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**Ohio Recognized as National Leader in Transitioning Individuals
into Home and Community Based Care Settings**

Greater Choice for Medicaid Beneficiaries, Lower Costs for Taxpayers

COLUMBUS – A recently released study of states participating in the federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) demonstration program reports Ohio is a national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home and community based settings. Ohio’s HOME Choice program ranks first among states in transitioning individuals with mental illness from long-term care facilities into alternative settings, and second overall in the number of residents moved from institutions into home and community based settings.

Ohio’s HOME Choice program provides individuals greater choice in where to live and receive long-term services and supports. From its inception in 2008 through December 2012, Ohio’s HOME Choice program transitioned 2,999 Medicaid beneficiaries who wanted to move from long-term care facilities into home and community based settings, second only to Texas, and far surpassing Ohio’s original goal to transition 2,200 residents.

“Helping individuals transition out of institutions and into alternative settings for care remains important to our agency,” said John McCarthy, director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid. “Providing a greater level of choice not only empowers people on Medicaid, but also benefits Ohio taxpayers because home and community based care is often less expensive than institutional care.”

“Ohio HOME Choice is a great example of the cross-agency work led by the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation,” said Tracy Plouck, director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. “Because of it, more people who live with serious and persistent mental illness are leaving our institutions and receiving quality care in the community. That means that more Ohioans are now able to live with dignity in the setting they prefer.”

The report by Mathematica Policy Research analyzed 37 of the 47 states participating in the MFP Demonstration and included data through December 31, 2012:

www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/redirect_pubsdb.asp?strSite=pdfs/health/mfp_july-dec2012_progress.pdf

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