

Pipeline Quarterly

Spring/Summer 2015

Opening Doors to the Community



Living, Working, and Learning in Their Communities

As we shared in the previous issue of *Pipeline Quarterly*, there are several factors that are driving change in Ohio's developmental disabilities system, including new directives from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and concerns brought forward last year by Disability Rights Ohio. Also, we are exploring opportunities to access additional federal and state funds that support more community-based services, and new or under-utilized options. DODD is re-evaluating every corner of the system through the eyes of people served.

These changes aren't new, and the system has been working together to build a quality future for all Ohioans. Many individuals have transitioned from larger, facility-based settings into community settings. House

Bill 64, the State's operating budget will support more of those transitions, adds 3,000 new Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers, and increases opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in their local communities.

DODD will continue to work with key stakeholders to plan for these transitions, and we will continue to ensure that people with developmental disabilities are at the table to have their voices heard. It is only through actively engaging in these discussions that we will learn what the future holds.

For Administration news and updates, visit the Department's website at DODD.ohio.gov/OurFuture. ■

Director's Message

Making Community Transitions Successful

Ohio's DD system has been through a lot of turmoil. As more people want participate in their community, and as there are changes at the federal level, we're making changes such as designing new models for day services, consolidating Developmental Centers (DC), and modernizing the Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) program.

One of the main reasons change is stressful is the unknown – families don't know what to expect because they've never experienced it. For example, not everyone is familiar with what a waiver is, and that ICFs offer the same level of service and supervision as DCs.

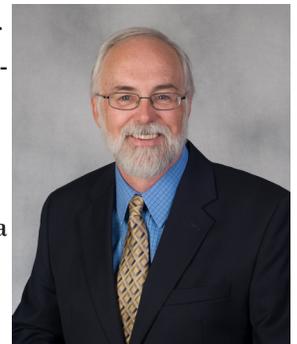
While there's apprehension on the front end, as there is with any change, many people have moved to new homes and jobs in the community, and are safe, happy, healthy, and successful. We wanted to share some of their stories so you can see what it looks like, and hear from them about how their move went.

Transitions aren't always easy, and there's always the chance that you'll experience challenges – that's true for some of the people we're highlighting. By identifying what those challenges may be and providing support to address them, those transitions can be successful. This issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* also highlights some of the many supports that are available to help people transition in to the community.

If you make a move, we're here to help, and to ensure you're doing well – you're never on your own.

I hope that, by reading and seeing these stories, you'll have a better idea of what different settings look like, and how people can and have safely transitioned to a community setting. Knowing more about your options and the supports that are available to help you transition will show you what's possible. ■

Sincerely, John Martin



John L. Martin
DODD Director

Learning from Transitions

Following up with John, David, Shirley, and Marsha

Over the past several years, DODD has followed the progress of many people who have moved from larger, more institutional settings into smaller community-based settings. This trend toward greater independence with supports as-needed continues to gain strength across the state and nation. DODD recently followed up with a few individuals, families, and caregivers to see how they are doing, and learn what made these transitions successful.

We learned that sometimes you have to make a change to make it work.

John Hutchinson was featured in the [Summer 2013 Pipeline Quarterly](#), when he had just moved into a home in Clinton County, along with a roommate. While this worked well for some time, the roommate arrangement did not pan out in the long-run. John now lives by himself in a community home setting, and is very happy.

“The home where John previously lived now has three men living there, and all three are doing great,” noted Kim Doss, Clinton County Board Service and Support Director. “They are closer in age and have more in common with one another.”



Shirley shows off her needlework, and John enjoys a snack.

We learned that sometimes you get it right the first time.

David and Shirley Cox continue to enjoy living in a lovely, accessible home in the community, along with their roommate, Christina Penttilla. They also live in Clinton County, and according to Doss, are doing great.

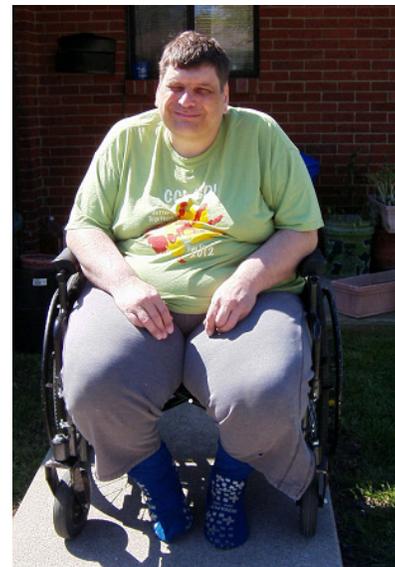
“David and Shirley have both retired, so they are able to enjoy even more time together in their community

Right: John Hutchinson, featured on the cover now and in Summer 2013, loves to sit outside in the sunshine in his Clinton County neighborhood.

Below: Marsha Mace in her host home.



setting,” she said.



The Clinton County Residential Advisory Council is very pleased with the satisfaction shown by individuals who have moved into seven different community settings, and is planning to purchase a duplex that can serve two to four people.

We learned that sometimes it takes an extended family to make it work.

Marsha Mace and her extended family, the Sheplers, spoke to DODD Family Advisory Council last year. Marsha has lived with the Sheplers for a few years following

See How are they doing? on page 5

Living in the Community

In 2014, 48 individuals moved from ICFs into a community-based setting, and 38 individuals moved from a Developmental Center into a community-based setting.

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Director's Message ... | 2 |
| Learning From Transitions ... | 3 |
| Everyone's at the Kitchen Table in Geurnsey County ... | 4 |
| Thriving in Community Employment ... | 6 |
| Budget Spotlight ... | 7 |
| Support for Community Transitions ... | 8 |

Everyone's at the Kitchen Table in Guernsey County

An update on Developmental Center downsizing and Community Integration



Pipeline Quarterly visited Guernsey County in May to learn more about how transitioning into homes in the community has worked for several individuals who previously had lived at Cambridge Developmental Center (CaDC). At three different newly-built homes, we found welcoming doors opened by residents and staff who were ready to tell their stories. And, as one finds in many neighborhoods, everyone was at the kitchen table, enjoying the company of other residents and staff.

Each of the three residences is in a pleasant neighborhood that includes typical homes, and each is built using a highly accessible floorplan and exterior landscaping. The three homes accommodate six residents each, and all residents have their own bedrooms.

The logistics of moving 18 individuals into the new homes has worked well for the most part, with excellent coordination between the Guernsey County Board and ResCare, the provider who operates the homes.

“Our working relationship with Community Resource Coordinator Rob Robbins and other staff from CaDC goes way back, so we have had several months of planning to make sure everything was in place for individuals to have what they need and what they like,” said Gloria Llewellyn, ResCare executive director for the agency’s Ohio-St. Clairsville operation. “Everything from nursing

Carol (right) is feeling creative and gets a hand from staff. Since moving to the new home from CaDC, Carol has gained a lot of self-confidence. She’s much more likely to join in on the many activities at home.

care to what games and food they like has been thought through.”

There were a few challenges here and there, such as waiting for the necessary visits for full licensure and certifications to be scheduled and completed.

“It’s tough to be in a position where the home itself is ready and fully-staffed, and yet all the individuals are not able to move in until certain paperwork is processed,” Robbins said. “Some of the residents have been living at CaDC for many years, or have transferred there from another DC, and are really excited about the

“Meeting the individual’s needs while providing the least restrictive residential setting—that’s what this is all about.”

DODD Director John Martin



Cynthia (right) is delighted to see CaDC Community Resource Coordinator Rob Robbins (left). She enjoys writing, and her excellent penmanship is one of the ways she communicates non-verbally. Also shown is Brooke, a direct support professional.

See Kitchen Table, page 5

Get a glimpse of the lovely home—check out this video on DODD’s YouTube channel: bit.ly/1KLYs4i



Kitchen Table From page 4

moves, especially after visiting the new homes.”

The Coventry Drive home was the first to open, then Westgate Drive and Columbia Court soon followed.



With close to a year of collaboration between ResCare and CaDC, 18 individuals now live in the three new community-based homes, and sitting around the kitchen table. ■

Special thanks to Rob Robbins, Cathy Ballinger, Sara Lawson, Rebecca Barlow, and Gloria Llewellyn for their hospitality and assistance with this article.



Above: Gloria Llewellyn shows the personality-filled rooms at the Columbia Court home, where six men live. Here, she shows us Shane’s room.

Left: Residence manager Amber keeps Belinda (right) on a steady path toward the Westgate Drive home. Brenda is a determined walker, and takes an avid interest in the neighborhood, including friendly pets and a newly discovered bird’s nest.

How are they doing? From page 3

many years as a resident of Gallipolis Developmental Center. Marsha’s story ([Summer 2014 Pipeline Quarterly](#)) illustrates how family host homes (Ohio Shared Living) can work for individuals and the families that open their homes.

We learned that sometimes it takes persistence and a little luck to make it work.

Charlotte was featured in the [Summer 2013 Pipeline Quarterly](#). Charlotte has thrived in her new setting, and has said several new words since moving. “Oh My Gosh!” was the latest, and had taken staff by surprise.

Clinton County Board staff noted that there were challenges along the way, but a little extra work or time led to success. They noted that, whenever an obstacle came up, somehow the pieces fell into place. The people who they were worried about are absolutely flourishing, and the situations that could have been problematic were fine.

John, David, Shirley, and Marsha’s experience helps show what makes community transitions successful. ■



Charlotte (seated), Lisa-Community Options provider, and Onyx the cat catch up. Charlotte had said several new words since moving into her new home.



See more community-based homes-check out this video on DODD’s YouTube channel: bit.ly/1HbwTz3

Thriving in Community Employment

Buidling Confidence and Finding the Right Fit

While Jeff Gossett experienced a few bumps along the way, a little support and a lot of persistence helped him find the right job in the community.

After high school, Jeff admits he struggled a bit – his confidence wasn't great, and he was nervous to try something new. He started at Alpha Industries of The Alpha Group, Inc. in Delaware County, where his mom, Barb, works. But that wasn't the right fit, and he still struggled.

"I didn't enjoy it all that much," Jeff said. "I felt like I was there as a charity."

His mom said there were many days Jeff didn't want to go to work.

Even though it wasn't the right fit for him, the workshop gave Jeff a few things he'd been missing – self-confidence, and the courage to try something new. That something new was an adult bible study group, where he met other young adults and became even more self-assured.

With more self-confidence, and a little tough love from his mom, Jeff was ready to look for a job in the community. He started working with Leslie, a Job Developer from the Alpha Community Services. Leslie helped him with completing applications, writing his resume, and working on interview skills, then supported him as he started looking for a job. Jeff practically led his own job search – he knew which jobs he was interested in, and arranged several interviews. Ultimately, he decided to take a job offer with JCPenney at the Polaris Fashion Place.

"Leslie did this with WITH him, not FOR him," Barb said.

Jeff is thriving in his new job. He said he enjoys the variety, and his employer has reported great things about his work. On his first day, he went above and beyond to help a customer who was from out of town find the perfect last-minute Christmas gift. Jeff has continued to go above and beyond, including often covering shifts at the last minute. He was recognized as Employee of the Month in March. He credits his success to the support



Jeff outside of The Alpha Group, where his journey started.

his supervisor and coworkers at JCPenney.

Jeff said that, in addition to enjoying the work he does, he appreciates earning money.

"I'm able to chip in with household expenses, and I have more spending money to hang out with my friends," he said. "Before, it was a lot tighter."

Barb said Jeff has blossomed since beginning the job at JCPenney. It's been a springboard for other opportunities, including sitting on the Human Rights Committee with the Delaware County Board, and participating in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at The Ohio State University, which brings college students together with incarcerated men and women to study as peers. He has shared his experience with the Inside-Out Program at regional conferences, and will be leading an upcoming seminar with the group. He's also preparing an application for a volunteer position to help him gain more experience and work skills.

Jeff's advice for others who are thinking about pursuing community employment is to push yourself.

"If you go on your first day and see it's not that bad, you'll get over the hump," he said.

So what's next for Jeff?

"I want to finish my degree, and become a social worker," he said.

Jeff plans to return to school in the fall. ■

Employment First helps individuals with disabilities prepare for and secure jobs in the community.

For more information, visit www.EmploymentFirst.org. Contact Employment First at 614-466-6612 or EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov.

Governor Kasich's Budget

Historic Investment for Ohioans with Developmental Disabilities

Governor Kasich's historic budget invests \$286 million (\$116.5 million State share) over the next two years to increase opportunities for Ohioans with disabilities to live and work in the community. The initiatives in this budget expand supports for those who are waiting for services, increase opportunities for community participation, and improve the experience for those who are receiving services by modernizing our programs and strengthening the direct care force. Initiatives will bring the following benefits:

More people will have access to the services they need.

Approximately 3,000 new state-funded Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers will increase support to people on the waiting list, and those who choose to leave Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) and Developmental Centers (DC). This is in addition to new waivers supported by County Boards. Also, individuals on the Transitions DD (TDD) Waiver will be converted to Individual Options (IO) Waivers, improving access to providers, and increasing access to services such as day services.

People will have increased space and privacy.

Continuing the work from the last biennium, 1,200 people will move from ICFs and DCs into smaller settings, either a small ICF or a home in the community with an HCBS waiver. Individuals will receive the needed level of support in either setting.

Also, over a ten-year period, all ICFs will move to having only two people living in a bedroom. This will help more people live in smaller settings, and increase the space and privacy for those who want to continue living in larger ICFs. The new two to a bedroom requirement won't apply to children (up to 21 years old) and those who are currently living with more than 2 to a bedroom and want to continue that arrangement.

People will have access to new and improved employment and day services options.

The budget includes nearly \$3 million in new funding for each of the next two fiscal years to create new service models that promote community employment and integrated day services. Individuals, who desire, will

transition from workshops and other facility-based day settings to community-based alternatives over an extended time frame.

This will increase opportunities for community participation, and ensure the State is in compliance with federal regulations.

Additional funds for community employment are earmarked for ongoing support of DODD's partnership with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) to assist in the cost of transitioning to integrated day services and supported employment, and to inform and assist individuals and families, as well as those who develop person-centered plans, regarding the options available to them.

The community infrastructure will be stronger.

The budget continues to prioritize funding to reflect the growing demand for Home and Community-Based Services. Funding will allow DODD to add nursing services to the IO waiver to enable people with medical needs to live in community settings, provide for much-deserved increase for direct care staff, increase the availability of add-on services for individuals with complex needs and behavioral challenges, provide training for those who receive, plan, and deliver waiver services, and strengthen oversight and quality assurance efforts so the person-centered plan is delivering meaningful outcomes.

Thank You

Our system includes thousands of committed and engaged individuals and families, thousands of dedicated direct support professionals, unpaid family caregivers, innovative private and public service providers, community members, advocates, and much-needed tax payer support.

Regardless of which role we play in the system, we are all bonded by our shared passion to improve the lives of the more than 90,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Department thanks each of you for your suggestions, assistance, and support during the budget process. We look forward to continuing the work with you to improve the lives of Ohioans with disabilities. ■

Supports for Community Transitions

Ensuring Your Move is Safe and Successful

There are many services and supports to help you transition into community-based settings, whether it's moving into a home in the community or starting a new job.

Community Resource Coordinators: Following Residents into the Community

Each of Ohio's Developmental Centers (DC) have a Community Resource Coordinator (CRC) who makes sure individuals who move from a DC into an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) or home in the community with a Home and Community-Based Services waiver are safe, healthy, happy, and successful in their new home.

When you are getting ready to move, the CRC will meet with you and your family to develop a transition plan that maps out what support you need to move. After you move, your CRC meets in-person with you at 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 180 days, one year, 18 months, two years, and three years to see how you're doing. Your CRC also will talk with your family to see how they think you're doing in your new home.

HOME Choice: Helping Ohioans Move, Expanding Choice

HOME Choice helps you move from a long-term care facility (like an ICF or DC) into a community-based setting. It provides wrap-around services and supports for the first 365 days after you move. Those can include:

- Case Management
- Transition Coordination
- Independent Living Skills Training

- Community Transition Services, like help with the first month's rent and furnishing your home
- Community Support Coaching

To participate, you must have lived in a facility-based setting for at least 90 days, have care needs evaluated by HOME Choice staff, qualify for Medicaid, and move into qualified housing (a home or apartment leased by you or your family, or a community-based residential setting with no more than four unrelated people).

For more information, visit www.medicaid.ohio.gov/HomeChoice. If you have questions, contact the Ohio Department of Medicaid at 888-221-1560 or Home_Choice@Medicaid.ohio.gov.

Employment First: Preparing for and Securing Community Employment

Community employment brings many benefits, including greater independence, wealth building potential, increased self-esteem, and personal satisfaction.

Employment First is Ohio's cross-agency initiative that helps people with disabilities prepare for and find community-based employment. Employment First offers a range of supports, including transition planning during the school years, coaching to help you prepare for and complete a job search (help with interviews and resumes), and on-the job support.

For more information, visit www.ohioemploymentfirst.org. If you have questions, contact Employment First at 614-466-6612 or EmploymentFirst@dodd.ohio.gov. ■

Publication Notes

Published four times a year by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), Pipeline Quarterly focuses on people and topics of interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community.

Your ideas and feedback are welcomed. Contact Kerry Francis at kerry.francis@dodd.ohio.gov or 614-644-0263.

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
30 East Broad Street, Floor 12, Columbus, Ohio 43215
800-617-6733 www.dodd.ohio.gov



Department of
Developmental Disabilities