



Department of Medicaid

John R. Kasich, Governor

John B. McCarthy, Director

SSI Ohio Project

Leah Werner

July 15, 2014



SSI Ohio Project

Goal:

Move Ohio's most vulnerable populations into better housing opportunities by securing a source of income thru SSI/SSDI



SSI Ohio Project

Population Target

- Individuals 18 and older
- With a disability
- Homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- Exiting institutions - HOME Choice



SSI Ohio Project

Benefits of the Project

- Expedite the SSI/SSDI application process
- Increase the amount of individuals receiving SSI/SSDI benefits the first time
- Avoid appeals and consultative examinations
- Free! No lawyers fees or risk of cases being dragged out unnecessarily!

What are SSI Specialists?

SSI/SSDI Specialist are:

- Trained professionals that use the SSI/SSDI Pro module within the Ohio Benefit Bank and the SOAR methodology
- Located throughout the state – 54 Counties
- Collect all of the needed documentation and complete the applications the Right Way the First Time!!



SSI Ohio Project & Home Choice Partnership

- Piloted in 2010, became permanent in 2011
- SSI Ohio Specialists will take referrals from TCs for clients preparing to exit an institution within 90 days of anticipated discharge
- TCs and PTCMs can focus on other transition planning while the SSI Ohio Specialist works on income
- Tag team approach
- SSI Ohio Specialists will work with clients even after they exit to get a decision
- SSI Ohio Specialist will make referrals as needed



SSI Ohio Project & Home Choice Partnership

Critical to the success of SSI Ohio and HOME
Choice Partnership..

- **Good referrals!**
- Question 17 on Readiness for Community Living Questionnaire (administered by PTCMs)
 - ✓ ‘Do you have any of the following sources of monthly income?’
SSI ___ SSDI ___ VA Benefits ___ Other ___ **NO** 



Strengthening the Partnership: SSI Specialists and TCs

- Trainings with SSI Specialists about HOME Choice & TC training about SSI Ohio
- Data Sharing between COHHIO and ODM:
Number and outcome of HOME Choice Referrals to SSI Specialists by location/region
- HOME Choice/COHHIO staff work to Identify and address communication challenges for referrals



Where are the SSI Ohio Specialists?

- There are currently SSI Ohio Specialists serving over 54 counties.
- To locate the SSI Ohio Specialist go to:
www.cohhio.org → SSI Ohio → Locate Specialists

The SSI Ohio Specialist list changes-
Please double check before a referral!



SSI Ohio Project

Contact Information

Leah Werner – Agreement Manager ODM

Leah.Werner@medicaid.ohio.gov

614-752-3406

OR

Raven Ogelsby – Project Manager COHHIO

ravenbias@cohhio.org

614-280-1984 ext.28



SSI Ohio Project

Questions from the field!

If a TC has a client that has already submitted an SSI application and are waiting for approval should the TC still refer the client to an SSI Ohio Specialist?

Yes, make the referral! The specialist will determine weather of not it makes sense to intervene.



SSI Ohio Project

Questions from the field!

What do you do if you don't have a SSI Ohio Specialist serving your county?

When there isn't a SSI Specialists in a county area the PTCM or TC can call Raven Oglesby (COHHIO Project Manager) directly and if it is not extremely far away she will try to see if there is a Specialist that can travel to work with the client. If the Specialist is available she makes sure that the TC and Specialist are in contact with each other.



SSI Ohio Project

Questions from the field!

Can a non TC make a referral to a SSI Ohio Specialist?

Yes! HOME Choice Case managers, Nursing Home Case managers etc..have all made referrals to the SSI Ohio Project in the past.



SSI Ohio Project

Questions from the field!

What is the average length of time between a referral to SSI Ohio and a face to face meeting with the client and specialist?

Approximately, one week. Note, HOME Choice clients are moved to the top of SSI Specialists client list. Also, an application cannot be submitted to an SSI office until 30 days before anticipated discharge from a NF.



Questions?
Comments?
Concerns?