

Well
Beyond

60!

The Road to Balance

Director's Letter

Dear Partner in Serving Our Elders:

Under the leadership of Governor John Kasich, Ohio has made important strides toward preparing Ohio for the reality of an aging population. More than just bracing for the inevitable "age wave," Ohio rightfully saw opportunities in the growth of our elders. We continue to transform our state into one that



harnesses the combined power of our elders and provides opportunities for them to grow, thrive and contribute, while also ensuring that they have access to the care they require as their needs change.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning." That is why, at the Department of Aging and throughout our aging network, we are not resting on our successes, but rather using them as launching points for the next leg of our journey. We know that being prepared is not the same as being ready, and we work hard every day to make sure that we are ready to improve the lives of all Ohioans.

Our Golden Buckeyes are changing what it means to be aging. Today's elders are more involved in their communities than ever, thanks to more resources and support to remain safe and healthy in their own homes, coupled with opportunities to work, learn, serve and mentor. However, they continue to face a significant challenge: Maintaining a level of health and wellness to sustain the level of independence they enjoy.

In this report, you will learn about continued and new efforts to help all Ohioans live "Well Beyond 60!" in a variety of ways. Together with our aging network, state agency and community partners, we are traveling the road to balance - a road that will take us to a place where all Ohioans enjoy opportunities to grow, thrive and contribute, while also having the peace of mind that they will be able to access high-quality, person-centered services and supports should they need them.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie K. Burman".

Bonnie K. Burman, Sc. D.

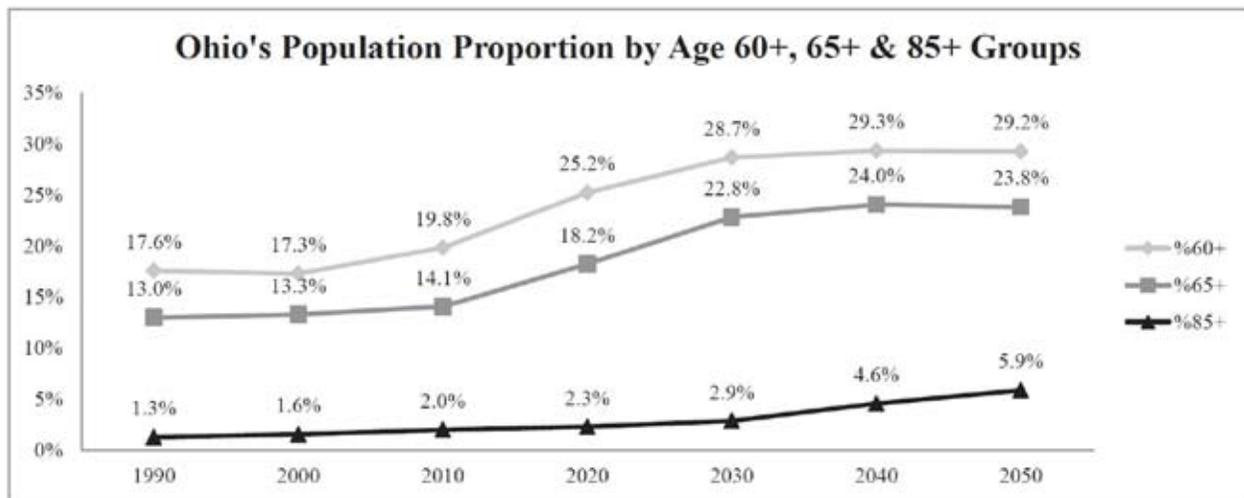
Introduction

Ours is an Aging Population

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) is a cabinet-level state agency that is designated as the state unit on aging, as required by the federal Older Americans Act. In that role, we administer services and supports for older adults, their caregivers and families and coordinate a statewide “aging network” of regional and community agencies, service providers and advocates to shape policy and services in ways that not only meet the needs of older adults with disabilities, but also provides opportunities for all Ohioans to age with dignity and respect while continuing to contribute to their communities.

In their recent report, “The Road to Balance: Two Decades of Progress in Providing Long-Term Services and Supports for Ohio’s Older Population,” the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University points out that Ohio currently has the seventh highest older adult population in the nation. Key demographics cited in their report include:

- Currently, Ohio has 2.5 million people over the age of 60, and 1.7 million over 65.
- In less than 20 years, almost 22 percent of our population will be age 65 or older.
- Between 2010 and 2030, Ohio’s overall population will grow by 2 percent.
- In this same time frame, the growth of the over-60 and over-85 population segments will far outpace overall population growth at 47 percent and 46 percent, respectively.
- The number of Ohioans age 85 and older will grow from 260,000 today to 675,000 by 2050 - that’s a 160 percent increase!
- The number of older adults with physical and cognitive impairments resulting in severe disability will increase 44 percent by 2020.

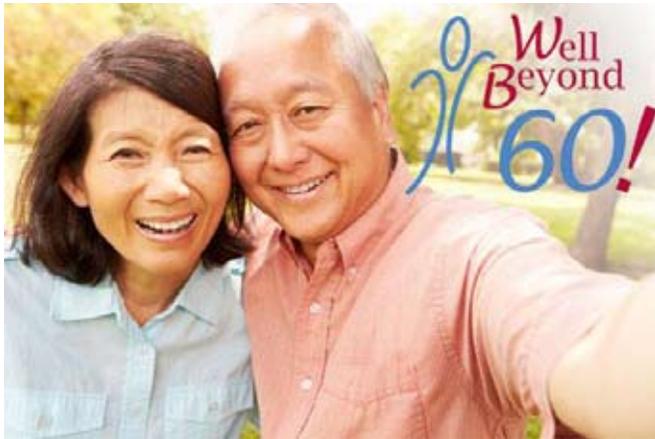


Source: Scripps Gerontology Center

“Well Beyond 60!”

In State Fiscal Year 2015, ODA launched a new comprehensive initiative called “Well Beyond 60!” That phrase has a very intentional double-meaning. On one hand, as the statistics above show, Ohioans already are living well into elderhood, and this longevity brings with it challenges and opportunities for us as a state, and for ODA. Upon entering office in 2011, the Kasich Administration prioritized the need to create more ways for those aging Ohioans with long-term care needs and individuals living with

disabilities to remain in the comfort of their homes, enjoying the support of their communities, rather than enter institutional settings. We have created a responsive system of services and supports that ensures that we are there for Ohioans as their needs change and can help them access the care they need and deserve in the settings they prefer.



On the other hand, “Well Beyond 60!” also reflects a new, laser focus on health, wellness and injury prevention as a strategy to slow or prevent physical and cognitive decline associated with age. We know that the choices we make throughout our lives have a much greater impact on our health and wellness as we age than genetics. We also know that, regardless of your age or current physical condition, there is always something you can do to be healthier.

The word “wellness” means different things to different people, depending on what you value most. For some it’s physical fitness, for others it means the absence or minimization of disease; and for others yet, it simply means having the ability to do the things that make you happy. Thus, the “Well Beyond 60!” strategy combines successful healthy aging initiatives like the STEADY U Ohio falls prevention initiative and the HEALTHY U Ohio chronic disease self-management program with existing and new civic engagement initiatives to foster a culture of health, wellness and prevention at all levels in society. It also goes beyond encouraging and empowering individuals to make healthier choices. Rather, it represents the type of public-private partnerships between state and local government, businesses, health insurance, health and social service providers, educational institutions, media and others to fundamentally change the way that society addresses issues surrounding aging successfully.

The word “wellness” means different things to different people, depending on what you

If this annual report was a roadmap, it would describe the intersection of these two meanings of “Well Beyond 60!” - having a responsive infrastructure in place to provide care as needs change, while also providing tools, resources, opportunities and encouragement for older adults to continue to grow, thrive and contribute, and reduce or delay the need for long-term services and supports. It’s about finding balance.

On the health and wellness side, Scripps recognized the Department of Aging’s STEADY U Ohio falls prevention initiative and expansion of evidence-based prevention programs as the type of public-private partnerships necessary to help our elders continue to grow, thrive and contribute. Some level of disability will be unavoidable.

When care is needed, it is more important than ever that Ohioans have access to high-quality, innovative and person-centered care in the settings they prefer. Care that takes the recipient’s values and desires into account and does not focus solely on a diagnosis and care plan not only improves the life of the care recipient, but also creates better, more fulfilling jobs for those providing the care.

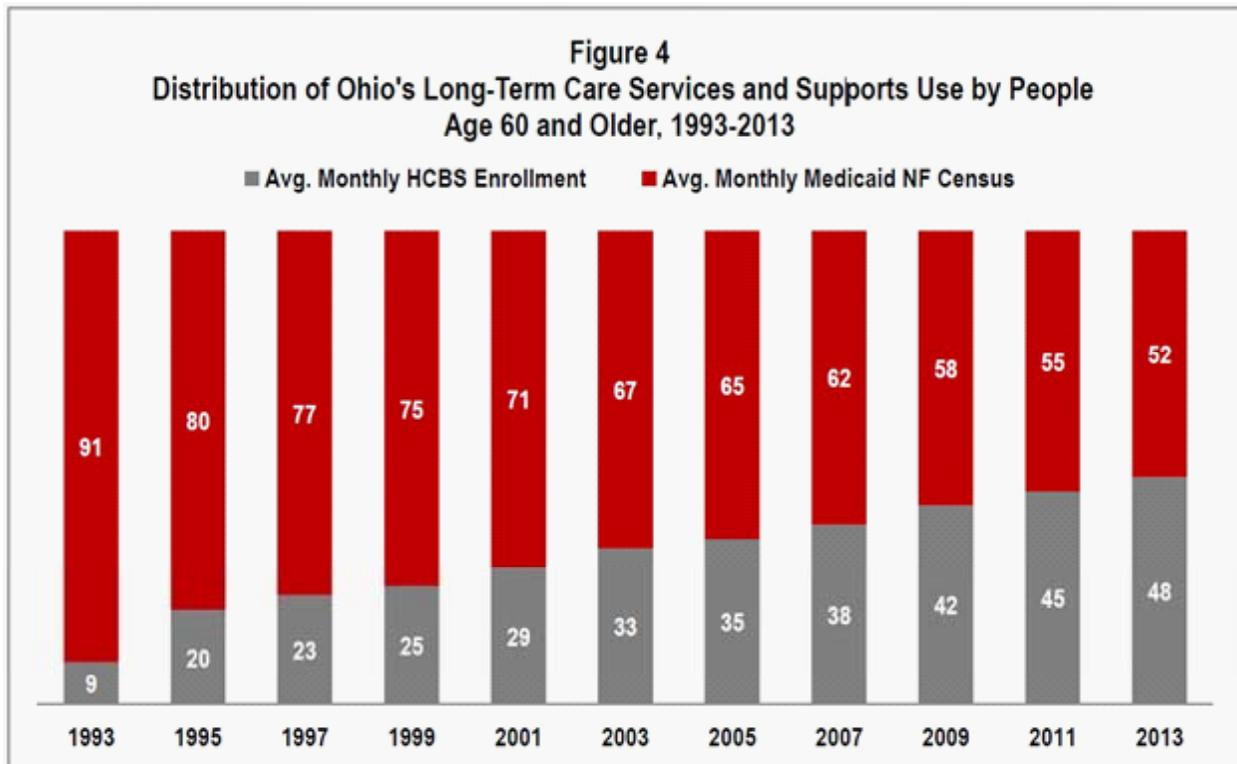
Definition of an Elder

An elder is a person who is still growing, still a learner, still with potential and whose life continues to have within it promise for and connection to the future.

An elder is still in pursuit of happiness, joy and pleasure, and her or his birth-right to these remains intact.

Source: Barry Barkan

Ohio has made very significant progress over the past four years to ensure that we have an efficient and responsive system of long-term services and supports (LTSS) that can effectively meet the needs of our growing and changing aging population. According to an AARP survey, Ohio ranked 47th in the nation in 1997 for balancing its long-term care spending between institutional and home and community settings, with a heavy bias on institutional settings. From 1997 to 2013, Scripps reports that Ohio reduced the average daily census of older nursing home residents supported by Medicaid by 5,400, during a time when the number of Ohioans age 85 and older increased 55 percent. Today, our LTSS system reflects a nearly 50/50 balance of institutional and home and community based care.



Source: Scripps Gerontology Center

Under the leadership of the Governor’s Office of Health Transformation (OHT), Ohio Department of Medicaid, ODA and our other sister state agencies have prioritized initiatives to allow as many Ohioans as possible to live independently and on their own terms. Some of the things we have accomplished over the past four years include:

- Once plagued by a long waitlist for enrollment, the PASSPORT program is now immediately accessible to those individuals looking for services.
- The HOME Choice program, dedicated to moving individuals out of institutional settings and back into the community, has successfully completed more than 6,500 transitions since its inception. The Ohio program ranks first nationally for transitioning individuals living with mental illness and second in overall transitions.
- In June 2013, Ohio was awarded more than \$169 million for its participation in the Balancing Incentive Program, which incentivizes states to direct at least 50 percent of long-term care spending toward community based options. In 2014, the state achieved its balancing target one year ahead of schedule and, today, is investing more than 50 percent of long-term care funds into home and community based alternatives.

We have accomplished much, but now the challenge is to maintain our momentum and not rest until every older Ohioan has the opportunities and independence that they – and our state – deserve.

Mission, Vision and Strategy

Over the past four years, the Ohio Department of Aging has developed a robust framework to give all Ohioans true choice and a real voice in how they age in our state. A large part of our work at the Department of Aging is to ensure that all state agencies, local leaders, businesses and families consider the needs of our elders in designing and implementing plans and resources for the future.

Our mission remains to position Ohio as a national leader in recognizing both the challenges and the opportunities that our aging population presents. Our vision recognizes that our elders will play a huge role in our success as a state. Our strategic goals as an agency weave together to drive innovation that leads to the highest quality of care and of life for all Ohioans.

Our Mission:

Ohio is on the leading edge of innovation and is responsive to the growing and changing aging population.

Our Vision:

Elders are respected as vital members of society who continue to grow, thrive and contribute.

Goals:

- ODA and other state agencies integrate elders' needs into their plans and services.
- Ohio communities and businesses will design and implement solutions that address the issues, opportunities and impact of an aging population.
- Ohioans strive to improve and maintain their health and well-being across the lifespan.
- Ohio's long-term care system allows elders and their caregivers to access a wide array of person-centered and well-coordinated services and supports.
- ODA is fiscally responsible and an innovative steward of resources.
- ODA prepares and builds a responsive statewide infrastructure for Ohio's aging population.
- All ODA-administered funding and plans purposefully link to the ODA strategic plan and ensure that outcomes and performance measures drive us toward achieving our ultimate outcome.

In this report, we will highlight key accomplishments that show how we as an agency and as a state are working to embrace what it truly means to be an elder, as well as how we have moved beyond simply counting inputs and outputs – the number of people served or units of service delivered – and are now focused on measuring the real impact of our programs and services toward reaching our ultimate goal: make lives better for all Ohioans.

Accomplishments

Reducing the rate of disability

One in three Golden Buckeyes will fall this year. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations and deaths among older Ohioans, and the number of fatal falls among older Ohioans has increased more than 167 percent since 2000. The total estimated cost of falls (medical bills, work loss, etc.) is \$646 million annually in Ohio. That's \$1.8 million each day!

STEADY U Ohio is the state's coordinated response to the growing epidemic of falls among older adults. It is a public-private partnership aimed at raising awareness of the falls epidemic while providing access to tools that can help individuals, families, business, providers and communities prevent falls among Ohio's elders. STEADY U relies heavily on public-private partnerships to reach Ohioans at every level of society. While our website (www.steadyu.ohio.gov) provides a wealth of tips, resources and tools for older adults, their families and their communities, our monthly newsletter to our government and private-sector partner organizations arms them with timely messages and resources to promote falls prevention strategies and resources to their stakeholders. Among our key partnerships:



- We partnered with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services Division, to equip first responders with fall prevention resources to share when responding to falls-related calls.
- We partnered with the Alzheimer's association Central Ohio Chapter to develop and distribute a tip sheet for falls prevention specific to the needs of individuals with dementia and their caregivers.
- During Falls Prevention Awareness Month in September, we partnered with participating Kroger Pharmacies to provide free medication reviews to help customers understand the role their medications can play in increasing their falls risk.
- A falls risk assessment was added to the intake process for our PASSPORT home and community based Medicaid waiver program, and more than 100,000 assessments have been completed.

One of the STEADY U initiative's charter goals was to expand the state's infrastructure to offer the evidence-based **A Matter of Balance** falls prevention program statewide, which we accomplished by September 2014. ODA sponsored three coach training sessions between September 2014 and June 2015, increasing the number of coaches certified to conduct the community based workshop by 30 and further strengthening our infrastructure. More than 50 workshops were conducted over the past year.

ODA also continues and has strengthened our participation in the Ohio Older Adults Falls Prevention Coalition, a subgroup of the Violence and Injury Prevention Program administered by the Ohio Department of Health that recommends policy and provides education and support for community falls prevention initiatives. Members of the coalition joined us at the Ohio State Fair in August for a one-day STEADY U Ohio expo to raise awareness of falls and strategies to prevent them.

Helping Ohioans live more active lives with chronic conditions

Three out of four adults over the age of 60 have some type of chronic health condition, such as diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure or lung disease. In fact, the National Council on Aging says that the odds of having two or more of these conditions increases significantly with age. Evidence shows that adults who take an active role in managing their health and care report better health outcomes and more satisfaction with life.



HEALTHY U Ohio is a suite of evidence-based chronic disease self-management programs administered by ODA that teach participants strategies to live healthy, active lives by effectively managing and minimizing their symptoms. Workshops are available in the community through partnerships between ODA, Ohio’s area agencies on aging and local stakeholders. In SFY 2015, we increased the number of HEALTHY U workshop facilitators throughout the state by 250. Approximately 200 workshops were completed with 1,700 participants. To target individuals who can most benefit from prevention, we partnered with the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) to promote the workshops to their members on the Medical Mutual non-Medicare health plan. Medical Mutual reimburses the area agencies on aging for their members who complete the program. Future plans include

exploring new outreach opportunities to promote the online version called **Better Choices, Better Health**, provided in partnership with the National Council on Aging. In the spring of 2015, we launched the HEALTHY U Ohio Facebook page to provide yet another resource for older Ohioans interested in becoming effective self-managers of their health.

ODA also is a key member of the state’s Chronic Disease Collaborative, which manages the state’s plan for chronic disease management, prevention and health promotion. Staff evaluate and provide input on focus areas and help develop partnerships to assure that those with or at risk for chronic conditions have access to the resources they need to effectively self-manage their symptoms. We provide recommendations for additional education programs, reimbursement and payment models, cost reduction and evaluation of outcomes.

Fostering lifelong learning at any age

To connect young people with one of our state’s most vast and valuable resources – our elders – and help them reach their highest levels of academic achievement, ODA partnered with the Ohio Board of Regents, Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community college to launch the **GIVEback, GOforward** program. Through the project, elders who volunteer 100+ hours per year in approved community initiatives will earn a tuition waiver good for three credit-hours of instruction at either learning institution. The volunteer can use the tuition waiver toward his or her own education, or gift it to a currently enrolled college or high school student. ODA and our partners spent the spring and summer building the infrastructure for the program, which will kick off with the new academic year this fall. Following a pilot period, the project will be evaluated and plans for potential expansion to other areas of the state will be developed.

Filling service gaps in innovative ways

One of the biggest challenges to maintaining their independence that many elders cite is access to affordable and convenient transportation options. Beginning in spring 2015, ODA partnered with the University of Cincinnati and ITNGreaterCincinnati® to pilot an innovative program to engage students in meeting the transportation needs of area elders. The Independent Transportation Network® (ITN®) is the first and only national non-profit transportation system for America’s aging population. It creates an efficient and financially sustainable solution to the transportation needs of seniors and the visually impaired. Nationally, ITN®’s volunteers are predominantly older adults; by tapping into the unique campus culture of U.C., ITNGreaterCincinnati® can fill an important service gap.



University of Cincinnati students earn college credit by volunteering to drive elders through ITNGreaterCincinnati.

Driving Community Connections is an approved service learning opportunity that helps U.C. students earn college credit by volunteering with ITNGreaterCincinnati® to provide rides to elders for any purpose. The students’ experiences in the community are reinforced by a structured learning experience on campus. Students also learn about the challenges and opportunities of our aging population through an online course developed by ODA. In addition to earning college credit, students also earn transportation credits with ITN® that they can save for future use, transfer to a loved one or donate to someone in need.

Protecting our vulnerable Ohioans in emergencies

SFY 2015 saw several large-scale emergencies that posed significant challenges for older adults and other Ohioans. ODA and the aging network worked closely with our state agency and local government partners to minimize the impact of these situations on vulnerable Ohioans.

- In late summer 2014, the City of Toledo experienced a widespread, multi-day water shortage due to toxins in the water supply. The Area Office on Aging of Northwest Ohio was a key partner in distributing safe drinking water to older adults and others who needed it through their existing infrastructures.
- In the fall of 2014, the threat of a deadly Ebola outbreak came to Ohio. ODA and the aging network coordinated closely with state and local public health authorities to ensure that older adults were considered in response plans and that educational resources were available to our elders and those who serve them.
- In the spring of 2015, heavy rains across much of Ohio led to widespread flooding. Through our work with the State Emergency Operations Center, ODA kept the aging network aware of current and forecasted conditions, and coordinated the availability of resources and supports.

In addition, ODA helped update the state housing and health and human services recovery plans. ODA and area agency staff participated in several response exercises including mock water shortage and nuclear emergency drills. Through our systems integration work supported by the federal Administration for Community Living, we collaborated with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to develop functionality in the Ohio Benefit Bank to provide targeted preparedness information to older Ohioans, others with functional limitations and their caregivers.

Ensuring better lives for Special Populations of Elders

ODA is a member of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, which is a collaboration of state agencies, local governments and advocacy organizations committed to reducing the recidivism rate of Ohio ex-offenders by 50 percent over a five-year period. With the aging of our overall population also comes the aging of our prison populations, and older ex-offenders attempting to reenter society face unique challenges. To ensure that the aging network plays a strong role in Ohio's reentry system and plan, ODA and its coalition partners presented a workshop titled "Needs of Older Offenders Reentering our Communities" at the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging's annual conference in November. More than 200 staff from all 12 area agencies learned about the processes, protocols and timelines associated with reentry and how best to work together to help ex-offenders successfully transition to the community. ODA also is working with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitations and Correction to identify training resources that can help prison staff learn more about and better serve the needs of the older adults in their facilities.

Ensuring quality in the MyCare Ohio demonstration:

MyCare Ohio is the state's financial alignment demonstration program that provides care management to around 100,000 Ohioans who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Many consumers on ODA's PASSPORT and Assisted Living Waiver consumers transferred to MyCare Ohio in 2014 and new business opportunities opened up to Area Agencies on Aging as they were delegated care management and waiver service coordination from the managed care plans. The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman received a demonstration grant from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to advocate for consumers and help them navigate through problems with services. The three-year ombudsman demonstration is providing opportunities for the State Ombudsman to evaluate the structure of ombudsman services as well as core service protocol.

Through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM), the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and nationally renowned elder abuse expert Georgia Anetzberger, ODA developed online training on abuse identification, prevention, screening and referral protocol for MyCare Ohio care managers. The three-part online training curriculum educated more than 425 managed care plans' care managers to identify early signs of abuse, recognize risk factors for abuse and direct individuals and families to needed services and interventions.

Creating a culture of quality in Ohio's nursing homes

Ohio launched a quality improvement project initiative that included a new licensing requirement for Ohio nursing homes. Beginning July 1, 2013, each nursing home must participate every two years in at least one quality improvement project approved by ODA through the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Examples of projects are consistent assignment of caregivers, injury-free movement and reducing re-hospitalization. Another example is ODA's Music & MemorySM program.

Music & MemorySM trains nursing home staff to create and provide personalized playlists on digital music players, such as iPods, that enable those living with dementia to reconnect to the world through memories triggered by the music that has meaning to them. Using music in daily care builds lasting, caring relationships, results in reduced use of medications and improves the care experience for all involved.

In September 2014, ODA hosted the Ohio premiere of the award-winning documentary "Alive Inside" in Columbus with a sold-out audience of care providers, nursing home administrators and advocates for older adults and nursing home culture change. Dan Cohen, the founder of Music & MemorySM and the



Betty is an 82-year-old resident with dementia at Pataskala Oaks Care Center, who loves to listen to gospel music on her iPod.

subject of the film, attended the special screening and discussed the development of the program during a panel that also featured experts in dementia care and neurology.

In December, the state Controlling Board approved a request by ODA and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to use Civil Money Penalty funds authorized by CMS to contract with Music & MemorySM, Inc., to certify participating Ohio nursing homes as Music & MemorySM certified care facilities through a new Nursing Home Quality Improvement Project. At that time, fewer than two dozen Ohio nursing homes were certified to provide the service. By June 2015, *nearly 300 nursing homes had signed up for the project* and were on their way to certification. Facilities participating in the project had

the opportunity to request assistance from the Ombudsman's office to cover the costs of certification, start-up equipment or both. The Ohio Health Care Association also offered financial assistance to 100 of its member nursing homes and residential care facilities to implement the program.

Providing national leadership in nursing home culture change

Ohio is the top-performing state in the Advancing Excellence in America's Nursing Homes Campaign. While this doesn't mean we have the most excellent nursing homes in the nation, it does mean that we have the highest number of nursing homes participating in a national effort to promote and propagate high-quality, person-centered care. We know that sustained participation leads to quality improvement. Ohio's State Long-Term Care Ombudsman serves as the National Chair of the Advancing Excellence in Long-Term Care Collaborative, which provides valuable tools and resources to providers that help them improve quality. Ohio nursing homes are driven to engage in Advancing Excellence by the state's innovative, value-based purchasing policy for Medicaid reimbursement.

Linking Ombudsman Services to Quality Outcomes

The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman advocates for consumers of long-term care services and supports in a variety of settings. In SFY 2015, the office began producing a quarterly data dashboard to communicate to Ombudsman staff, policy makers and consumers the many activities that staff conduct to seek resolution of problems and advocate for the rights of home care consumers and residents of long-term care facilities. The dashboard discloses information about services funded with public dollars, educates partners and the public about ombudsman services and how those services contribute to the lives of long-term care consumers, raises awareness of long-term care issues and provides information on key indicators of ombudsman performance that are used to evaluate the program.

The dashboard includes some measures that were recommended by the Ombudsman Performance Incentives Advisory Workgroup, which recently submitted recommendations to the State Ombudsman. The data also includes Ombudsman Quality Measures that have been a part of our overall quality framework for many years.

Ensuring person-centered care in home and community based settings

Under Governor John Kasich's leadership, the Ohio Office of Health Transformation is leading reform efforts aimed at improving services and enabling seniors and people with disabilities to live with dignity in the setting they prefer, especially their own homes. Ohio now spends at least 50 percent of the state's Medicaid long-term care budget on home and community based services (HCBS), and is a national leader in transitioning residents who want to move out of institutions and into home and community based settings. On January 16, 2014, CMS adopted new requirements that HCBS providers must meet to be eligible for federal Medicaid reimbursement. The regulation establishes elements of a person-centered plan and outlines the characteristics of a home and community based setting. Ohio currently administers eight Medicaid waiver programs impacted by the new regulation, including the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Waiver programs operated by ODA. ODA, ODM and the Department of Developmental Disabilities assessed our combined systems, drafted and submitted a state transition plan to CMS with input from our stakeholders. The plan is pending approval by CMS.

Facilitating access to benefits for long-term care

The Ohio Department of Aging is working with the Department of Medicaid, other sister state agencies and stakeholders to develop Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care, the state's access point for long-term services and supports. In their role as lead agencies in Ohio's Aging and Disability Resource Network, the twelve area agencies on aging will coordinate a network of single entry point agencies (SEPs) at the regional level to ensure individuals seeking services learn about and get connected to services and supports that meet their needs. Working together, the SEPs will respond to inquiries submitted through a new public facing web site, through a toll-free statewide number or in-person. A long-term care questionnaire will identify an individual's needs; the SEP will support the individual as he navigates the options available to meet his identified needs. When it is appropriate, individuals will be referred for a comprehensive assessment. Much of the work to build the infrastructure and partnerships to support Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care was completed in SFY 2015, with launch expected to occur early in SFY 2016.

Harmonizing Medicaid waiver programs

In 2011, the State of Ohio embarked on a mission to create a unified system of long-term services and supports that provides consistent quality and choice in care for all Ohioans. In 2014, nursing services were added to and consumer-directed services were expanded in ODA's PASSPORT Medicaid home care waiver. Beginning early in 2015, consumers in the Ohio Department of Medicaid's (ODM) Transitions Carve-Out Waiver (TCOW) began transitioning to the PASSPORT waiver. TCOW was closed on July 1, 2015, making PASSPORT Ohio's primary fee-for-service Medicaid waiver program for individuals age 60 and older with a nursing facility level of care. Staff from ODA and ODM coordinated with case managers to ensure that services and providers were in place to make the transition as seamless as possible for consumers. Case management and provider staff at the PASSPORT administrative agencies developed and managed relationships with consumers and providers to ensure their smooth and safe transition to PASSPORT. From February to July, 1,300 TCOW consumers were transitioned to PASSPORT and ODA certified 20 new agency providers and more than 250 consumer-directed providers and independent nurses. Service expansions were processed for another 250 existing providers.

Helping Ohioans transition to preferred care settings

Ombudsman HOME Choice transition coordination is an optional approved service currently provided in 10 of 12 regional long-term care ombudsman programs. HOME Choice is funded by the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration, a CMS grant program designed to help states provide more long-

term care in home and community based care settings as alternatives to institutional settings. Acting in the role of HOME Choice transition coordinator, the ombudsman helps the nursing home resident move back into a house or an apartment, providing assistance with locating housing, setting up a household and connecting the client with community services. In FFY 2014, ombudsmen closed 373 HOME Choice cases and assisted consumers to successfully transition back to the community in 61.1 percent of those cases.



Creating a dementia-capable state and communities

One of the key goals of our current four-year state plan on aging for federal Older Americans Act services and system integration work supported by the federal Administration for Community Living is to equip communities to adapt and respond to the changing needs of people living with dementia. ODA continues to work with Alzheimer’s Association chapters and other partners around the state as we expand support for individuals with dementia and their caregivers through changes to the long-term service and support infrastructure. Area agencies on aging in northeast and north central Ohio and their corresponding Alzheimer’s Association chapters piloted a referral process to link individuals with dementia to appropriate services and support specific to their needs. The referral pilot will be expanded to other Alzheimer’s Association chapters and area agencies.

The Alzheimer’s Association chapters adopted the Benjamin Rose Institute’s Care Consultation program, which guides individuals throughout the trajectory of their disease, providing person-centered support to the individual with dementia as well as their caregiver. The long-term care questionnaire developed for Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care includes a question to identify an individual’s concerns about memory loss or confusion. When the Ohio Benefits Long-Term Care system launches, every caller will be routinely asked this question and, when appropriate, linked to their local Alzheimer’s Association chapter and other dementia specific resources.

Shaping tomorrow’s leaders

The Ohio Scholars in Aging Program, sponsored by ODA and the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education, continued its growth this year. Twelve students from eight institutions participated in a



ODA staff meet with Scholars in Aging students to discuss students’ expectations and goals.

semester-long internship with a community organization and had the opportunity to learn about and contribute to policymaking. Internship experiences have ranged from participating in Administrator in Training Programs at nursing facilities, leading HEALTHY U and A Matter of Balance workshops, researching strategies to prevent falls in nursing homes, evaluating a probate court’s volunteer guardianship program and more. In addition, they established career-long professional contacts and gained valuable career knowledge and skills in the field of aging. Since its inception in Fall 2013, 37 scholars from ten institutions have participated in the program.

Positioning ourselves for a more successful future



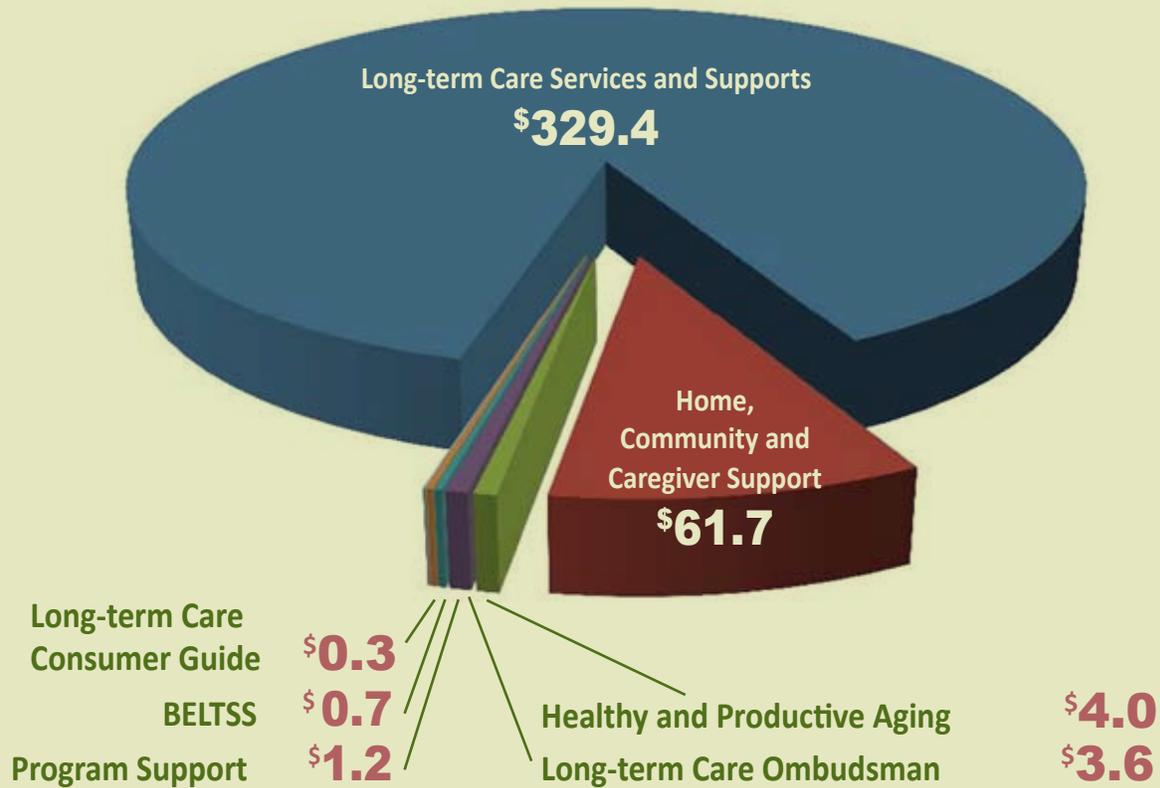
Effective July 27, 2015, our offices will be located at 246 N. High St., Columbus.

In the spring of 2015, ODA began preparations to move our offices from the location that we have occupied for more than 40 years. Working with the state Department of Administrative Services, we secured a new location that will not only meet our operational needs and save us almost 40 percent in rent, but also enhance our ability to engage in strategic partnerships to work toward our goals of promoting health and wellness among older Ohioans. Our new offices are in the same building that houses the Ohio Department of Health, giving us improved access to the state's experts in health, wellness and injury prevention, and creating new opportunities to link the aging and public health networks together for the benefit of all Ohioans.

Expenditures SFY 2015

(Detail may not add to total due to rounding)

\$400.8 (in millions)



Program Budgets

SFY 2015

Long-term Care Services and Supports* (Medicaid)	\$ 329,421,000
Home, Community and Caregiver Support** (Older Americans Act / General Revenue)	61,697,000
Healthy and Productive Aging (Older Americans Act)	3,981,000
Long-term Care Ombudsman (Older Americans Act / General Revenue)	3,561,000
Program Support / Other (General Revenue)	1,226,000
Long-term Care Consumer Guide	303,000
BELTSS - Board of Executives of Long-Term Services and Supports	659,000

TOTAL

\$ 400,848,000

* Long-term Care Services and Supports is administered by the Department. Funds are part of Medicaid line item in the Ohio Department of Medicaid's budget. Most low-income seniors with Medicare eligibility are required to enroll in MyCare Ohio. SFY 2015 was the first full year for MyCare Ohio which provides long-term care services and supports.

** Home, Community & Caregiver Support includes another \$53,473,557 in local funds, which do not pass through the Department's budget.



Department of
Aging

Visit us on the Web:
www.aging.ohio.gov

Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/OhioDepartmentOfAging

Follow us on Twitter:
www.twitter.com/OhioDeptOfAging

Well Beyond 60!

The Road to Balance

