Ohio Transition and Diversion Information & Resources for Consideration during PASRR Evaluations
Ohio Department of Mental Health

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Solutions For a New Era

PASRR fits within rebalancing and disability planning efforts, consistent with Olmstead, ADA, and Money Follows the Person (MFP), to provide person-centered efforts to strengthen access to community options, assist facilities with planning care, and connect individuals with disabilities to other state Long-Term Care resources.

Whenever and wherever possible, PASRR should be directed toward educating stakeholders about available community transition and diversion options.

The federal objective of PASRR is to ensure individuals with disabilities are placed in the least restrictive, most appropriate level of care to meet their needs. Some individuals may meet nursing home criteria but may also have the capacity to successfully live in the community.

When an individual is self-identified or is identified through PASRR as a candidate for community placement, community resources need to be examined to determine the least restrictive environment where an individual’s needs can be met.

Exploring community resources.

Ohio offers a broad array of long-term care services designed to help meet the needs of individuals with complex requirements. Ohio is committed to meeting the needs of Ohio citizens and offers a range of community solutions that should be considered for individuals who are assessed through PASRR and who have the capacity for community diversion or transition:

MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED WAIVER SERVICES

Home and community-based services (HCBS) provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or community. These programs serve a variety of targeted population groups, such as older adults, people with intellectual disabilities, and/or people with physical disabilities.

The term “waiver” refers to an exception to federal law that is granted to a state by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. HCBS waivers allow participants, who have disabilities and chronic conditions, to have more control of their lives and remain active participants in their community. Without HCBS waivers, many consumers would live in a hospital, nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR). In addition to providing an alternative to institutional care, waivers enable Ohio Medicaid to test new programs with limited enrollment and locations, and waive certain eligibility requirements. ODJFS provides funding for and is ultimately responsible for all nine waivers within Ohio Medicaid, and directly administers three waivers. The remainder are administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, which manages three waiver programs, and the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), which manages three waiver programs.

Waivers include:

Ohio Home Care Waiver (OHCW) [for persons with an intermediate or skilled level of care age 59 or younger], Transitions DD Waiver [for individuals with an ICF/DD level of care], and Transitions Carve out Waiver [for persons with an intermediate or skilled level of care age 60 or older]. Services include: adult day health, emergency response, home-delivered meals, home modifications, out-of-home respite, personal care aide, supplemental adaptive and assistive devices and transportation, waiver nursing, home care attendant (this service is not provided in the Transitions DD waiver). The application form, ODJFS 02399, can be obtained and submitted at the local County Department of Job and Family Services (CDJFS). Individuals can be waitlisted for services. The Transitions DD and Transitions carve-out waivers are currently closed to new enrollment.
**Assisted Living Waiver** [for persons 21 and older with at least an intermediate level of care]. Services include: assisted living and community transition services. The application form, ODJFS 02399 can be obtained and submitted at the local CDJFS or at the regional PASSPORT administration agency (PAA).

**Choices Waiver** [for individuals age 60 or older with at least an intermediate level of care]. Services include: adult day health, alternative meals, environmental accessibility adaptations, home care attendant service, home-delivered meals, personal emergency response systems, pest control and specialized medical equipment and supplies. The application form, ODJFS 02399 can be obtained and submitted at the local CDJFS or at one of the three approved regional PAA offices.

**PASSPORT** [for individuals age 60 or older with at least an intermediate LOC]. Services include: Home - delivered meals, adult day services, homemaker services, personal emergency response systems, medical equipment and supplies, minor home modifications, chore services, independent living assistance, nutritional consultation, personal care services, social work and counseling, and transportation. The application form, ODJFS 02399, can be obtained and submitted at the local CDJFS or at the PAA office. Wait-listing is available if services are full.

**Level One Waiver** [for individuals of all ages with an ICF/DD Level of Care]. Level one waiver services include: homemaker/personal care, institutional and informal respite, specialized medical equipment and supplies, environmental accessibility adaptations, adult day support, vocational habilitation, non -medical transportation, personal emergency response system, supported employment/community and enclave, supported employment-equipment and transportation. The application form, ODJFS 02399 can be obtained and submitted at the local CDJFS or at the local county board of developmental disabilities (CBDD). Waiting list is available through local CBDD when all available waiver slots are full.

**Individual Options Waiver (IO)** [for individuals of all ages with an ICF/DD Level of Care]. IO waiver services include: homemaker/personal care, community and residential respite, adaptive and assistive equipment, adult day support, vocational habilitation, home-delivered meals, interpreter, non-medical transportation, nutrition, remote monitoring, remote monitoring equipment, social work, supported employment-community and enclave, supported employment-equipment and transportation.

The application form, ODJFS 02399 can be obtained and submitted at the local CBDD or at the local county board of developmental disabilities (CBDD). Waiting list is available through local CBDD when all available waiver slots are full.

**Self Empowered Life Funding Wavier (SELF)** [for individuals of all ages with in ICF/ DD Level of Care]. The SELF waiver is the Department of Developmental Disabilities first waiver with participant self – direction. Services include participant-directed goods and services, participant/family stability assistance, support brokerage, clinical/therapeutic intervention, community inclusion, community and residential respite, non-medical transportation, functional behavioral assessment, adult day support, vocational habilitation, integrated employment, support employment-enclave, remote monitoring and remote monitoring equipment.

**HELPING OHIOANS MOVE, EXPANDING CHOICE — (HOME CHOICE)**

HOME Choice, Ohio’s federally funded Money Follows the Person demonstration program helps older adults, and people with physical disabilities, children in qualified institutional settings, people with mental illness, and people with developmental disabilities transition from nursing homes and other institutions to community settings of their choice. A transition coordinator works with program participants to develop a written plan that identifies the person’s wants and needs in a community setting. The transition coordinator assists the person in arranging for services and supports to meet identified needs.

HOME Choice is managed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the State Medicaid Agency. Persons who work for HOME Choice include specialists in each of the following areas: outreach, enrollment, housing, population specific community living, data management and analysis, and the balancing of long-term services and supports within the state. Recognizing the importance of...
safe, affordable housing to a successful transition, Ohio also employs a housing specialist within its Medicaid agency to help build partnerships with state public housing officials. Services provided through HOME Choice encompass three categories:

1. **Qualified Services** are the services participants in the HOME Choice program will receive through their enrollment on one of Ohio’s existing waiver programs or receive through Medicaid State Plan program.

2. **Demonstration Services** include goods and services to help participants transition to the community, independent living skills training, community support coaching, HOME Choice nursing, social work and counseling, and nutritional consultation. While the majority of these are available during the 365-day enrollment period after transitioning, community transition services and pre-transition transportation services can be accessed before the participant moves home.

3. **Supplemental Services**, such as communication aids and service animals, are also available during the 365-day enrollment period. Transition coordination and pre-transition transportation are accessible before the participant transitions home.

**Types of Services for Consumers and Providers Who Can Provide Them**

- **Independent Living Skills Training.** Independent Living Skills Training develops or increases a person’s knowledge or ability to live independently. Training such as this is especially critical for people who lived in an institutional setting for a long time and who are accustomed to relying on others to get their needs met. Independent Living Skills Training can be provided to participants one-on-one, or in a group or classroom setting, and can be provided by non-profit agencies or by an Ohio Department of Mental Health-certified center.

- **Community Support Coach.** Community support coaches provide guidance and education to empower HOME Choice participants, their authorized representatives or their family members. Coaches help participants learn to make informed independent decisions, set and achieve goals, identify and solve problems, and manage multiple tasks. The coach must have personal experience in successfully transitioning either themselves or other people into the community. Coaches can be non-agency providers or can work for an agency.

- **Nursing.** If needed, HOME Choice participants can receive intermittent nursing care in amounts greater than available through the Medicaid State Plan. Nursing can be provided by an accredited home health agency, as well as by a non-agency provider.

- **Social Work/Counseling Services.** Social work and counseling services are available to HOME Choice participants to promote physical, social and emotional well-being. Social work/counseling services can be provided by agency or non-agency providers.

- **Nutritional Consultation Services.** Nutritional Consultation Services provide guidance to participants with special dietary needs, taking into consideration their cultural and ethnic background, and dietary preferences or restrictions.

- **Communication Aids.** HOME Choice can provide participants with aids needed to help communicate in a personal or community setting.
setting, such as augmentative communication devices or systems, computers and computer equipment; mechanical and electronic communication devices; cable and Internet access; and the cost of the installation, repair maintenance and support of any covered communication aid.

- **Service Animals.** Service animals available to HOME Choice participants include seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, and service monkeys. Services include the first-year costs associated with raising of the animal, housing, feeding, upkeep and medical care of the animal during training, training of the animal and related transportation and administrative activities, and equipment and supplies. Service animal services are provided through agencies that have been certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

- **Community Transition Services.** This service provides HOME Choice participants up to $2000 to be used to purchase goods and services that will help them successfully transition to the community. Community transition funds can be used to pay for utility deposits, furniture, or household items.

**Eligibility for HOME Choice**

To participate in HOME Choice, the individual must:

- Have lived in a facility-based care setting for at least 90 days,
- Have certain care needs,
- Be eligible for Medicaid, and
- Relocate to a qualified residence

Questions about HOME Choice can be directed to: 1-888-221-1560