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CAROL'S WELCOME

It's been quite a year, hasn't it?

Who would have ever imagined just one year ago when we launched the new HOME Choice program just one year ago we'd end state fiscal year 2020 in a pandemic? And, who would have thought that during the midst of this pandemic the HOME Choice program would have the busiest transition month of the year AND move its 14,000th individual back into the community?

As we share with you our successes and stories in this annual report, I am deeply grateful to each and every person who has worked tirelessly to make this program work, despite circumstances that made it seem impossible. To all our valued partners, managed care and community providers, nursing facility staff, family members, and the HOME Choice team, thank you!

The launch of the new version of HOME Choice in July 2019 was the result of months of planning and preparation. However, like any new program, we knew there would be the hiccups that come with change. We did experience those, but with a hefty dose of

open communication and patience, we worked out our issues and continue to improve our way of doing business. COVID-19 has certainly required us to adjust and adapt to a very new way of providing service. We are finding we can be successful despite the pandemic by using creative new methods of doing business.

As we continue to work in this new world, we focus on what we can do and not what we can't. I am grateful for our dedicated network of HOME Choice assessors and transition coordination agencies, National Church Residences and CareStar. Through adaptation, they have ensured the program is not just surviving, but thriving. The work we do together is just as important as ever. I like to say that HOME Choice is a small program with a big impact. I am happy we can continue to do this meaningful work, making a big impact in individuals' lives, and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

-Carol

BRANDON'S STORY

Brandon's life changed forever on a September day in 2019. While enjoying an outing with friends in West Virginia, the 28-year-old was involved in an ATV accident and suffered a traumatic brain injury that left him unable to move or communicate. He was in three different facilities in West Virginia prior to being moved to one near his home in northern Ohio - that time in a coma that lasted 65 days.

Despite his injury, Brandon and his family wanted him home, so they reached out to his facility's social worker for information and guidance. After hearing Brandon's story, the social worker told them about the HOME Choice program and how it assists people transition back into the community. With the social worker's help, Brandon applied and was approved. His case was assigned to Darlene, a HOME Choice transition coordinator on the National Church Residences team. Unfortunately, the timing wasn't the best. As Darlene was assigned Brandon's case in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, which put roadblocks at almost every turn.

Despite the challenges presented by the virus, Brandon's family was determined to have him return home. Communications, personal visits, and documentation easily managed under normal circumstances had to be accomplished in other ways. While they awaited the development of Brandon's discharge plan, the family installed a generator, ramp and other modifications necessary for his return.

Darlene credits the family for what was accomplished. "This family had great hopes and aspirations for Brandon and there was never once a question about what couldn't be done, only what could be done," Darlene said. "The family never wavered nor shifted the responsibility. They did their part and let others do theirs."

Brandon's family says that Darlene had a share in the success. "Darlene answered the call, stepped forward and did what was needed, and then some, to get our son home," his father said.

Due to the tireless work of the team composed of Brandon's family and Darlene, everything was ready for Brandon's homecoming at the end of April. Brandon's family was not the only ones glad to see him back home. More than 80 friends and neighbors did a "drive-by" to welcome him. Today Brandon is home and thriving with the love and care of his family.

"Home Choice is exactly what Brandon needed. The program is very focused on bringing families back together, and, as the old saying goes there is no place better than home," his father noted.

Brandon and his family



SUZANNE'S STORY

The first time I met Suzanne I gravitated toward her eccentric personality. Suzanne is not your typical senior. She enjoys unique hobbies like belly dancing and teaching guitar. She is a self-proclaimed naturalist who loves to garden, and she also is a writer of short stories and poetry, with hopes of being published someday.

As one would expect given her participation in HOME Choice, Suzanne's ambition was to transition to the community where she could return to the normalcy of unrestricted independence. "As a Transition Coordinator with CareStar, I aim to fulfill our mission, 'Improving Communities By Improving Lives.'" Through my work, with my help, those I serve accomplish this very goal.

It was distinctly evident that a long-term care setting was not compatible with Suzanne's needs and preferences. With her spirited disposition, it was even out of character to find her participating in conventional senior activities like Bingo. In her own words, it is simply "so uncool." Instead, Suzanne looked forward to the possibility of teaching other seniors to belly dance, play guitar, and grow their own herbs and vegetables. I vividly remember leaving my first meeting with Suzanne thinking, "I need to get her out of this place." She was, and still is, so full of life!

It has been my sincere pleasure assisting Suzanne with her transition, and I am humbled to introduce the story of success, written from her own perspective.

Stephanie Deem, CareStar transition coordinator

"I have nothing but praise for the HOME Choice Program, and for the kindness, hard work and consideration of Stephanie Deem. Stephanie was the one who I could always reach, who never failed to call me back and encourage me. She even got me a return ride from Marietta Hospital when I didn't know who else to call!

As for the HOME Choice Program, it's positively wonderful. After the accident when I fell through a weak board in my porch and was taken to Highland Oaks Nursing Home for three months of physical therapy - which stretched on to be seven long months - I was feeling pretty hopeless, as if I'd never find a place to live. But Stephanie never gave up.

I was in pain and very depressed because I knew that I wasn't nursing home material. She told me about a wonderful place called Restoration Plaza of Barlow that had a very short waiting



list. To my delight it also had a rural setting, which meant a lot to me since I am a gardener and outdoor person.

When the time came to move in, Stephanie asked me to think of all the things that I would need to live in the apartment. And then, the HOME Choice program set me up with many new fine and useful items, including furniture and even kitchen utensils! So, here I am in my own beautiful affordable apartment! Thank you so much, Stephanie and HOME Choice! Much, much appreciated!"

Suzanne La Force

WELCOME RENUKA AND MAURA! GOODBYE LAURIE, YVETTE, AND EDWARD!

Renuka Punjabi was welcomed to the HOME Choice team as a community living administrator (CLA) in February 2020. Renuka moved to Columbus to attend the Ohio State University and fell in love with the city, so much she stayed to get a master's degree in Social Work. Renuka comes to Medicaid from the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, where she was PASSPORT case manager for four years. Prior to that, she was the quality assurance specialist at National Church Residences working with service coordinators in independent living settings to ensure HUD compliance. Renuka brings a wealth and depth of experience assisting others that is so critical to the CLA position. She shared that in her very short tenure in the office, she learned her way to her desk and the water cooler!

Maura Klein joined the HOME Choice team as the housing manager in August, 2020. She moved to Columbus from Madison, Wisc. in 2016, but wants to reassure her ODM colleagues that the only loyalty that remains to the Badger State is her strident love of their cheese. Maura comes from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services where she worked on recovery housing policy. She has worked on

several state programs and worked for the State of Wisconsin and on the MFP program, which was her first foray into public service. Maura is excited to bring her experience to ODM and is looking forward to working with the HOME Choice team!

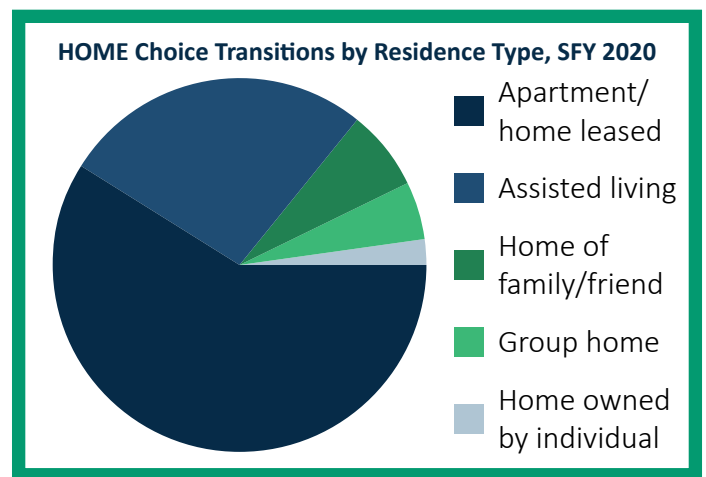
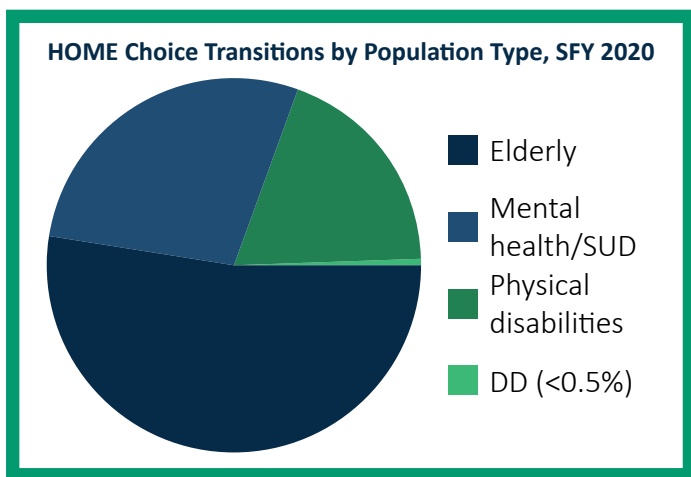
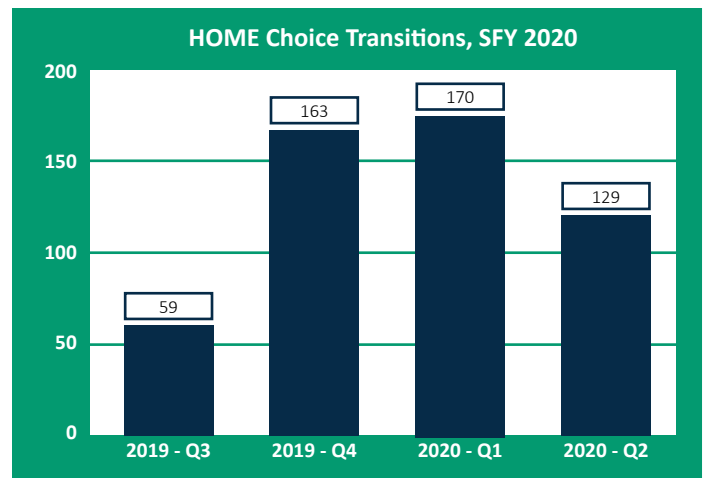
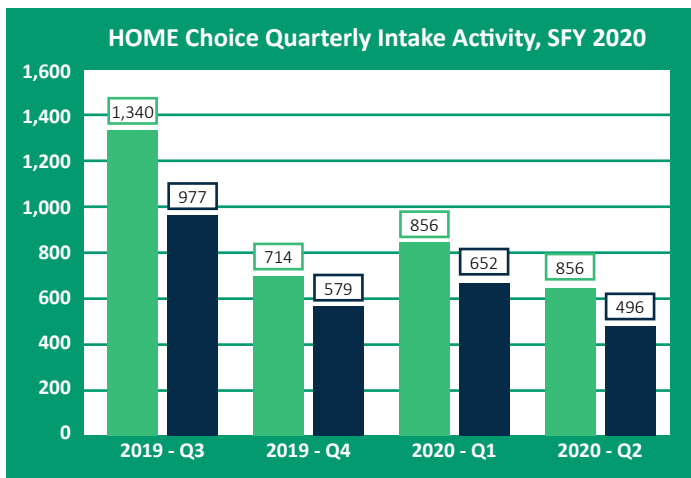
The team also said farewell to three colleagues, Laurie Damon, Yvette Weaver, and Edward Gibson.

Laurie Damon retired from the state in October 2019. She ended her 30-year career of state service as a community living administrator on our HOME Choice team. Prior to ODM, Laurie was the face of the Ohio Access Success Program which was the predecessor to the HOME Choice program. Under her leadership, more than 1,200 individuals transitioned from facility-based settings to the home of their choice.

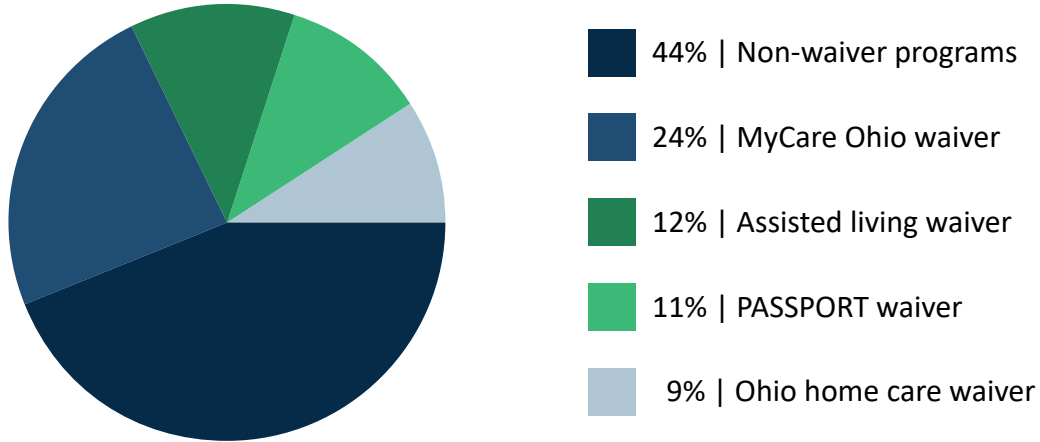
Yvette Weaver was a member of the HOME Choice team for 15 years and as a state employee for 35. Her initial assignment was to administer the quality of life survey but then soon moved into the role of Community Living Administrator. Yvette collaborated with many others to help individuals return home.

Edward Gibson was a member of the HOME Choice team for seven years, his entire tenure as a state employee. He was initially brought onboard as education and outreach manager but provided support to the housing role over the past two years. Prior to that, Edward worked for the American Red Cross, where he retired after 30 years. Like Renuka, he moved to Columbus and fell in love with the city and the giving community he found here. Working for Medicaid was never on the radar, however, the opportunity to do so proved to be one of the best of his life.

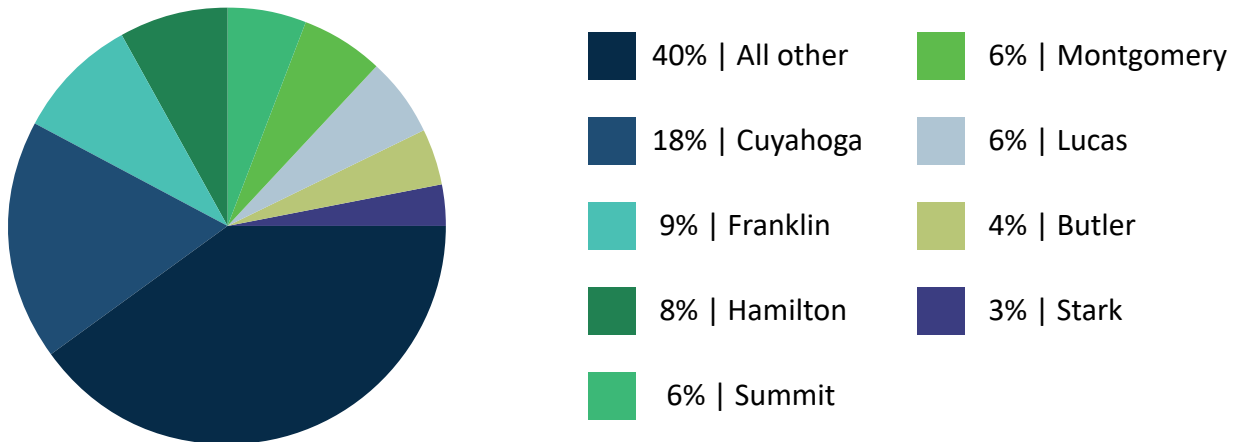
DATA AND GRAPHS



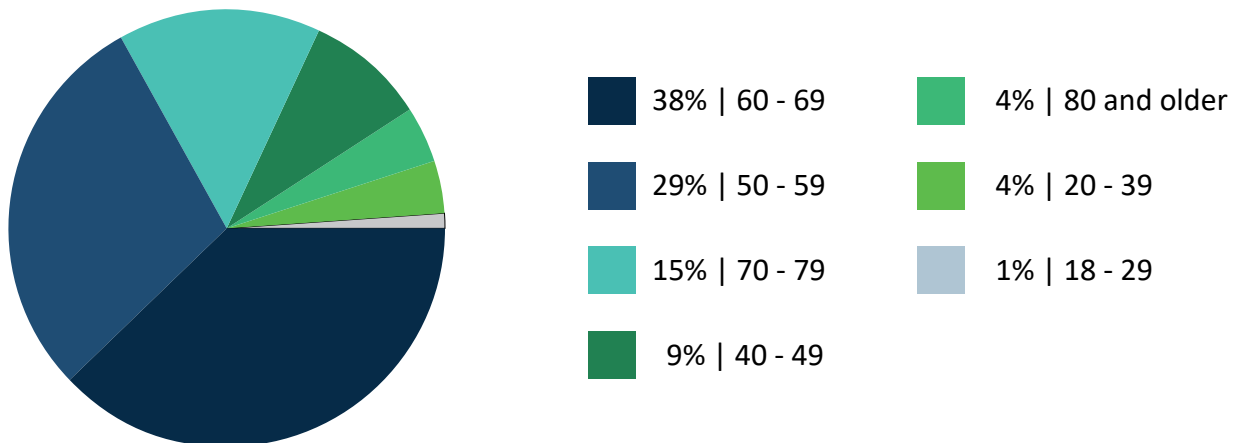
Home Choice Transitions by Plan, SFY 2020



Home Choice Transitions by Leading County, SFY 2020



Home Choice Transitions by Age Group, SFY 2020



Ohio Department of Medicaid
HOME Choice Community Transition Program
Program Activity as of June 30, 2020

HOME Choice Program Transitions To-Date

-HOME Choice MFP Original Grant Transitions, 2008-2018	12,985
-HOME Choice Interim Beyond the Grant (BTG) Transitions, January-June 2019	559
-HOME Choice, July 2019-June 2020	521
Total Transitions to the Community	14,065

Current HOME Choice Program Activity as of the End of Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
-New HOME Choice Applications Submitted	6	11	4	36	76	27	28	29	31
-Applicants Being Assessed	47	76	93	105	89	54	39	82	82
-Participants in Pre-Transition	774	740	719	586	596	566	574	582	590
Total HOME Choice Participants	827	827	816	727	761	647	641	693	703

Pre-Transition Activity SFY 2020	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	Mo/ AVG
- Applications Received	655	383	302	263	218	233	299	309	248	170	236	244	3,560	297
- Assessments Completed	400	313	264	238	170	171	197	240	215	132	159	205	2,704	225

Transitions by Plan	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	%/ Tot
Total Transitions	1	26	32	45	59	59	61	52	57	18	44	67	521	--
-Waiver Programs:	1	8	13	24	34	36	38	27	30	11	29	42	293	56.2
MyCare	--	4	2	12	12	14	18	13	16	7	7	22	127	24.4
Assisted Living	--	1	2	5	9	8	4	7	6	1	7	11	61	11.7
PASSPORT	1	2	6	7	4	4	10	3	5	--	8	5	55	10.6
Ohio Home Care	--	1	3	--	9	9	6	4	3	3	7	4	49	9.4
SELF & Level 1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	0.2
-Non-Waiver Programs	--	18	19	21	25	23	23	25	27	7	15	25	228	43.8

Transitions by Service Population	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	%/ Tot
-Elderly	1	11	15	29	33	33	27	25	31	11	26	36	278	53.4
-Mental Illness/Substance Use Disorder	--	13	10	8	14	19	16	20	14	3	10	18	145	27.8
-Physical Disabilities	--	2	7	8	12	6	18	7	12	4	8	13	97	18.6
-Developmental Disabilities	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	0.2

Ohio Department of Medicaid
HOME Choice Community Transition Program
Program Activity as of June 30, 2020

Transitions by Residence Type	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	%/Tot
-Apartment/House Leased by Individual	1	17	27	30	38	31	39	26	30	8	26	34	307	58.9
-Assisted Living Facility	--	6	2	13	17	19	10	17	17	5	12	23	141	27.1
-Home/Apartment of Friend/Family	--	2	1	2	2	6	8	4	3	2	5	3	38	7.3
-Group Home	--	1	2	--	2	2	2	3	6	2	0	7	27	5.2
-Home Owned by the Individual	--	--	--	--	--	1	2	2	1	1	1	--	8	1.5
Transitions by Referral Source	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total	%/Tot
-Nursing Facility	1	18	24	30	46	38	43	37	46	13	26	46	368	70.6
-Self	--	2	2	7	4	5	4	3	1	1	7	4	40	7.7
-CareStar/CareSource	--	--	1	1	3	7	4	6	2	2	4	3	33	6.3
-Community Agency/CIL	--	1	2	--	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	6	22	4.2
- AAA/LTCO	--	1	--	1	2	3	1	2	3	--	4	4	21	4.0
-Managed Care Provider	--	1	--	1	2	1	2	1	2	--	--	1	11	2.1
-Family/Friend/Guardian	--	1	--	2	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	2	9	1.7
-Unspecified	--	2	3	3	--	2	3	2	--	--	1	1	17	3.3

Source: Data through 2019/Q2 is from the original MFP-BTG Access Database; data 2019/Q3 and later is from the HOME Choice Web Application, HOME Choice Bureau, Office of Operations.