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Ohio Leads Nation in Home and Community Transition Planning

COLUMBUS – Today the Departments of Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, and Aging, along with the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, announced that Ohio received initial approval of its Statewide Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Transition Plan from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Ohio joins Tennessee and Kentucky as the only states to date to achieve CMS approval.

"Ohio is committed to creating meaningful choices for seniors and people with disabilities to live with dignity in the settings they prefer," said Governor's Office of Health Transformation Director Greg Moody. "This plan is a roadmap for keeping that commitment."

CMS implemented new regulations for Medicaid HCBS waiver programs in March 2014, and required all states to submit a transition plan describing the actions that will be taken to ensure compliance with the new regulations. After an extensive stakeholder process, Ohio Medicaid submitted a final HCBS transition plan that CMS initially approved on June 2, 2016.

"The goal of Ohio's plan is to maximize opportunities for individuals receiving HCBS services to have access to the benefits of community living," said Department of Developmental Disabilities Director John Martin. "It builds on Governor Kasich's transformational budget that created 3,000 new waivers for persons to experience community living."

"CMS approval further confirms Ohio is leading the nation in its transition to home and community-based services," said Ohio Medicaid Director John McCarthy. "For example, we completed more than 8,000 institution-to-community transitions since 2008 through the Medicaid HOME Choice program, far exceeding the original goal of 2,000 transitions."

"We want Ohioans to feel at home regardless of where they receive the care they need," said Ohio Department of Aging Director Bonnie K. Burman, Sc.D. "We know that quality, person-centered care, delivered in a home-like setting leads to better health outcomes and quality of life."

Final federal approval of Ohio's Medicaid HCBS Transition Plan will follow the completion of several activities required in the plan, including an assessment of all HCBS settings and a remediation strategy to resolve any site-specific issues identified in the assessment.

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