond according to Project Manager Kim Donica. The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will receive Money Follows the Person (MFP) funding to continue the highly successful HOME Choice program through 2020.

However, under Kim's leadership, ODM has developed and submitted a sustainability plan to CMS, which is intended to extend the program well beyond 2020. Stakeholders from the across the state, including the Ohio Olmstead Task Force and HOME Choice Advisory Council, provided important feedback to develop the plan.

Key components of the plan include:

- » A review of the current services provided to individuals in the program
- » Continued staffing for the program
- » State's plan to use all the rebalancing funds by September 30, 2020
- » Stakeholder involvement
- » Timeline for all activities.

Ohio is excited that HOME Choice will continue long into the future!

PROGRAM ACTIVITY AS OF 4/30/15

Program Area	Indicator	Statistic
Program Transitions	Current Number of Enrollees	1,237
	New To-Date in 2015	480
	Total Transitions To-Date (since 2008)	6,293
Current Transitions By Age Group	Children (Birth to 21)	22.9%
	Adult (Ages 22-59)	46.7%
	Elderly (Ages 60+)	30.4%
Waiver Activity: Proportion of Current Transitions	On Waivers	39.5%
	Non-Waiver	60.5%
Candidates in the Pipeline	Applications Received or Approved (not yet assessed)	9
	Assessed and in Pre-Transition Stage	1,239

HOME CHOICE ADVISORY COUNCIL SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The Council is comprised of 10 to 15 members from across the State of Ohio representing older adults and all disability groups, including children and youth (i.e., parents or legal guardians). It typically meets six times a year in Columbus. Attendance by phone is an option.

Its purpose is to provide direction on the policy and implementation of the Ohio

HOME Choice program and to advise state agencies, the state legislature, and interested parties on policy initiatives that affect the long-term services and supports system in Ohio.

The Council addresses issues of access and entry into the service delivery system, services and supports, self-direction, housing, and health and human service workforce

development, to name a few areas. It also provides leadership in encouraging greater advocacy across disability groups and provides support and guidance to local advocacy efforts.



Looking for more information?

Contact Rajai Saleh, coordinator
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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.

BABY BRODRICK COMES HOME

By Alexandria Cooper, Transitional Services Supervisor and CareStar HOME Choice Case Manager



Brodrick weighed only 1 pound when he was born four months early. His parents, Brian and Latoya, were more concerned with the fact that he was in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus than the fact their home was not yet ready for a newborn.

However, Kathy Garrison, a social worker at the hospital, suggested HOME Choice to the parents. Latoya says she thought the program was too good to be true because she and her husband are both employed full-time and do not typically qualify for assistance. Latoya said she was in disbelief when the Pre-Transition Case Manager, Rachel Dennis, with CareStar, called to assess Brodrick for the program.

Soon after he was approved for HOME Choice the Transition Coordinator, Liz Schwab with Franklin County Family and Children First Council, became involved in Brodrick's case. Latoya developed strong working relationships with both Rachel and Liz. In conjunction with Latoya, Brian and the team at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Rachel and Liz orchestrated a safe discharge plan for Brodrick.

Latoya and Brian are fervent advocates for their son, and it was a pleasure to help them with Brodrick's transition home. I am now involved with the family, and am working to ensure Brodrick's health and happiness. The parents provide a supportive atmosphere for their son, and because of their dedication and the teamwork of the Pre-Transition Case Manager and the Transition Coordinator, I now work with Latoya on anticipatory and preventative measures for Brodrick's health.

Having HOME Choice assist with Brodrick's discharge has improved the family's quality of life. The program also provided additional joy and anticipation for Brodrick to come home during a stressful time. Latoya said the bottom line is, "We got him home."

I look forward to continuing to work with the Brodrick's family to ensure his success in the community.

“We got him home.”

ERNEST: LIFE IS MINE AGAIN!

By Tiffany Tierney, Ability Center of Toledo (ACT) Community Support Coach



"In life you must believe in yourself because everything else will fade. Never give up." This is Ernest's mantra, who never lost faith in himself.

"Before the nursing facility," he says, "I enjoyed life. I traveled, fished, cooked out, enjoyed my motorcycle . . . I was happy."

Three years ago, Ernest returned from Florida with back pain. An MRI indicated he had an infection in his back. Doctors told Ernest he could lose his ability to walk. He did and Ernest began to use a wheelchair. Then he went into a nursing facility.

"Having to stay at a nursing facility for three years was difficult. I did not think I was going to get better so I resigned myself to living there. At first, I isolated myself from residents and staff. I never left my room. It was difficult to adjust to roommates. Though my family and I were close, only my Momma was there every other day."

One day, a fellow resident invited Ernest to go to the mall. Leaving the facility for a few hours put Ernest on a new path. "We people watched and laughed!" Ernest remembers, smiling. "The worry of using a wheelchair faded. It was the first time I had fun since being in the nursing facility. The mall became my salvation. To get out and just 'be' was amazing."

One day, Ernest's friend told him he was leaving the nursing facility because he was getting his own place through a program called HOME Choice. He encouraged Ernest to apply for HOME Choice.

"My Transition Coordinator, Becky Strieff from the Ability Center told me I could do anything! She helped me find the perfect place. The minute I saw it, I was ready to sign the papers. She also helped me find household items."

"In January 2014, I moved out. It was scary. It took three months of living independently to feel comfortable. Now, I have services through waiver, home care nursing and aide assistance, an Independent Living Skills and Community Support Coach, and transportation through Toledo Area Regional Paratransit Service (TARPS). I wake up on my schedule, cook what I want, take TARPS to the grocery store, the park, zoo, etc. I have a choice! HOME Choice provided me the opportunity and I am thankful."

"The Ability Center has emboldened me to go further. I have my Bachelor's in marketing and plan to pursue a Master's degree. I also would like to fish, drive and work again. Life is my choice!"

“ I have a choice! HOME Choice provided me the opportunity and I am thankful. ”

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 mfp@medicaid.ohio.gov if you have comments, information to share, or would like to be added to our e-mail list.

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