

**Ohio**

Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

# Shared Living

Brown Bag Thursday

**Laurel Geist**

*Waiver Administrator, Ohio Department of  
Developmental Disabilities*

**Christine Kristanich,**

*Branch Manager, Caregiver Homes*

**Buffie LaBelle,**

*Regional Director, REM Ohio Inc.*



*Welcome!*

# Before we begin...

Presenters will take questions  
Type your questions in the webinar chat box

A recording will be posted

DODD Work Space, [Webinar Catalog](#)

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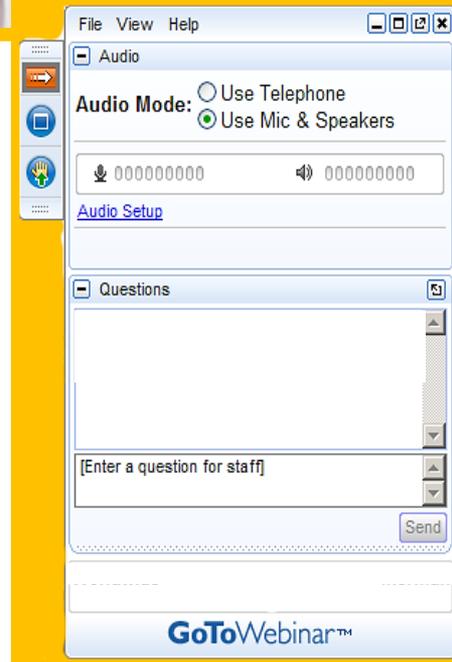
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1 hour of CPD is available for viewing this **live** webinar in the following areas: Adult Services/Day Habilitation, Investigative Agent, Service and Support Administration, Superintendent and CBDD Board Members

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## CPD webinar attendance policy

- As of November 2015, participants must view the full hour in order to receive CPD credit. The full webinar policy is available on the [DODD Work Space](#) <http://dodd.ohio.gov/workspace/Pages/default.aspx>



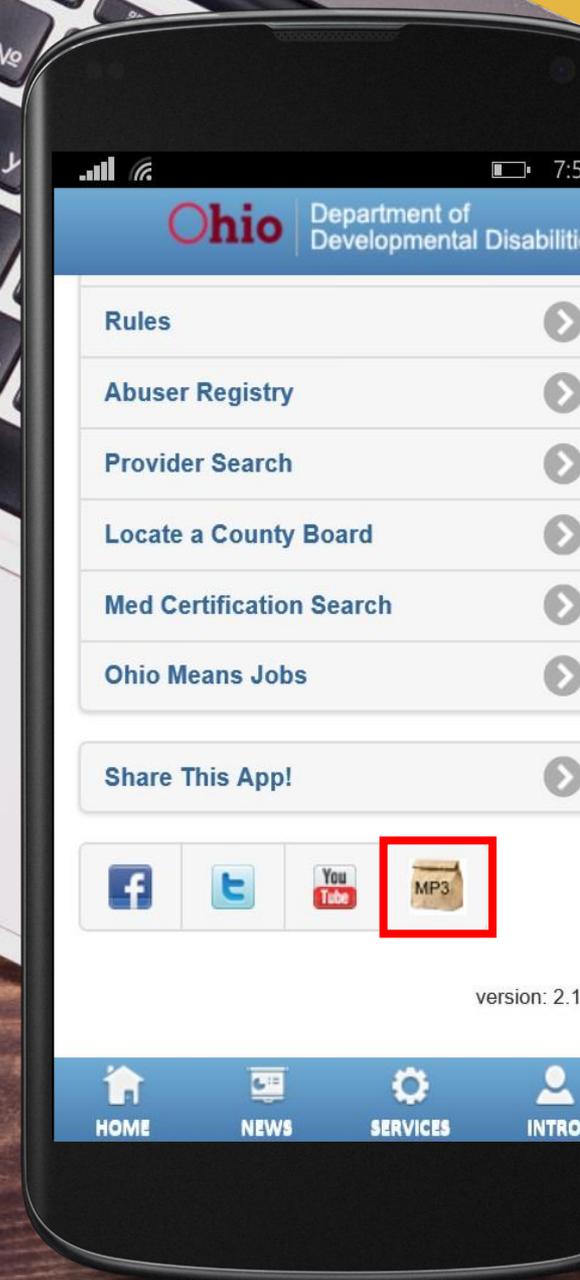
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# Our speakers today...



Laurel Geist  
*Waiver Administrator*



Christine Kristanich  
*Branch Manager*



Buffie LaBelle  
*Regional Director*  
REM Ohio Inc.



Department of  
Developmental Disabilities





# What Is Shared Living?

Defined as part of Adult Foster Care Rules [\(5123:2-9-33\)](#)

An arrangement in which an individual, couple or family in the community share life's experiences with a person with a disability





Also known as:

- Adult Foster Care

“Ohio Shared Living” used interchangeably with “Adult Foster Care”

Services provided through state-funded IO Waiver

- 25% of newly approved budget targeted for shared living services





# Shared Living Is Not:

Does not refer to a place nor a facility or group home.

Is not a residential program or support program with multiple staff working in shifts

Offers an alternative approach to supporting individuals and creating individualized living situations based on relationships



# Who Can Participate In Shared Living?

For an individual to be eligible, they must:

- Be eligible for Medicaid
- Require help with one or more daily personal needs



# Individuals In The Community - Data

- 92% of respondents reported they like their home
- 63% of Ohioans completing the NCI survey responded that they have input choosing roommates or living alone





# Who Provides Care?

Non-family member, full time

Must successfully complete  
screening process



# Do caregivers have to be qualified?

Be able to make the full time, around-the-clock care commitment

Successfully complete screening process



# What Responsibilities Do Caregivers Have?

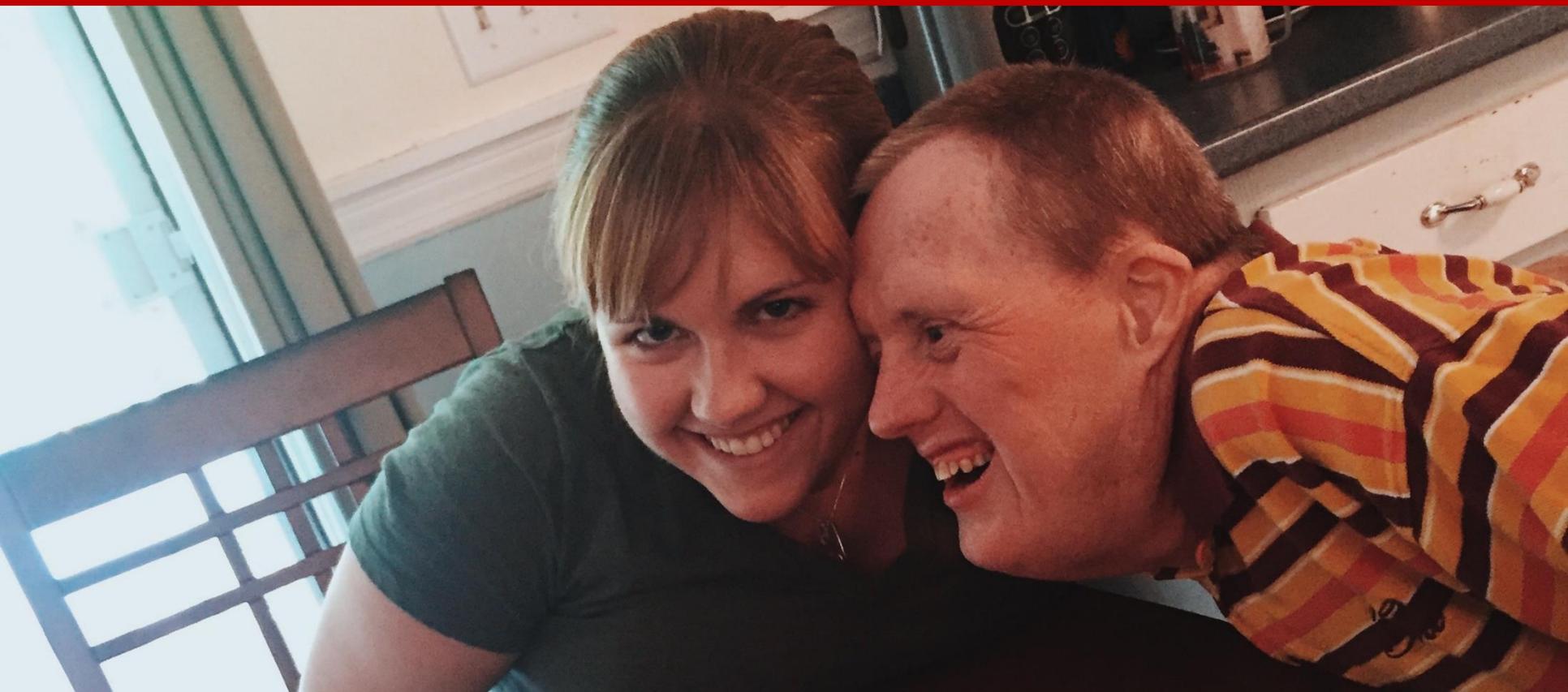
Enter information into Caregiver Homes Care Management System



# How Are Caregivers Supported?

Training and support from professional care team, including registered nurse

Receive financial assistance



## Taz & Shawn

[Adult Family Living Model]

Taz's ability to care full-time for his son Shawn, ensures continuity of care and a much-needed routine, as well as peace of mind for dad.



## Evelyn & Jeff

Living together, Evelyn gets a more comprehensive understanding of Jeff leading to a better understanding of the kinds of support that work best for him.





## Who Provides Care?

Contract with care Providers called "Mentors"

Care provided in Mentor's home

Mentors and individuals are paired through careful matching process

Must have High School Diploma to be a Mentor

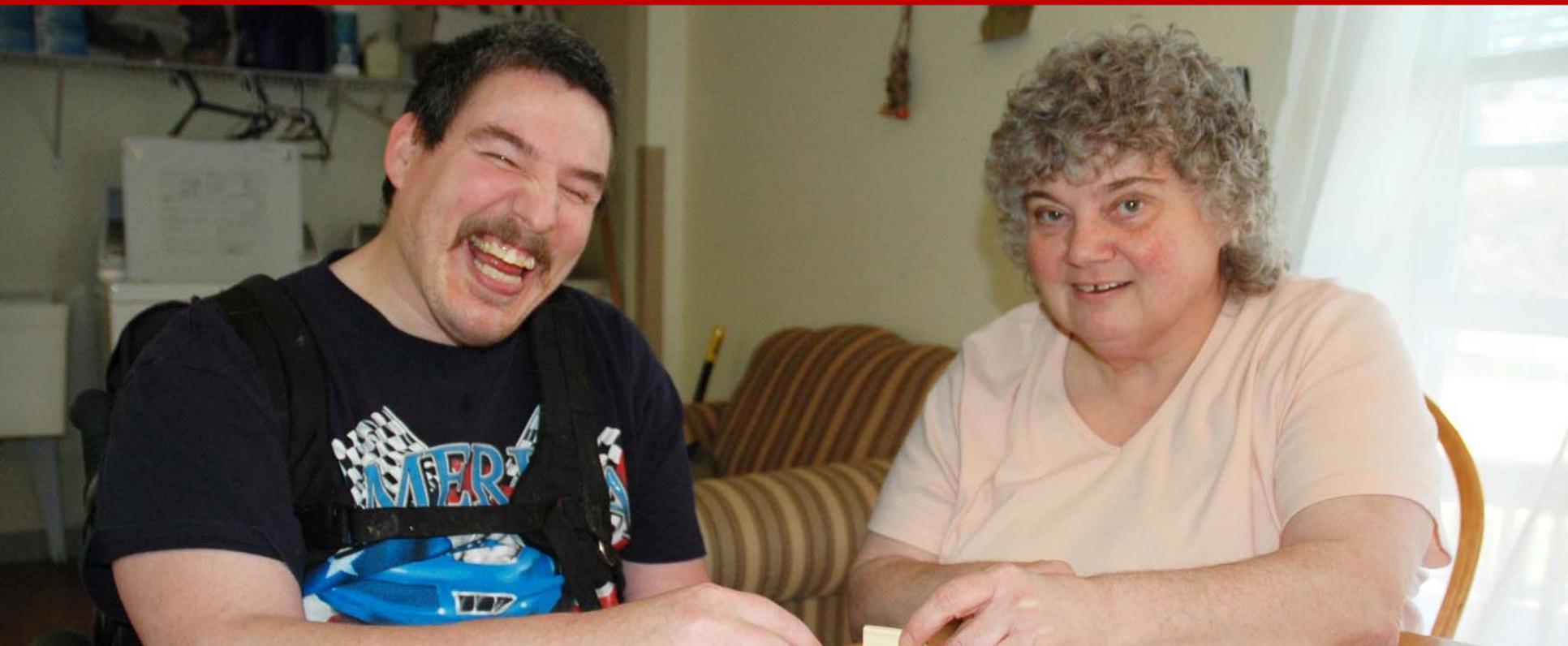




# Does A Person Get To Choose With Whom They Live?

Individuals have opportunity to visit a host home and meet the Mentor and Mentor's family before moving in.

Typically they may plan an overnight visit as well.





# Mentor Responsibilities

Ensure daily care is provided

Schedule medical appointments

Support individual to learn new things that are important to them and be active in the community



# Supporting Mentors

Agency Program staff manages client finances, paperwork and arrange for respite, specialized care for client

Agency Program staff act as consultants and advisors for Mentors to help navigate potential problems or issues



## Joe & Bob

With Bob as his Mentor, Joe gained independence and found the confidence to pursue part-time employment, even becoming Employee Of The Month.





## James & Michele

Blind and feeling alone, James found love and support with Michele's family. Living with Michele, James has made strides in advocating for and improving his health.



# Questions?

A screenshot of a GoToWebinar control panel. The window has a title bar with "File View Help" and standard window controls. It contains two main sections: "Audio" and "Questions".

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Audio Mode:  Use Telephone  Use Mic & Speakers

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[Audio Setup](#)

**Questions**

[Enter a question for staff]

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- Participants must view the full hour rather than 75% of the hour
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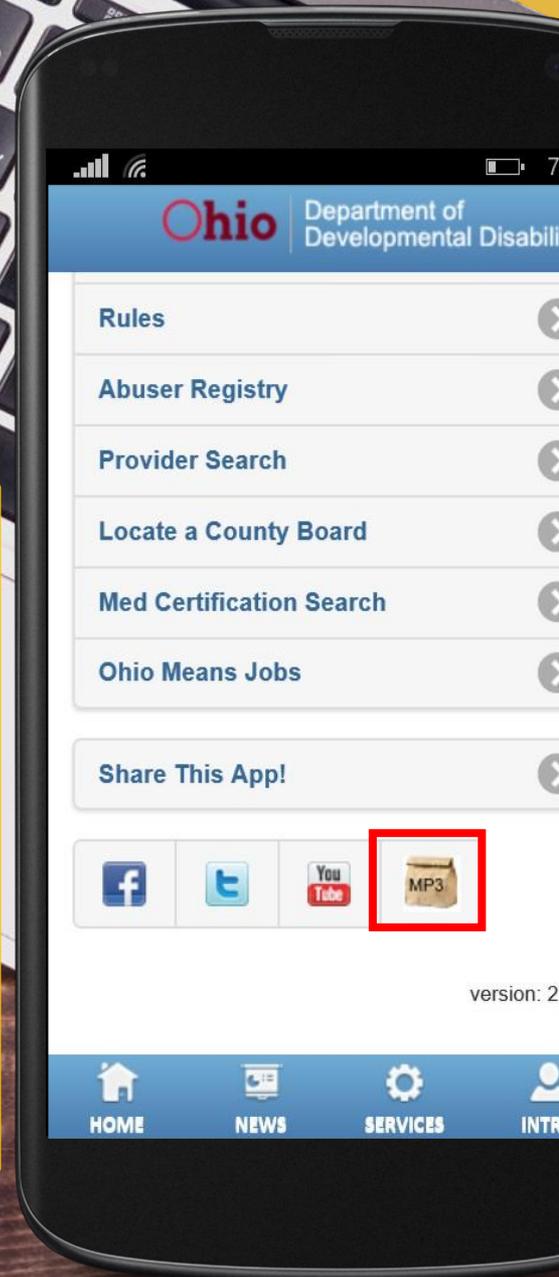
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