

# Family Choice Program and Waiting List Updates

Steve Beha, The Arc of Ohio  
Associate Director

The Arc of Ohio  
Northwest Spring Conference  
May 12, 2017





## **The Arc of Ohio Mission Statement**

*The mission of The Arc of Ohio is to advocate for human rights, personal dignity and community participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, through legislative and social action, information and education, local chapter support and **family involvement**.*



# **The Arc of Ohio**

## **What We Believe**

*We hold that **individuals**, who are adults, **have the right to make their own choices** concerning where and with whom they will live, and how they will spend their time, regardless of ability.*



## **Family Choice Philosophy**

*The Family Choice Program is based on the philosophy of self-determination and empowers people to enhance the quality of their lives by providing an opportunity for choice and control of their support system as well as acknowledging that they are the best judges of their own needs and how those needs should be met through self-directed services.*



## **Family Choice Program Summary**

*The Family Choice Program will allow people with disabilities and/or their family members to select their own Support Worker(s) through the Level 1 or IO Waivers.*

*This Support Worker will be an employee of The Arc of Ohio for payroll, tax, and worker's compensation purposes but will be under the direct management and day-to-day supervision of the people with disabilities and/or their family member.*



## **Family Choice Program Summary**

*This program also offers individuals with disabilities and/or their families the ability to:*

- *Choose and control the services they receive.*
- *Recruit Support Workers and refer for hire.*
- *Determine how and when services will be provided.*
- *Receive assistance from The Arc of Ohio to manage Service Worker(s).*



# Family Choice

## Why Do This?

- *The Arc of Ohio was asked by individuals and families to help with finding qualified providers or assist with the certification process.*
- *Individuals and families need a way to quickly recruit Support Workers, especially for those individuals with complex physical needs with the IO Waiver or those not being served on the Level 1 Waiver.*



# **Family Choice**

## **Why Do This?**

- *Currently there is no statewide model for family choice among the Level 1 and IO Waiver.*
- *Individuals and families want to say who specifically works to support them.*
- *Can be used to bridge the gap in service while an Independent Provider completes their DODD certification.*



## **Family Choice Eligibility**

- *Individuals who are enrolled in the Level 1 or 10 Waivers.*
- *Individuals living on their own or with family. This will be a one to one service unless more than one individual lives with a family member and is also a waiver recipient.*
- *The individual or a responsible family member must assume the responsibilities of a volunteer Support Coordinator.*



## **Family Choice Support Coordinator**

*The Support Coordinator role must be filled by a person that is at least 18 years of age, either be the individual or a family member with daily contact and must be willing as well as capable to perform the duties of a Support Coordinator as a volunteer position.*

*The Arc of Ohio will assist with Support Coordinator duties when necessary.*



## **Family Choice Support Coordinator**

### *Support Coordinator Duties:*

- *Recruit and refer qualified Support Workers to The Arc of Ohio for hire.*
- *Provide or participate in the provision of qualified Support Worker orientation and training.*
- *Assume responsibility for backup within the approved ISP.*



## **Family Choice Support Coordinator**

### *Support Coordinator Duties:*

- *Determine the work schedule of Support Workers and monitor the spending of approved waiver budget based upon the authorized ISP.*
- *Manage tasks and day-to-day activities to be performed by Support Workers as well as where and when they are to be performed in accordance with the authorized ISP.*



## **Family Choice Support Coordinator**

### *Support Coordinator Duties:*

- *Abide by DODD and local county board of dd incident reporting procedures (UI/MUI).*
- *Verify time worked by Support Workers as well as approve and sign timesheets*
- *Evaluate the performance of the Support Workers and determine their continuation or dismissal.*



# **Family Choice**

## **The Arc of Ohio**

### *The Arc of Ohio Responsibilities:*

- *DODD certified agency provider, assuring compliance with all applicable state, federal and waiver requirements.*
- *Assist in gathering certification documents should the Support Worker desire to be certified by DODD as an Independent Provider (IP). This program will not require employees to sign a non compete clause.*



# **Family Choice**

## **The Arc of Ohio**

### *The Arc of Ohio Responsibilities:*

- *Assist with planning, budgeting, and managing services and supports.*
- *Complete all payroll and accounts payable responsibilities.*
- *Maintain record confidentiality and security, according to HIPAA regulations.*



# **Family Choice**

## **The Arc of Ohio**

### *The Arc of Ohio Responsibilities:*

- *Work with local county boards of dd to assure payment authorization of waiver services.*
- *Maintain incident report logs for review (UI/MUI).*
- *Maintain Support Worker training records and background checks.*



# Family Choice FAQs

*Q: Will The Arc of Ohio be hiring the 14,000 DODD Independent Providers?*

*A: No. The Arc of Ohio strongly supports the continuation of Independent Providers in Ohio.*

*Q: Will this program compete with other agency providers?*

*A: It is not the intent of the Family Choice Program to be competition, rather to provide a service option not currently available statewide and to provide a Family Choice Model to the state.*



# Family Choice

## FAQs

*Q: Will the Family Choice Program replace other services provided by The Arc of Ohio?*

*A: No. The Arc of Ohio will continue and expand upon all of our advocacy initiatives for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

*Q: How many families will the program reach in the next year?*

*A: The goal is to have at least 50 families enrolled and receiving services through Family Choice.*



## **Family Choice FAQs**

*Q: How much will Support Workers be paid?*

*A: Support Workers are paid \$11 per hour of HPC, \$8.15 per hour of OSOC and \$0.40 per mile of transportation. AFL Daily Rate based on ODDP.*

*Q: Will Support Workers have benefits.*

*A: Not yet, but a possibility in the future.*

*Q: Can family members be Support Workers?*

*A: Yes, but not if they are the assigned Support Coordinator*



# Family Choice FAQs

**Q:** *Will this be a statewide program?*

**A:** *Yes. The Arc of Ohio received grant money from DODD to design a Family Choice Model to enable any agency to provide this waiver service.*

**Q:** *Were any rules waived or altered to create this program?*

**A:** *No. The Family Choice Program operates under all the existing rules and regulations of Ohio's DODD Waivers.*



# Family Choice

## How do I Sign Up?

Steve Beha, The Arc of Ohio

Associate Director

[Steve.Beha@TheArcofOhio.org](mailto:Steve.Beha@TheArcofOhio.org)

(614) 487-4720 ext. 112 or (800) 875-2723

[FCP@TheArcofOhio.org](mailto:FCP@TheArcofOhio.org)

[www.TheArcofOhio.org/family-choice-program](http://www.TheArcofOhio.org/family-choice-program)



## **Waiting List Improvements**

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, The Arc of Ohio and other stakeholders have started the process of simplifying the waiting list for home and community-based waiver services as well as improving access to resources and services for individuals and families throughout Ohio.



## **Waiting List**

### **Current Problems**

- Too Complex
- Difficult to Navigate
- Local Number on List is Constantly Adjusted
- Many People on the List Receive Some Type of Service
- Individuals are on More than One List
- Artificially Inflated the Waiting List Total



# **Waiting List Statute Change**

- Included in Ohio House Bill 49 (Budget Bill)
- Requires DODD to Adopt new Rules Regarding the Operation of Waiting Lists
- New Rules are being Developed by:
  - Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
  - Associations Representing Individuals and their Families
  - OACB
  - Provider Organizations



# **Waiting List**

## **Possible Beneficial Changes to the Rule**

- Will be a Move out of Stagnation
- Timely Access to Resources and Services
- Transparency and Uniformity
- Focused on Individuals who have Current Needs
- More Family Control
- Those with an Immediate Need or in an Emergency Situation will have their Needs Addressed Right Away by their Local County Board of Developmental Disabilities



## **Waiting List Feedback**

This summer, input will be gathered regarding how waiting lists for home and community based waiver services can be improved.

All Updates will be shared via  
Email List or Social Media.

You can reach out to The Arc of Ohio throughout this process at [PublicPolicy@TheArcofOhio.org](mailto:PublicPolicy@TheArcofOhio.org)



## **Waiting List Questions?**

Steve Beha, The Arc of Ohio

Associate Director

[Steve.Beha@TheArcofOhio.org](mailto:Steve.Beha@TheArcofOhio.org)

(614) 487-4720 ext. 112 or (800) 875-2723