Pipeline Quarterly

A quarterly feature publication of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Volume 6, Issue 2 Summer 2013

"...Green lights all the way..."
p. 7

Special Edition
A Summer of System Exploration and Change

This issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* explores the overall movement from larger congregate settings to smaller homes as one more way doors to new residential opportunities are opening for Ohioans with developmental disabilities.

From state-operated Developmental Centers to private residential agencies, the momentum is driven by by individual self advocates and their families, as well as professionals in the developmental disabilities (DD) field. An exciting element in this process of system exploration and change is what has become known as the 'Grand Bargain.'

A major effort to modernize the ICF/IID* program, the Grand Bargain was included in HB 59, 'the budget bill', and created in response to input from Ohio's developmental disabilities community, negotiating a historic agreement with stakeholders to significantly increase individuals' opportunities to live in smaller, community-based settings.

The Grand Bargain includes a commitment by stakeholders to convert up to 600 ICF/IID beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF/IID 'beds' to settings no larger than eight-bed homes. While this trend has been gradually moving through the state's residential service system, much of the work needed to accomplish the goal will require new approaches and partnerships -- and in this issue you will learn about some of these early efforts.

In Clinton County, John enjoys the back porch of this ranch-style home in the community, as he prepares to finish decorating for Halloween. John previously lived in a much larger congregate setting, and now lives here with a friend named Jim. Welcoming visitors to his home, he stated,

"If you like my back porch,
wait 'til you see my front porch! "
-Story, p. 2

The desired outcome? Individuals with developmental disabilities will enjoy more freedom of choice in community-based residential options -- along with a continued focus on ensuring their health and safety. As these efforts move the state's service system forward, more individuals will be living -- with support as needed -- as participating citizens in their communities.

Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities.

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"I agree with Jamie.
It's pretty exciting."
-DODD Director John Martin

Welcome to the Clinton County Story

A short look back and a long look forward -- Clinton County leverages Capital Housing Funds and more, with progressive Board Members and a readiness to change the model.

"Welcome to my new home!
I just decorated for Halloween."
-John lights up the tiny skeletons surrounding his front doorway

Pumpkins in the front and a cornfield in the back -- country living at its best! In Clinton County, there's a lot to talk about in terms of residential options involving a true desire to change the model as to how and where such services are provided.

Following the progress of residential service delivery in this community we'll start at 1974 -- with development of the first residence, the Smith House, located at the Clinton County Board of DD's Nike Center, providing a 'group home' for eight adult women whose goals included training for community living with mimimum supervision.

Following the Smith House, the Barker House opened in 1979, built through the auspices of a board that applied for federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for construction of the new project.

The Barker House was a group home of 16 beds licensed through DODD, along with six apartment units on Hale Street.

Opened on June 1, 1979, the Barker House and Hale Street Apartments became the first residences in the state for individuals with DD, utilizing HUD 202 Section 8 funding.

Fast Forward to the 21st Century

As the direction of service delivery steadily moved toward less-institutional settings, and serving individuals in the least restrictive environments, funding opportunities such as Capital Housing dollars also accellerated a lot of change in a small amount of time.

In 2007-2008, Barker House and Smith House each downsized from 16 beds to nine at Barker House and ten at Smith House. Then things really started moving ... and so did several people.

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Above, top ...
John and Jim's home in Clinton County is one of several well-kept homes in the community where individuals now are living who previously resided in larger congregate settings.

At left ...
In contrast to John's new home, the building at left is the Barker House on Hale Street in Wilmington, where several Clinton County individuals served by the County Board lived for many years.

Graceworks' Leadership in ICF Conversions

A new residence for adults with developmental disabilities in Hamilton County (Forest Park) will provide quality care to eight adults with developmental disabilities, ranging in age from 35 to 75, who have varying physical challenges. Graceworks Enhanced Living is replacing two older homes with three that will be more appropriate for the services the residents need.

The two present homes have a total of 18 residents, eight of whom will move to the newly-built home. Graceworks also will renovate two existing homes in Hamilton County where the remaining residents will reside, through the voluntary ICF conversion efforts. Graceworks gave up ten ICF beds, converting them to ten waivers, and utilizing them in these two homes.

The agency recently hosted an Open House for the new facility, and among the visitors that day was DODD Director John Martin. He observed, "I am really impressed with how this home is set up and laid out, and the quality care that it can offer the individuals who will live here. It's exciting to see the direction you're going, and how that's going to improve their lives." He continued,

"One of our greatest current system needs is to ensure that there are quality residential settings where individuals with more profound care needs can live safely within, and participate more fully, in their communities."

Face of a new Intermediate Care Facility in Forest Park, a welcoming one.
Graceworks Enhanced Living is replacing two older, larger homes, with three newer homes that will be appropriate for the services the residents need, and offer a greater sense of connectedness to the community.

According to Deb Lyle, Administrator at Graceworks Enhanced Living, the agency will be able to serve the residents better, in a safer location, with updated and accessible facilities that the residents will need as they age.

Bill Serr, President and CEO of Graceworks Lutheran Services, parent organization to Graceworks Enhanced Living, also spoke at the Open House, noting that, "A sense of home is not only a sense of safety and comfort, but more importantly, a sense of connectedness to a community for the people who reside in the home. This home is one more expression of that vision."

Graceworks Enhanced Living is affiliated with Graceworks Lutheran Services, which provides a range of residential and community services for persons who are older, or have disabilities. Graceworks Lutheran Services, based in Centerville, Ohio, serves more than 50 locations in southwestern Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky.

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- Director's Message -

Expanding Residential Options

by John Martin
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Grand Bargain

To expand and improve residential options for Ohioans with developmental disabilities, the 'Grand Bargain,' (part of HB59, 'the budget bill') includes a commitment by stakeholders to convert up to 600 ICF beds to waivers, and to downsize up to 600 large ICF beds to settings no larger than eight-bed homes.

Much of the work to accomplish the goal will require new approaches and partnerships to accelerate this desired trend.

DODD greatly appreciates the willingness shown by stakeholders to move the state system forward in this way.

And so, a collaborative approach will continue as new relationships are developed, and as expanded residential options open up for citizens with developmental disabilities across the state. We are deeply committed to these efforts.

"It is my belief that in transitioning residential services, we must place the highest value on having real choices in the hands of individuals, and increasing community involvement."

-Respectfully,
John Martin

A Plan for Service and Facility Transformations

Good Shepherd Manor Transforms into Scioto Trails Homes

DIrector John Martin eyes the delicious red velvet cake made by Alesia, ready to serve it. He is rumored to have snagged a second piece before moving on from the kitchen to see the rest of the residences at Scioto Trails.

"In the gentle depths of the soul
everyone deserves to be beautiful."
- Stencil on a wall in Alesia's home

The story of Good Shepherd Manor's transformation from large congregate residential facility to community-based homes at Scioto Trails is one of planful progress in residential services, including renovations, new buildings, a demolition or two, and about three dozen lives.

In December 2011, Provider Services/Empowering People (PS/EP) purchased The Friends of Good Shepherd, an old 51-bed facility in need of repair, and promised the Board that new, smaller homes would be built within two years, replacing the old, larger structure.

The homes were finished six months ahead of schedule, and individuals moving into the new Scioto Trails homes now have their own bedrooms, and a bathroom within their rooms -- not down the hall.

Brian Colleran, CEO for PS/EP said,

"They're adults and deserve their own rooms."

And the residents moving in have said,

"You mean I don't have a roommate? Are you sure? Wow."

That's the spirit driving these facility transformations. The Scioto Trails setting is an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) with three new 8-bed homes and one existing 8-bed home. The new and improved setting now serves the residential needs of approximately 32 individuals.

Discussing the facility transformation, Dave Rastoka, Director of Central Ohio Services, noted, "We built three 8-bed homes on the campus, tore down an old 15-bed facility that was here

(cont. on p. 5)

Center: Josh looks pretty pleased knowing that soon he will be moving into the Woodland home (see photo, p. 5). He's lived at the former Good Shepherd Manor for about six years.

Left: What looks like a mirage emerging from the green fields and winding roads of Pike County is actually a beautiful, new and accessible home at Scioto Trails.

"Meeting the individual's needs while providing the least restrictive residential setting ...
that's what this is all about."
- DODD Director John Martin

Transformations – A Story of Progress, Persistence

(cont. from p. 4)

under The Friends of Good Shepherd, named 'The Chalet,' and then built two more 8-bed homes in Chillicothe."

He continued, "We've also converted three ICF beds to waiver services. Like Brian has said before, it's about doing the right thing for the people involved."

All of this activity over the past two years was not a totally smooth and easy path. The path to progress was, however, totally focused on positive outcomes for the people served. Scioto Trails Administrator Shayla Becze knows all the dates, all the names, and darn near *anything* you'd need to know about the conversion from the larger, older facility to the new residences.

She explains, "The most difficult thing about transitioning all the people into their new homes over that timeframe was probably a combination of the funding, and the timing of the necessary approvals."

For example, Scioto Trails/Lucasville homes' construction was completed in September and October, 2012. The three 8-bed homes were then inspected and approved in November, and 24 people moved from the older facility into the three newly-constructed homes. In December, 11 remaining people moved from the former Chalet to The Manor.

In January 2013, the old Chalet was destroyed, and planning, construction, and paperwork was underway for Scioto Trails/Chillicothe. In May the homes' construction was completed, and by the end of June, 16 individuals had moved into the two homes.

July, August, and September 2013 saw the finishing touches completed on waiver-funded homes in the community, and the remainder of the individuals moved from the older facility to their new community-based residences, converting their ICF beds to waivers.

Becze and Rastoka agree, "We are very grateful for the Capital Housing funds that have allowed us to do the work on the waiver-funded homes, and we are accessing waiver dollars for adaptive modifications that are not covered by Capital Housing."

What's at the end of all the careful planning?

For one thing ... this renovated Woodland home.

This fully- renovated home in the woods by Lake White, outside of Waverly, OH, is a result of working partnerships between public and private entities in Pike and Ross counties. As of September 2013, it is home to three gentlemen who previously lived at the former Good Shepherd property, and there is capacity for a fourth resident. Shown l. to r.: Director Martin, Mike Schiller, Gary Roberts, Scot Crace, Dave Rastoka, and Shayla Becze.

Underscoring the progress and persistence toward desired goals, Kurt Miller, Chief Operating Officer at PS/EP, has led all of the agency's construction and renovation projects, along with builder Chris Inverso. Miller observed,

> "The biggest thing I've noticed is the change in the individuals and the staff when they move. They take such pride in their rooms and themselves -- in the whole home, really. The enviromnent is more consistent with our values, and you can feel the difference."

Wrapping up a day of visits with everyone involved in the residential facility transformations in Pike and Ross counties, DODD Director John Martin echoed Miller's thoughts, and emphasized the pride that was displayed by the residents. He added,

> "This clearly is the way our system will move forward. In improving the system, the bottom line is sustianability. Toward that goal we are seeing good progress."

Special thanks and acknowledgments to all persons mentioned in this article. Contact: Shayla Becze, sbecze@provider-services.net

Clinton County, Leveraging Capital Housing Funds and More

(cont. from p. 2)

In 2009, the non-profit Residential Advisory Council, Inc., purchased their first residence on Nunn Avenue, contracting with the Clinton County Board of DD to provide quality, affordable housing options. The home purchase was possible through funding from DODD Capital Housing funds.

The Department makes available state capital assistance (bond) funds to assist County Boards of DD in purchasing housing for individuals receiving supported living services, or such services funded through Home and Community-Based waivers.

The goal of the program is to offer housing options in their own communities that allow people with disabilities to be as fully integrated and independent as possible.

A transfer of the Clinton County residential entities from HUD management, to *New Housing Ohio,* a Mental Health Board, began in early 2013. According to Dawn Hart, SSA Director at the Clinton County Board, "With the focus of DODD on community integration, the large group homes of licensed beds at Barker House and Smith House were antiquated, and considered 'institutional' in design and concept as being licensed. We set out to change that model."

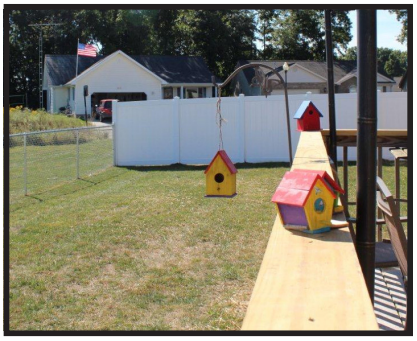
She added, "The message was clear from our Board members, families, and individuals; large congregate sites were not desirable as homes."

At this point, local housing boards and the Clinton County Board of DD decided to move ahead with full community residential integration to more fully align with

(cont. on p. 7)

Shirley displays her embroidery skills in the lovely new waiver-funded home shared with husband, David, and friend, Christine. Read more about their years-long journey from a variety of congregate settings to this house in Wilmington, on page 7. When asked what she likes to do around the house, Shirley replied,

"Why, I just go around doing all kinds of stuff -- about anything I can find, I do it." David added, "We just celebrated 31 years of marriage. 31. What do you think of that?"



The back patio, with bird houses David builds out of wood.

The home includes a new ramp and other upgrades completed before they moved in on August 1, 2013.

"I think it's great that Clinton County voluntarily took the initiative to downsize two waiver homes from nine beds and ten beds respectively.* They gave up the licenses and all of the individuals moved into smaller, unlicensed, community settings. The County Board's commitment to smaller settings for their individuals is notable."

- Ann Weisent, DODD Provider Standards & Review

**Two licensed waiver homes were grandfathered-in at a capacity of 'more than four.'*

Clinton County

(cont. from p. 6)

the philosophical direction of DODD, and in response to the expectations of the individuals.

The Big Moves

On August 1, 2013, individuals living at Barker House (nine licensed beds) and Smith House (ten licensed beds) transitioned to 'single family' homes. This transition was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Clinton County Board and DODD Capital Housing Assistance funds which were requested and received for *six new homes*, under Residential Advisory Council, Inc.

Most importantly, that's 19 people who are now living in well-kept, renovated, and affordable homes in the community. The old Barker House and Smith House are currently empty, and will have 'other lives' as well.

The 19 licensed beds were relinquished to DODD, to reduce the state's overall number of licensed beds.

"Oh My Gosh!"
Charlotte, seated, with Community Options provider, Lisa, and cat, Onyx. Charlotte has said several new words since moving into a new home. "Oh My Gosh!" was the latest, and took staff by surprise.

Many of the six new homes purchased with Capital Housing Assistance funds have been dedicated to persons in the community who paved the way to make these exciting transitions possible. According to Dawn Hart, there was no shortage of persons to honor in this respect.

She observes, "We have had so much support throughout this effort from our Board members, our families, and from others within the local community -- it's been very rewarding."

"Green lights all the way! This wouldn't have gotten done ... wouldn't have worked out so well ... if we had not somehow gotten green lights each step of the way.
It seemed that whenever an obstacle came up, somehow the pieces fell into place. The people who we were worried about are absolutely flourishing, and the situations that could have been problematic were fine. It just took a little extra work or time to make it happen.
Now we have a residential model that is working, and is in line with the state's efforts to provide these community-based opportunities."

-Dawn Hart, CCBDD

The Clinton County Board of DD's Board of Directors was strong on support and funding for the purchase of six new community-based homes. Existing homes in the community were purchased, renovated, and improved as needed for the individuals served – often with their active involvement.

Contact: Dawn Hart, Service and Support Director, Clinton County Board of DD; (937) 382-7889; dhart@nikecenter.org

Life Snapshots: Shirley and David

A short residential history for Shirley and David shows how far each of them have come on their life journeys to their new home, in August 2013. *Shirley* was born in 1943 in Ohio. She grew up with her parents and nine siblings. When her mother died, she moved to the Smith House group home with 11 other individuals. She was 35 years old. In 1980, she moved out of the group home into Hale St. Apts., where she met David. They began dating. She lived semi-independently with a roommate. In 1981, she moved out into the community and lived with another roommate. She and David married in 1982 and moved into a different apartment with services from the county. Medical issues caused them to move again to a ranch-style home with a roommate. By 2008, they moved into Smith House as Shirley's medical needs increased. They lived there until moving out in August 2013, to the home they are in now. *David* grew up in Virginia with his family. He moved to Wilmington at age 15 and liked working in his dad's wood re-finishing shop. He came to the County Board adult services program in 1969, at age 22. Later he moved into Hale St. Apts., and then to another location in 1981. Following that, his story is inter-woven with Shirley's as they married in 1982.

-Joanne Sell, CCBDD Service & Support Coordinator

Efforts to Support Major Initiatives

Individuals who have moved from Ohio's Developmental Centers during the past two years have developed a little history now in their community-based homes. For example, in Tiffin we caught up with Isreal Racomontes.

Staff at Tiffin Developmental Center (TDC) note that a successful move in late October 2012 from TDC to the Seneca County community of Fostoria, was completed by Isreal (Izzy) Rocamontes. According to all reports from his family, his Service & Support Administrator, and his new provider, Izzy is doing well in 2013, and enjoying additional freedoms.

According to his service provider, Future Horizons of Tiffin, Izzy especially likes the kitchen in his home, and his interest in food preparation is equalled only by his interest in sampling it. Future Horizons' staff also note that he is enjoying walks in the autumn weather and still plays some basketball, as well as attends day service activities at the area's School of Opportunity. Izzy and his roommate, Lazarus, are definitely enjoying their community-based home, and after nearly a year now, Izzy and "Laz" are still getting along well together.

Tiffin DC staff continue to be a part of Izzy's life, and enjoy visits to his home, where they are always welcomed with Izzy's enthusiastic smile.

Tiffin Developmental Center serves the following counties: Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Ottawa, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Sandusky, Erie, Paulding, Putnam, Hancock, Seneca, Huron, Van Wert, Allen, Wyandot, Crawford, Mercer, Auglaize, Hardin, Marion, and Morrow.

Izzy in October 2012, at TDC
Just days before the big move from Tiffin Developmental Center to a home in Fostoria, Izzy was busy finishing up 'a little' paperwork.

Ohio's HOME Choice Program a National Leader

A recent study of states participating in the federal *Money Follows the Person* demonstration program found Ohio to be, "… A national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home- and community-based settings," as reported by the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM).

Ohio's HOME Choice program is funded by a federal grant which supports various needs and helps individuals leave larger facilities to enter community living. Ohio's program was found to rank first among states in the study specifically for, "… transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term care facilities into alternative settings…" and was second overall regarding the number of residents moved from institutions into home- and community-based settings, ODM reported.

Since its inception in 2008, through December 2012, the Ohio program's 2999 transitioned Medicaid beneficiaries was second only to Texas. Ohio's original goal was 2,200 residents.

According to the DODD Division of Medicaid Development and Administration (MDA), since 2008, 298 individuals served in Ohio's DD services system have enrolled in HOME Choice, electing to access HOME Choice options. MDA staff note, "We are working hard to increase those numbers through ongoing Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) conversion efforts. We also refer to the HOME Choice program the names of individuals who have been determined to no longer need the services of a nursing facility."

Number of HOME Choice Enrollments for Individuals with DD

Year	Referrals	Enrollments
2008	47	47
2009	91	90
2010	38	38
2011	36	35
2012	94	88
Grand Total	306	298

Note: HOME Choice has specific requirements regarding eligibility, including that the home must have no more than four people living in it. Sometimes service conversions occur, or individuals choose to move into settings with more than four individuals, so the numbers of referred and eligible people will not always match.

Major Initiatives Augment Residential Options

In 2012, DODD launched major initiatives related to the operation of licensed residential facilities. These initiatives are helping to drive the variety of different residential options being offered in 2013, and beyond. Below are two examples.

ODH to DODD Licenses

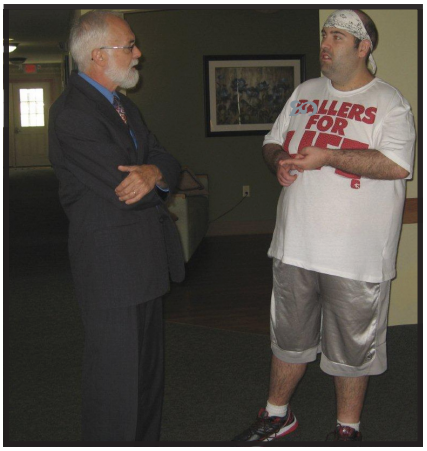
This program was initiated to correspond with the transfer of administration of the ICF/IID program to DODD, and fostered the transfer of licenses from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to DODD for 12 facilities that had chosen to remain licensed by ODH. The license transfers bring under one department the regulatory responsibility to license the facility, ensuring consistency with the licensure review process. HB 487 required that the 12 facilities terminate their ODH licenses and apply for a DODD license no later than July 1, 2013.

ICF Voluntary Conversion

This initiative gives ICF providers the opportunity to voluntarily convert an existing ICF/IID-funded bed to a waiver-funded bed for people who would prefer to receive Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The individuals will be allowed to use the funding they received in the ICF to fund the waiver. Since the funding will be used for the waiver, the provider will surrender the ICF certification for the bed that the individual was occupying.

These efforts will assist the state in long-term care rebalancing efforts, and will provide individuals the opportunity to receive services in their preferred setting. The number of people served at each of Ohio's Developmental Centers is getting smaller, as community-based residential service waivers are accessed through a planned, ongoing census reduction.

Information from the DODD Office of Provider Standards and Review 2012 Annual Report.



Community Conversations ...

Across the state this year, DODD Director John Martin has engaged in many conversations with individuals who are moving into new, or newly-renovated waiver-funded homes in their local communities.

At left, in Pike County, Director Martin listens as Jamie explains his impending move into a waiver-funded home. "It's pretty exciting," they both agreed.

Ohio | Department of Developmental Disabilities

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Publication Notes

Published four times annually by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), Division of Legislative Affairs & Communications, *Pipeline Quarterly* focuses on people and topics of interest to the statewide developmental disabilities community, and supports the DODD Administration core concepts and philosophy.

We thank all who have allowed us to work with them to prepare this issue, and who have contributed to its development.

Reader ideas, comments, and feedback are always welcomed. Please submit ideas and feedback to editor Sherry Steinman, at *sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov*, or call (614) 644-0262.

Pipeline Quarterly and the twice-monthly *Pipeline* publications are archived online at *www.dodd.ohio.gov/pipeline/*

The next issue of *Pipeline Quarterly* will report on the subject of Remote Monitoring support systems for individuals with developmental disabilities.

If you have information or input on this subject that you wish to share, please contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dodd.ohio.gov or call (614) 644-0262.