

## 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 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

## Money Follows the Person Funding Extended!

With the passage of health care reform, specifically Section 2403 of the Quality, Affordable Health Care for All Americans Act of 2010, the funding for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant has been extended an additional five years through 2016.

Awards made in 2016 are available for expenditure in 2016 and for four additional years (see DRA of 2005, Section 6071 (e)(2)). The legislation provided an additional appropriation of \$2.25 billion.

This brings the total appropriation for the MFP Rebalancing Demonstration Project to \$4 billion through 2016. As readers of this newsletter know, MFP assists states in their efforts to reduce reliance on institutional care, develop community-based long-term care opportunities, and transition individuals living in institutions to community living. The act also reduces the eligibility requirement for a participant to be in an institution from six months to three months before a transition can occur within certain guidelines.

In addition, ODJFS is pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved of its supplemental Home Choice funding request. The additional funding will support expanded outreach initiatives as ODJFS continues its efforts to identify individuals who can use HOME Choice programs such as outreach and partnership development, and to better accommodate individuals with mental illnesses who might require additional services and supports. It will also fund programs designed to facilitate the success of individuals once they are living in the community.

## HOME Choice Now Transitioning Children

The operational protocol for Ohio's Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project, HOME Choice, stipulates that children will be transitioned to the community, as well as adults. Although the eligibility criteria for children are the same as for adults, during the creation of the program, ODJFS focused on adults. Now that the adult transitions are happening routinely, JFS has turned its attention to the younger population.

To date, 11 children have transitioned from long-term care facilities to the community. Most of them have moved back with their families or to group homes. Children who are transition candidates tend to be in residential treatment facilities (RTFs) and have mental health needs. Before Ohio could begin transitioning children, however, ODJFS had to obtain special permission from CMS for RTFs to be "qualified institutions" for the HOME Choice program.

Most of the transitioned children do not need waiver services, so organizing their treatment plans outside the RTFs requires special attention. To that end, 11 Family and Children First Councils (FCFCs) have collaborated with ODJFS to focus specifically on children. They, along with CareStar, the case management agency for the Ohio Home Care program, are members of the treatment team for children served by the HOME Choice program. FCFCs and CareStar participate in monthly conference calls for technical assistance and discussion.

The partnerships have proved successful, and Ohio looks forward to transitioning more children to homes and the community through HOME Choice.

## HOME Choice Success Stories

### Carla Nance – Happy to Be Home

*By Michael Stelzer, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program – Area Agency on Aging – 3*

Carla Nance, a 53-year-old mother of three with two grandchildren, all in Lima, has been in her apartment since Thanksgiving 2009 and could not be happier. Although her daughter visited her regularly at the nursing home, the nursing home environment was uncomfortable for the grandchildren, who are now 4 and 8. Carla was in four nursing homes for six and a half years prior to moving to her own apartment through the HOME Choice program. She said the facilities were “nice, but none were like home.”

Carla has had rheumatoid arthritis since she was 47 and had knee replacement surgery five years ago. Her first attempt to leave the nursing home through the HOME Choice program was delayed because she was ruled ineligible due to her extensive care needs. Carla was devastated. She was tired of people telling her, “No.” She almost gave up, but her transition coordinator, Mike Stelzer, LTCOP – Area Agency on Aging 3, would not let her. Mike saw potential in Carla and explained to her why she was determined ineligible for the program. She needed to do more for herself and to be a “one-person assist” before she could leave the nursing home.

Carla became determined. Within a month, through her hard work in therapy and with many empowering conversations with Mike, she became a one-person assist and mastered using a transfer pole to get herself out of bed. In the meantime, a first-floor apartment was located for her near her daughter’s home.

Carla’s HOME Choice money was used to make a down payment on the apartment, to purchase furniture and housewares, and to connect her utilities. Additionally, Carla used HOME Choice funds to purchase new door handles, which she needed because she was unable to grip and turn standard doorknobs. Carla’s new push-button door handles allow her providers, family, emergency medical responders and the apartment complex staff to use a code to enter in case of emergency.

Carla’s CareStar case manager helped her obtain adaptive equipment inside her apartment and helped her select a provider.

Now that she is in her own apartment, Carla receives regular visits from her two grandchildren, who sometimes spend the weekend, something that never would have happened in the nursing home. Her grandchildren are able to keep clean clothes and toys at her apartment, and they frequently watch TV and movies together. Carla’s grandson spent two weeks with her during his school’s Christmas break last year.

Carla’s in-home care consists of two nurse visits each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. They give her medications and apply pain patches for her arthritis. These aides get her up in the morning, do light housekeeping, and help her into bed at night. Carla also wears an emergency response button, which eliminated the need for night staff.

When asked what moving from the nursing home felt like, Carla stated, “It is wonderful!” She said she enjoys having no one tell her when to go to bed or what to do. She knows she still needs help, but she loves having her own home.

Regarding the HOME Choice program, Carla stated that without HOME Choice and help from her HOME Choice transition coordinator, she “would not be here.”



Carla Nance at home.

### Lee Kallas – At Home

After living five years in a Coshocton County nursing facility, Lee Kallas, is enjoying the pleasures of living in his own home. Lee, who is enrolled on the Individual Options waiver, has lived in a duplex with a living room, dining room, two bedrooms and two bathrooms since October 2009. His front porch and back deck are both wheelchair-accessible.

## Success Stories, Continued

Lee said the people in the nursing home “weren’t nice” to him. He is happy to have his own private bedroom with a TV.

Working at Hopewell Industries in Coshocton keeps Lee busy and provides him with a paycheck. He has recently explored the possibility of attending the Alternatives Day Habilitation Program, where he will get to participate in activities he enjoys such as drawing and coloring.

Lee is close to his family, especially his sister, Renee, and his nephew, Dennis.

“Dennis is a nice guy,” says Lee.

Dennis calls Lee regularly, and Lee plans to visit Dennis soon at his home in South Carolina. Renee was helpful to Lee during his transition process and continues to be active in his life. Lee often spends holidays with her and her family.



Lee Kallas

Lee’s home is filled with pictures of his family, and he requests pictures of all the family’s newborns. “I got a picture of Dennis,” he adds about his favorite nephew.

Lee’s staff, Doug, says the house is still being accommodated for Lee. For example, he has a washer, but no dryer yet. He has a lift recliner and is awaiting a new wheelchair fitted to his specifications. His sister, Renee, is making curtains for his bedroom and French doors.

Other people in Lee’s life include Paige Wright, his Coshocton County Board of Developmental Disabilities services and support administrator, and Barbara Mingione, his advocacy and protective services representative. Both women helped Lee to transition from the long-term care institution to the community.

“Lee always wanted to move,” says Barbara. She helped ensure that Lee’s medical issues were addressed so that he could live on his own safely. “I am real happy for him,” she says.

Paige, who still sees Lee about once a week, helped him complete the paperwork for HOME Choice and helped him to enroll on the Individual Options waiver. She also photographed Lee for this article.

Lee likes bowling, going out for coffee and movies with friends, and playing Bingo. He participates in a full life and is happy to be in his own home.

### **Edd Osborne Enjoys Living on Own**

*By Tiffany Tierney, Community Inclusion Coordinator/P.C.A., The Ability Center of Greater Toledo*

On April 29, 2010, I had a home visit with Edd Osborne. I asked him what his thoughts were on the HOME Choice program and living on his own. Edd said that he really enjoys living on his own. He expressed that he has been able to purchase everything that he has wanted to buy.

Preachers prayed for Edd when he was in the nursing home, and he says his prayers were answered. He was not fond of the years he spent in various nursing homes.

Without the HOME Choice program, Edd’s new journey would not have happened. He is grateful to Nicole Cape of the Ability Center of Greater Toledo for assisting him with the transition back into the community.

Edd also stated that if it were not for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, he would not be in the apartment that he calls home. He enjoys having the services that assist him on a daily basis: nurse, aide, physical therapy, etc. He is thankful for having an emergency response system. He feels safe.

Now that Edd is back in the community after more than 20 years, he would like to get involved in activities he enjoys related to animals and airplanes.

## HOME Choice Statistics

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

- 574 consumers enrolled
- 1,524 people have applied
- 139 agency service providers
- 182 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.

## Upcoming Events

### Our Choice: Living in the Community

The HOME Choice program is a cosponsor of the Our Choice: Living in the Community conference scheduled for May 26 - May 27 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. The conference is for Ohioans with disabilities, their families and advocates to learn about individual choice, services, programs, supports and resources for living in the community. Adults with disabilities and family members are eligible for free registration. For more information, please contact the AXIS Center, (614) 263-8076, [axiscenter@aol.com](mailto:axiscenter@aol.com).

### Brain Injury Support Group Meetings

The Access Center for Independent Living at 901 S. Ludlow St. in Dayton holds monthly support group meetings for individuals with brain injuries and family members. Upcoming meetings are from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on May 28 and June 25. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Donna Artis at (937) 341-5202 X 13 or [donna@acils.com](mailto:donna@acils.com).

### Personal Assistance Co-Op – Taking Control of Your Care Meetings

Personal Assistance Co-Op is a project of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Meetings cover topics such as consumer control, sharing aides, backup assistance, teamwork and more. Upcoming meetings will be held June 25, July 30, Aug. 27, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29 at 9 North Edwin C. Moses Blvd, Dayton. For information, contact Sheila Anderson at (937) 341-5202, voice; (937) 341-5218, TTY.

## Workforce News

### Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD)

MBIWD is an Ohio Medicaid program that provides health care coverage to working Ohioans with disabilities. Historically, people with disabilities were discouraged from working because their earnings made them ineligible for Medicaid coverage. MBIWD was created to enable Ohioans with disabilities to work and still keep their health care coverage.

#### Who is eligible?

To qualify for MBIWD, a person must:

- Be 16 to 64 years old
- Be determined disabled by the Social Security Administration or Ohio Medicaid or eligible under the MBIWD “medically improved” category
- Be employed in paid work (includes part-time and full-time work)
- Pay a premium (if applicable)
- Meet certain basic requirements and financial criteria.

### Premiums

Monthly premiums are required for those who are eligible for MBIWD and who have an annual gross income greater than 150 percent of the federal poverty level. To obtain and maintain health coverage, the full amount of the premium must be received by the due date or it will be considered non-payment.

For more information or to apply, please visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/mbiwd.stm>.

## News of Interest to Transition Coordinators, Case Managers and SSAs

### 2010 Bimonthly Conference Call Schedule

Mark your calendars to participate in conference calls designed to assist transition coordinators, case managers, and services and support administrators in helping HOME Choice consumers transition to the community. Calls will cover such topics as deliverables, revised forms, project flow (when to send documents to the HOME Choice Care Coordination and Intake Unit and when to send them to the fiscal agent, JEVS), and more.

The dates are **July 15, Sept. 16** and **Nov. 18**.

All conference calls will take place from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. The first hour is dedicated to the call topic, and the second hour is an open forum, in which participants will get the opportunity to problem-solve and learn best practices from each other.

The number for all calls is (866) 248-0561, access code \*2874427\*.

ODJFS will send an e-mail reminder and agenda before each call. If you would like to be added to our listserv, please contact [MFP@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:MFP@jfs.ohio.gov).

### Housing Update

**The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are partnering to allow rental assistance to support independent living for non-elderly people with disabilities.** Thousands of Americans living with disabilities will have community housing assistance specifically targeted to meet their needs, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan announced on April 7. As part of President Obama’s Year of Community Living initiative, HHS and HUD collaborated to provide housing support to allow non-elderly people with disabilities to live productive, independent lives in their communities rather than in institutional settings. HUD is offering approximately \$40 million to public housing authorities across the U.S. to fund approximately 5,300 Housing Choice Vouchers. HHS will use its network of state Medicaid agencies and local human service organizations to link eligible families to local housing agencies that will distribute the vouchers.

Of the 5,300 vouchers set aside for this program, up to 1,000 will be specifically targeted for non-elderly individuals with disabilities currently living in institutions but who could move into the community with assistance. The remaining 4,300 can be used for this purpose also, but are targeted for use by non-elderly disabled families in the community to allow them to access affordable housing that adequately meets their needs. Housing authorities have 90 days to submit their applications to HUD. HUD expects to have funding awards ready by late fall 2010. The vouchers will augment work already being done by CMS through its Money Follows the Person grant program.

## Update on Quality of Life Survey

In the last issue of the *HOME Choice Bulletin*, we reported that ODJFS contracted with the Columbus-based Strategic Research Group to conduct the federally required Quality of Life (QoL) Surveys with people who have transitioned under the HOME Choice Transition Program back to the community.

The QoL Survey is an essential part of the Money Follows the Person program in all states. It collects data about consumers' housing, access to care, community involvement, health and overall well-being.

To date, 410 baseline surveys and 58 follow-up surveys have been completed.

## News of Interest to Providers

### HOME Choice Looking for Providers

The HOME Choice program currently needs more:

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

Although the list of demonstration and service providers continues to grow, more providers are needed, and we continue to recruit them. If you are part of an association, please share our recruitment needs with your members and encourage them to apply!

- It is easy for providers to enroll. Everything you need to know can be found at <http://jfs.ohio.gov/OHP/consumers/homechoice.stm>.

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

## News of Interest to Consumers

### HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council Invites Applications

The Ohio Olmstead Task Force and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council are pleased to invite applications from those interested in becoming a member of the new HOME Choice Consumer Advisory Council. As Ohio embarks on an effort to reform its long term services and supports delivery system, input from those directly impacted by the system will be important and necessary.

The first council meeting will occur in late summer or early fall 2010. The following representatives are sought:

- Persons with developmental disabilities
- Persons who are elderly
- Persons with physical disabilities
- Family and/or legal representative of a child with a disability
- Persons with mental health disabilities
- Persons with traumatic brain injury
- Persons in active recovery from alcohol and/or other drug addiction/abuse.

If you are interested, please contact Shelley Papenfuse by June 30, 2010. Her contact information is as follows:

Shelley Papenfuse  
Ohio Olmstead Taskforce/Chair  
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo  
5605 Monroe St.  
Sylvania, OH 43560  
[shelley@abilitycenter.org](mailto:shelley@abilitycenter.org)

## Health Care Reform Law Requires Evaluation of 'Community First Choice Option'

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which President Obama signed on March 23, obligates the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to undertake a variety of reports, pilot projects and demonstrations. One provision requires the HHS secretary to conduct an evaluation of the "community first choice option" provision to determine the effectiveness of home and community-based service programs, as an alternative to institutional care. The evaluation must include the impact on participants' physical and emotional health and a comparative analysis of the costs.

An interim report is due to Congress by Dec. 31, 2013. A final report is due Dec. 31, 2015.

Excerpted from *Inside CMS* – [www.INSIDEHealthPolicy.com](http://www.INSIDEHealthPolicy.com) – April 2, 2010

### 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.

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.