

Articles about the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver, Published in *Pipeline** 2010-2012

Pipeline is the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities' e-newsletter
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Includes: 16 articles in *Pipeline* and one in *Pipeline Quarterly*

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[Excerpted from September 29, 2010 issue – The waiver is named](#)

[1. Ohio Self Determination Assn. 'Celebrates the Fire Within'](#)

The enthusiasm generated by “Celebrating the Fire Within,” the theme of the Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) annual conference September 20-21 at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington, definitely fired-up the nearly 300 participants in attendance during the two-day event, and may have prompted those with September’s heightened sense of preparedness (it’s National Preparedness Month – www.ready.gov) to make sure there were fire extinguishers ready to be deployed if need be... because this group was super-charged!

Not only was the conference a venue for several spirited and positive motivational speakers – but it was the forum for a history-making process of naming the new DODD Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver submitted last week for consideration by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

First, a Little Background

The Medicaid HCBS waiver is authorized in §1915(c) of the Social Security Act. The regulations permit a state to offer an array of home and community-based services that assist Medicaid beneficiaries to live in the community and avoid institutionalization. The state has broad discretion to design its waiver program to address the needs of the waiver’s target population. Waiver services complement and/or supplement the services

that are available to participants through the Medicaid state plan and other federal, state, and local programs, as well as the supports that families and communities provide.

The design and operational features of a waiver will vary depending on the specific needs of the target population, the resources available to the state, service delivery system structure, state goals and objectives, and other factors.

The state has the latitude to design a waiver that is cost-effective and employs a variety of service delivery approaches, including participant direction of services.

How Do You Name a Waiver?

Given this background, DODD Director John Martin invited OSDA to lead the effort to involve all 2010 OSDA conference participants in brainstorming, discussing, refining, and then voting on a name that would accurately and appropriately identify the waiver -- and be meaningful to those for whom it has been developed. That is precisely what was accomplished.

Understanding the language in the proposed waiver description is important, and was part of the conference's participant education efforts. With that foundation, it was equally important to empower people and energize statewide advocacy efforts through the waiver-naming process.

Out of the 164 name ideas initially brainstormed, the list was narrowed to nine. Then, following a 'sales pitch' by self-advocates and other supporters of each of the nine ideas, a final vote was taken, yielding the selected name:

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF)

As noted in the official waiver submission description, *"The waiver will offer participant-direction of services and supports, and will embrace an individualized planning and budgeting approach."* The name selected could not have been more appropriate or descriptive.

Observing hundreds of individuals, family members, and professionals involved in the naming process was a strong testament to the democratic system. The process was detailed and organized, yet provided ample opportunity for individuals to express themselves, have fun, air questions and concerns, show enthusiasm for what the waiver might do for them personally, and be a part of something that had never been done before in Ohio's developmental disabilities community ... Take some of the bureaucracy out of waiver development, and empower the individuals ultimately to be served!

"The Ohio Self Determination Association does not just represent self advocates. OSDA represents them, yes – and all of the people affected by developmental disabilities services in Ohio ... families, County Board staff and other service providers, and friends. It's about all of us, working together, having a voice together."

- Dana Charlton, Director OSDA

Acknowledging the staff at OSDA and partnering agencies in the waiver-naming process, DODD Deputy Director Patrick Lanahan noted, "A special thank you to the board and members of OSDA, to staff and members of People First of Ohio, to staff of County

Boards and other provider organizations – and especially to all of you self advocates! We are close to making this dream a reality, and we thank you for helping to make this happen.” He added,

“ This is definitely the first Home and Community-Based Services waiver that doesn’t sound like it was named by a bureaucrat. And that’s because it wasn’t! ”

OSDA President Lee Wedemeyer, Past President Annette Davis-Kramp, and Vice President Jeanne Stuntz, as well as OSDA Director Dana Charlton, assured that the waiver-naming activity was involving and meaningful for all. “We know you are excited about the options that will be made available to you with the way this proposed waiver is structured,” said Stuntz, as she rallied the collective energy of self advocates and others before the final vote. She continued, “Are you ready to make history?!”



Lining up to continue the democratic process.

Self Advocates and support staff prepare to tell their stories as to why the waiver they name they like best should be chosen as ‘the one’! ‘Self Empowered Life Funding’ was the final choice.

[Excerpted from October 27, 2010 issue – Waiver submitted to CMS](#)

2. Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Submitted to CMS Today

As described in the September 29, 2010 issue of Pipeline ([Pipeline Volume 4 Issue 20](#)) the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, which was named by self advocates at last month’s Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference, today was submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. The review of the proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is the next step in the waiver approval process.

According to DODD Director John Martin,

“This waiver originated with the 2008 Futures Committee recommendations, and was propelled by strong advocacy and self-advocacy, including many autism advocates, statewide. The development of this unique waiver is a testament to our stakeholders' positive relationships in working together, and demonstrating a willingness to use more contemporary approaches to waiver services in order to further empower Ohioans with developmental disabilities.”

Director Martin noted that the work of a core stakeholder ‘waiver sustainability group’ was instrumental in spearheading the efforts leading to successful completion of the waiver application. This waiver is an extension of the new flexible waiver, proposed in the previous biennium, for 100 children with intensive behavioral needs. It now will serve adults and children, with current predictions estimating at least 500 individuals would be using the waiver the first year it is in effect, and 2000 individuals using the waiver by the third year it is in effect.

The DODD’s commitment to serving 100 children with intensive behavioral needs will continue to be state-funded. The new flexible waiver will be self-directed by the people served, which offers individuals freedom to select the package of services that best suits their needs, within a capped budget. The Department hopes to have this waiver in effect during FY 2012.

[Excerpted from May 25, 2011 issue – SELF Waiver Questions & Clarifications, CMS](#)
3. OACB Spring Conference Spotlights Progress and Transformational Change

The Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) *Spring Conference*, May 19-20, at the Hilton Columbus/Polaris, presented a wealth of useful information for attendees. Setting the stage for the two-day agenda, the opening session included news and views from Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Director Greg Moody, DODD Director John Martin, and OACB Executive Director Dan Ohler.

Speaking to conference attendees on the subject of Medicaid reform and the impact of the proposed budget on Ohio’s developmental disabilities system, Moody noted, “The overall vision is for better care coordination, and a person-centered care management approach - not a provider, program, or payee approach.” He added,

“Ohio’s developmental disabilities system has already worked through major transformational change, and that turmoil changed the system. It is now constructively focused, and the challenges now are to see what partnerships are possible that have not been formed yet, and how home and community-based services can continue to evolve and improve quality of life.”

Moody’s presentation also highlighted the importance of OHT’s priorities to replace system fragmentation with coordination, and to focus on quality care, rewarding person-centered results by providing quality incentives and performance measures within Ohio’s Medicaid system.

DODD Director John Martin’s remarks included updates on the budget process, as it evolves within the framework of OHT partners’ discussions. He stated, “One of the advantages I have seen already to the OHT partnership among Ohio’s human services agencies is that I am learning from my colleagues by following other agencies’ initiatives, and watching how they can and will affect the work that we do.”

In addition, Director Martin announced that June will be a month of information-gathering and soliciting stakeholder feedback in the form of six Family Forums now scheduled around the state, focusing on service utilization. He noted,

"It was especially interesting to me that as CMS* has been reviewing our waiver proposals, including the SELF** Waiver, they have asked us several questions that helped us to identify and effectively address service utilization opportunities.

It became more apparent to me that decreasing utilization was actually, more accurately, increasing independence."

*Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Self Empowered Life Funding

[Excerpted from July 6, 2011 issue – SELF specifically funded in budget](#)

4. Ohio's 2012-13 Biennial Budget Now A Reality

On June 29, the Ohio House of Representatives sent the Conference Committee report on HB153, the proposed FY2012-13 budget, to Governor John Kasich following a vote of 59-40. Governor Kasich signed it into law on June 30, and HB153 became effective July 1. The new \$55.8 billion budget contains language effecting considerable change for local governments, schools, Medicaid, and the state's prison system, among other far-reaching reforms.

DODD budget reforms include a continuation of transformations already underway, and initiatives to better manage resources for long-term fiscal sustainability. The budget maintains funding levels for waivers, transfers the ICF/DD program and Transitions waiver from ODJFS to DODD, adds new choices to the Individual Options (IO) waiver, and provides funding for the new SELF waiver.

Major changes the Conference Committee report made to the House-passed version of HB153 included increasing funding for the PASSPORT* program; increasing funding for mental health programs; and increasing funding for programs affecting the more than 80,000 Ohioans who have developmental disabilities and their families. Outside of Medicaid-funded programs, most other areas of the budget saw funding decreases.

Director of the Office of Health Transformation (OHT) Greg Moody, has noted that the budget increases total Medicaid spending on long-term care by about \$166 million over the next two years, but that most of the additional dollars are targeted for home and community-based services. He explained,

"This should help to rebalance the long-term-care budget – our Number One budget directive."

It has been proven nationally that states which devote more dollars to home- and community-based care (and less to institutional care) spend less per person. In Ohio, according to current Administration projections, 58% of Medicaid long-term-care spending will be devoted to institutional care by the end of 2013, down from 64 % this year.

On the subject of reforming Medicaid to improve care and value, the [Final Budget Overview](#) notes two key areas of interest to Ohio's developmental disabilities community:

- *Caring for Vulnerable Ohioans in a Comprehensive Way:* The budget lays the groundwork for a new Integrated Care Delivery System (ICDS) to provide comprehensive, person-centered care that meets the physical health, behavioral health, long-term care and social needs of seniors and people with disabilities. Ohio will submit a waiver proposal to the federal government by September 2012 to implement the ICDS for people who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare ('dual eligibles') and people with severe and persistent mental illness.
- *Empowering Seniors and People with Disabilities to Live With Dignity Where They Choose:* An additional 12,890 Ohioans will receive Medicaid home- and community-based services rather than having to choose an institution. The budget makes a significant investment in home- and community-based services for seniors and people with physical disabilities (PASSPORT/Choices, Assisted Living, Home Care and Aging Transitions waivers) and people with a developmental disability (Level One, Individual Options, DD Transitions, and the new SELF waivers). The budget provides \$532 million more for waivers for home- and community-based services over the biennium (above SFY 2011 levels), including \$55.6 million more for PASSPORT.

**PASSPORT: Pre-Admission Screening System Providing Options and Resources Today -- A waiver available to people over the age of 60 who meet certain requirements.*

[Excerpted from October 26, 2011 issue - SELF Waiver Information, as updated](#) **5. Update: Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver (SELF)**

Earlier this year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) sent a Formal Request for Additional Information to DODD, asking for clarification as well as some revisions to the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver Application. Following that, DODD has been working closely over the past several months with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) and our stakeholders, to respond to CMS' questions and to modify the SELF waiver application accordingly.

The culmination of this work was sent to CMS on September 14, 2011, when the SELF Waiver application was then re-submitted to CMS, thereby re-starting the 90-day clock that CMS has to approve or deny a Federal waiver application.

The most significant changes made to the SELF Waiver application (based on recommendations made by stakeholders) in the resubmission of the Federal Waiver application are:

- Removal of the *Informal Respite* service under the SELF waiver. The decision was that this service could be covered equally under *Community Inclusion - Personal Assistance*.
- Removal of the *General* sub-category under Community Inclusion. The rationale being that this could be covered under *Participant-Directed Goods and Services*.

Regarding other work on the SELF Waiver that is currently underway, DODD is in discussions with ODJFS about the proposed rates for the new services under the SELF Waiver. In addition, we have been working with ODJFS in devising the contract language for the purpose of having the current statewide Financial Management Services (FMS) entity be the FMS vendor for the SELF waiver. Within the next few months, DODD also plans to post a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a national vendor to provide Support Broker training in Ohio.

DODD is targeting an April 2012 effective date for the SELF Waiver.

More about the SELF Waiver at <http://dodd.ohio.gov/SELFwaiver.htm>

[Excerpted from December 7, 2011 issue – Formal approval expected](#)

6. SELF Waiver Update – Formal Approval Expected this Month

DODD is in the final stages of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver policy and program approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service* (CMS). With final program approval expected by mid-December, Ohioans with developmental disabilities soon will have access to a waiver that empowers individuals with authority to direct *how* and *from whom* they receive supports and services.

“We’ve been communicating with CMS pretty regularly, and are on track to receive formal written approval this month,” said Patrick Stephan, DODD Deputy Director for the Division of Medicaid Administration. He adds,

“This is exciting news, and we’re grateful to all the organizations and individuals who have dedicated so much time and effort toward making the self-directed waiver concept a reality for Ohioans.”

With approval finalized this month, DODD will complete administrative work and training preparation to start the new SELF waiver, which was named by self advocates at the 2010 Ohio Self Determination Association (OSDA) conference. The waiver, which offers a budget of up to \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults, will begin enrollment in July 2012.

Look for more information on the features of the SELF waiver in *Pipeline* over the next few months, as well as on the DODD website at www.dodd.ohio.gov. Look for the drop-down menu under the word ‘Medicaid’ in the horizontal menu bar at the top of the home page.

**CMS is the federal agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid, and regulates the certification of agencies and care facilities for people with developmental disabilities. The review of a proposed new waiver via the application process to CMS is one of the steps in the waiver approval process.*

[Excerpted from December 21, 2011 issue – formal approval received](#)

7. SELF Waiver Approved – Offers Independence, Choices

On December 13, DODD announced that Ohioans with developmental disabilities soon will have a new option that allows them freedom to control how they receive support services. Under the recently federally-approved Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, individuals direct how their approved support dollars are allocated, and how they receive waiver services such as remote monitoring, and health equipment or supplies.

They also can utilize new designated services such as Community Inclusion and Integrated Employment to help live more inclusive lives within their communities.

DODD Director John Martin stated, “Waivers were developed more than twenty years ago to give individuals with developmental disabilities options beyond institutionalization, providing them funding support to receive care and support where they choose to live — in home and community-based settings.” He added,

“The new SELF waiver is the next evolution in understanding how to support individuals to direct how they live, not just where they live.”

The state anticipates enrolling up to 2000 individuals in the SELF waiver over the next three years. Within those numbers, up to 100 children with intensive behavioral needs will receive a state-funded waiver—which offers flexible service options for families of children with autism and other behavioral support needs.

Waivers are approved under federal guidelines by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and then operated by DODD. Ohio’s 88 County Boards of Developmental Disabilities administer waiver services, and work directly with individuals to enroll in and comply with waiver requirements.

Enrollment for the new SELF waiver will begin in July 2012, following program development and County Board administrative training.

Individuals must meet eligibility requirements for the waiver, including meeting required ‘level of care’ needs, and be willing and able to perform responsibilities associated with self-directing their care. The SELF waiver has an overall annual cost cap of \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults. The cap offers predictability for counties and the state in projecting funding needs for the community, while the structure of the waiver offers participants the flexibility to tailor services for their particular needs.

DODD Deputy Director for Medicaid Administration Patrick Stephan noted, “This is a much-awaited service waiver for many in the developmental disabilities community because it recognizes individuals’ capabilities and desires to live more independently, and to take responsibility for directing their own lives.” He continued,

“It goes to the heart of our state’s vision of creating a healthcare environment that is person-centered and driven by quality of care.”

For more information: [http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-\(SELF\)-waiver.aspx](http://dodd.ohio.gov/newsroom/Pages/Self-Empowered-Life-Funding-(SELF)-waiver.aspx).

[Excerpted from April 11, 2012 issue – Refresher](#)

8. The New SELF Waiver, a Refresher on the Basics

In anticipation of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, effective this July, Pipeline will contain a short series of articles prior to the waiver launch. The series will include information about the waiver itself, and highlight specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from the other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the first in the series.

On December 9, 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for a 1915c waiver, named the Self-

Empowered Life Funding (or SELF) waiver, had been approved. As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD has been working closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.

Individuals self-direct where and how services are provided. Annual cost caps are \$25,000 for children and \$40,000 for adults, with some service-specific limitations built in to the waiver, as well.

DODD estimates are that up to 500 individuals may enroll in the waiver the first year it is in effect (100 of which will be state-funded waivers for children with intensive behavioral needs), and up to 2000 individuals could be using the waiver by the third year it is in effect.

Eligibility criteria for the SELF waiver are that the individual must have an ICF/MR* Level of Care and be willing and able to perform the duties associated with participant-direction -- including, but not limited to, assigning budgeted amounts for any of the applicable services and/or choosing to hire, fire, or direct workers -- in accordance with employment laws and rules.

In upcoming *Pipeline* articles in this series, look for more information about specific characteristics of the SELF waiver that make it different from the DODD Individual Options waiver and Level One waiver.

**ICF/MR is currently the language in statute.*

[Excerpted from April 25, 2012 issue - Rules Filed](#)

9. SELF Waiver Implementation Progress - Rules Filed

On April 13, DODD filed rules to implement the new Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services *Self-Empowered Life Funding* (SELF) Waiver approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in December 2011. (*See Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011 SELF Waiver Approved*).

Proposed for Amendment:

Rule 5123:2-9-34 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Residential Respite and Community Respite Under the Individual Options Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-35 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Remote Monitoring and Remote Monitoring Equipment Under the Individual Options Waiver"

Proposed for Adoption:

Rule 5123:2-9-40 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Administration of the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-41 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-42 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Community Inclusion Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-43 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Functional Behavioral Assessment Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-44 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Integrated Employment Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-45 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Participant-Directed Goods and Services Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-46 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Participant/Family Stability Assistance Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

Rule 5123:2-9-47 - "Home and Community-Based Services Waivers - Support Brokerage Under the Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver"

A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held *May 17, 2012*, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2921 on the 29th Floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Any written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review.

Written comments may be submitted by email to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator at becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov; by fax, to (614) 644-5013; or by U.S. Mail to 30 E. Broad St., 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.

The rules are available at the Register of Ohio website: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us> and the DODD website: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>. Rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

[Excerpted from May 9, 2012 issue – Public Hearing Set](#)

10. SELF Waiver Progress – Public Hearing May 17

In anticipation of the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver, effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles prior to the waiver launch. The series will include information about the waiver itself, and highlight specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the second in the series.

Background

On December 9, 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for a 1915c waiver, named the Self-Empowered Life Funding (or SELF) waiver, had been approved. (See *Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011*). As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD

is working closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.

Public Hearing May 17

On April 13, DODD filed rules to implement the new Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services *Self-Empowered Life Funding* (SELF) waiver approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in December 2011. Two rules have been proposed for amendment and eight have been filed for adoption. (See [Pipeline, April 25, 2012](#)) A public hearing on the proposed rule actions will be held *May 17, 2012*, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2921 on the 29th Floor of the Rhodes State Office Tower, 30 E. Broad St., in Columbus. At this hearing, DODD will accept verbal and/or written testimony on the proposed rule actions under consideration.

Persons unable to attend the public hearing may submit written comments on the proposed rule actions. Any written comments received on or before the public hearing date will be treated as testimony and made available for public review.

Written comments may be submitted by email to Becky Phillips, Administrative Rules Coordinator at becky.phillips@dodd.ohio.gov; by fax, to (614) 644-5013; or by U.S. Mail to 30 E. Broad St., 12th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414.

The rules are available at the Register of Ohio website: <http://registerofohio.state.oh.us> and the DODD website: <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/underdevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>. Rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

[Excerpted from May 23, 2012 issue – Training Begins](#)

11. SELF Waiver Progress Continues, Training Begins

In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles highlighting specific aspects of the waiver that make SELF different from other waivers administered by DODD. This article is the third in the series. See [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 8](#) and [Pipeline Volume 6 issue 10](#) for the first two articles.

Background

In December 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for the Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver had been approved. (See *Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011*). As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD is working closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.

Progress Continues, Training Begins

In April, DODD filed administrative rules to implement the SELF waiver. Two rules have been proposed for amendment, eight have been filed for adoption, and all are on track for a July 1 effective date. (See [Pipeline, April 25, 2012](#)). SELF rules are available at the Register of Ohio website at registerofohio.state.oh.us and the DODD website: www.dodd.ohio.gov. Rules also are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

SELF waiver training is underway, some of which is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Governments (COGs), and some of which is targeted for potential providers and families, including an online, statewide webinar. More details will be forthcoming once details are confirmed.

Registration for Regional Trainings must be done online using this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SELFWaiverTrainingRegistration>

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with The Arc of Ohio to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding the SELF waiver. This training provides an overview of the waiver, and allows families the opportunity for comments and questions. Training for individuals and families began last week in Hamilton County, and as the schedule develops, trainings with dates and times will be posted online at www.dodd.ohio.gov. For more information, contact Peggy Martin at (614) 466-8706; peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

[Excerpted from June 6, 2012 issue – ‘On Pace’ for Launch](#)

12. SELF Waiver Continues on Pace for July Launch

In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline is featuring a short series of articles highlighting various aspects of the waiver. This article is the fourth in the series. See the [Pipeline archive](#) for all articles.

In December 2011, Ohio received notification from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that its application for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver had been approved. (See [Pipeline Volume 5 Issue 27 December 21, 2011](#)). As approved in the waiver application, the scheduled effective date of this waiver is July 1, 2012, at which time enrollment may begin. DODD has worked closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and other stakeholder groups, to identify and develop the necessary components for implementation, including training and informational materials.

The SELF waiver is the first DODD-administered waiver that incorporates self-direction, which allows individuals with developmental disabilities to control their individual waiver budget and to direct where and how they receive those services.

Training Continues

In April 2012, DODD filed administrative rules to implement the SELF waiver. Two rules have been proposed for amendment, eight have been filed for adoption, and all are on track for a July 1 effective date. (See [Pipeline, April 25, 2012](#)). SELF rules are available at the Register of Ohio website at registerofohio.state.oh.us, on the DODD website at [SELF Rules](#), and are available for review at each local County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

Currently, training for the SELF waiver is underway. Some is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Governments (COGs), and some is targeted to potential providers and families. Statewide training opportunities include in-person and online sessions.

Registration for Regional Trainings must be done online using this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SELFWaiverTrainingRegistration>

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with *The Arc of Ohio* to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding this new waiver, and allows time for families' comments and questions. Training dates and times are posted online at www.dodd.ohio.gov. For more information, contact Peggy Martin at (614) 466-8706; peggy.martin@dodd.ohio.gov.

[Excerpted from June 20, 2012 issue - Training and Materials Available](#)

13. SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins Next Month

In anticipation of the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver effective this July, Pipeline has featured a short series of articles highlighting various aspects of the waiver. This article is the last in the series. See the [Pipeline archive](#) for all articles.

Handbook Available, Training Continues

Training for the SELF waiver is well underway. Statewide training opportunities include in-person and online sessions, some of which is targeted to the staff of County Boards of Developmental Disabilities and Councils of Government (COGs), and some of which is targeted to potential providers, individuals and families. The new SELF waiver handbook also has been prepared to use in tandem with the training, and as a general resource. It is online at SELF Waiver Handbook.

Registration for the Regional Trainings must be done online using this link:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SELFWaiverTrainingRegistration>

DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin is collaborating with *The Arc of Ohio* to provide intensive training for individuals and family members regarding this new waiver, including time for families' comments and questions. Training is free, and dates and times are posted online at www.dodd.ohio.gov. This week includes:

SELF Training, Summit and Portage Counties

Thursday, June 21, 2012

7:30 p.m.

Stow Council Chambers - City Hall

3760 Darrow Rd., Stow, OH 44224

RSVP to (330) 836-5863

Thearc@thearcneo.org

Support Broker Training

DODD has contracted with a national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed to ensure that interested parties

in Ohio's developmental disabilities system have the opportunity to learn more about this new function. Training will be conducted regionally around the state, beginning late June.

The first type of Support Broker training is a 2 ½ hour informational session for stakeholders interested in learning more about the Support Brokerage function.

Individuals, family members, County Board staff, and other potential providers are encouraged to attend this training, which discusses Support Broker responsibilities, and what role the Support Broker plays as a part of the SELF waiver. The training also will cover how a Support Broker inter-relates with individuals and their family members, and with County Board Service and Support Administrators.

The second type of training is a day-long Support Broker Certification session for people interested in becoming certified to deliver Support Brokerage services. As a requirement for certification, all persons who plan to provide Support Brokerage services, either on a paid or unpaid basis, must successfully complete this Support Broker Certification training. Attendees must pass a Support Brokerage competency test, given as part of the training, to receive the required Certificate of Completion.

Scheduled trainings are arranged for each region so that the 2 ½ hour informational session will be conducted a few days prior to the Support Broker Certification training.

To sign up to attend this training, go to: SELF Waiver Support Broker Training
https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG_Main.asp.

[Excerpted from July 17, 2012 issue – Enrollment Begins](#)

14. SELF Waiver Enrollment Begins, Statewide

Enrollment for the Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver began July 1. To prepare for a smooth statewide roll-out for the new Medicaid-funded waiver, DODD Medicaid Development and Administration staff have worked with the Department's Information Technology team to develop and update the infrastructure/systems needed to support implementation. References to the SELF waiver in each of the following areas now incorporate the necessary references:

- Individual Data System (IDS);
- Preliminary Implementation Component Tool (PICT);
- Waiver Management System (WMS);
- Provider Certification Wizard (PCW);
- Medicaid Services System (MSS);
- Payment Authorization for Waiver Services (PAWS);
- Medicaid Billing System (MBS); and,
- Incident Tracking System (ITS)

County Boards now may access the necessary systems in order to enroll individuals on the new waiver, and providers now may submit applications for certification (for SELF waiver services), using the DODD online Provider Certification Wizard. According to staff at DODD Central Office, applications for enrollment on the waiver, as well as applications to become certified as a provider under the SELF waiver are beginning to roll in.

☞ Coming Soon! ☞

Pipeline will feature a story about the first individual enrolled on the SELF Waiver.

Information and outreach efforts supporting the SELF waiver include a series of regional trainings around the state, and online ‘webinars’ for County Boards and providers. The two-day training opportunities began in May, and cover details concerning policies and procedures associated with the waiver, as well as walking through system-specific technical information that County Board staff and providers need to know. See the new Technical Guide at: [SELF Waiver Technical Guide](#)

Coinciding with the statewide regional trainings for County Boards and providers, DODD Family Advocate Peggy Martin, and The Arc of Ohio Executive Director Gary Tonks, have scheduled presentations for individuals and family members who want to learn more about the new waiver. Feedback has been very positive in terms of having questions answered, and having an opportunity to discuss the new services available. Supplemental documents also are posted online to provide information for those who may not be able to attend trainings. See [SELF Waiver](#) at www.dodd.ohio.gov.

In addition, DODD has contracted with national entity, Public Partnerships Limited, to provide training about Support Brokerage -- a new aspect under the SELF waiver. Two different types of Support Brokerage training have been developed by Public Partnerships Limited to ensure that the unique role of the Support Broker is fully understood. The first type of training is a 2 ½ hour informational session for stakeholders interested in learning more about the Support Brokerage function. Individuals, family members, County Board staff, and other potential providers are encouraged to attend this training, which discusses Support Broker responsibilities, and what role the Support Broker plays as a part of the SELF waiver. Also covered are how a Support Broker inter-relates with individuals and family members, and with County Board Service and Support Administrators.

The second type of training is a day-long Support Broker Certification session for people interested in becoming certified to deliver these services. As a requirement for certification, all persons who plan to provide Support Brokerage services, either on a paid or unpaid basis, must successfully complete this Support Broker Certification training. Attendees must pass a Support Brokerage competency test, given as part of the training, to receive the required Certificate of Completion. Wherever the trainings are presented, the 2 ½ hour informational session will be conducted a few days prior to the Support Broker Certification session. To sign up for this training, go to https://reg.prodapps.dodd.ohio.gov/REG_Main.asp.

[Excerpted from August 15, 2012 issue – First Adult Enrolled](#)

[15. Ohio’s First SELF Waiver Recipient, Christine Brown](#)

Ohio’s first Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver recipient is Franklin County resident and long-time self-advocate, Christine A. Brown.



Congratulations, Christine!

Christine Brown (right) with Jeanne Stuntz, friend and advocate.

Christine has lived in Franklin County since May 2009, and enjoys experiencing living life to the fullest, including all of the joys and challenges that come with it. She is always thinking about ways to improve the lives of people with disabilities

As the owner of *Brown-Cooley Associates in Self-Determination* Christine is well known to many in Ohio's developmental disabilities service system. She has been advocating for people with disabilities since 1994, and has a real passion for positive change, and seeing choices for people with disabilities.

Christine has worked with many County Boards and local officials to foster awareness for disabilities issues affecting individuals in the community. In addition, Christine has received recognition from various organizations for her enthusiastic advocacy efforts, including the Ohio Public Images' Self-Advocate of the Year Award in 2005. She is affiliated with several organizations and projects to promote concepts related to self-determination, including serving as the Ohio Self Determination Association - Central Region Chair; and People First of Franklin County.

Christine notes that she was very excited about hearing that she had been the first individual approved for services via the new SELF Waiver, stating,

"I tried to get all the paperwork in right away and did some research into how everything should be done – I'm ready to get started on this!"

Read More about Christine Brown and the SELF Waiver in the next issue of

Pipeline Quarterly reporting on Summer 2012

Archived at Pipeline Quarterly - Summer 2012

More SELF Training Available

A second August SELF waiver training has been scheduled for *August 21 & 22*, for anyone who has not been able to attend a previous session. The two-day training will be at the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, 400 E. Campus View Blvd., Columbus, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m..

Click below to register for the training:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SELFWaiverTrainingRegistration>

DODD also will offer SELF Waiver two-day training *via webinar*, September 17 and 18. Start time will be 10 a.m., and end time will be approximately 3 p.m.. *Please register for each day of this two-day webinar separately.* See links below:

The links to register for the September 17 & 18 SELF waiver training *webinar* are:

SELF Waiver Webinar Training DAY 1 Registration LINK:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/658160640>

SELF Waiver Webinar Training DAY 2 Registration LINK:
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/977589881>

For questions regarding registration for the SELF waiver trainings, contact Katie Rupinsky at katie.rupinsky@dodd.ohio.gov.

[Excerpted from November 7, 2012 issue – First CIBN enrollment](#)

16. Bradley Shonkwiler, First Child on SELF Waiver

Bradley Shonkwiler is making state news at only 8 years old as the first child to be enrolled on the new DODD Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waiver. Bradley's enrollment was effective October 1, and already his mom, Tracey, is excited about the options now available to him and the Shonkwiler family in Warren County.

In developing SELF Waiver service options, DODD and its stakeholders felt that it was important to incorporate 100 state-funded SELF Waivers designated for Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs (CIBN) to specifically serve children who have demonstrated such needs. Some of the services available within the SELF Waiver were particularly designed to assist individuals who exhibit intensive behaviors. Tracey Shonkwiler worked closely with Kelly Detherage, Service and Support Administrator at the Warren County Board of DD, to apply for the SELF waiver, and the process went smoothly.



**Bradley,
In His Element!**
Ah, the sheer joy of being 8 and on a swing. Bradley Shonkwiler shows his considerable enthusiasm for swinging – and just about any activity outdoors. According to his mom, Tracey, “Bradley really likes all the sensations of being outside on the swings, and enjoys active play in general.”

According to Detherage, “We put several children on the wait list for services, and Bradley has some intensive needs due to autism. He had received some services through the Ohio Department of Education Autism Scholarship, and we felt he would be a good candidate for a SELF waiver. It was so exciting when we learned that Bradley was going to be enrolled on the waiver and a great surprise that he was the first child in Ohio on SELF!”

Bradley utilizes the *Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention* services that are available with the SELF Waiver. These services include those that assist unpaid caregivers and/or paid support staff in carrying out individual treatment/support plans that are needed to reduce the individual’s intensive behaviors, and implementing the supports that are necessary to improve the individual’s independence and interaction with the community. To access these services, Bradley participated in a *Functional Behavior Assessment*, which was completed in 2011 under the Autism Scholarship. Detherage explains,

“So as a team, then, with this information we were able to review the Assessment and determine that Bradley would benefit from the *Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention* Services. He also has some self-injurious behaviors that needed to be addressed. His mom, Tracey, was hopeful that Bradley could utilize the *Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention* services in his daily life to help reduce intensive self-injurious behaviors.”

For Bradley, these services include an aide/provider coming to Bradley’s home three to four days per week to work with Bradley to help reduce the unwanted behaviors, and they work with Bradley at his home as well as out in the community. According to Detherage,

“They work on skills such as patience and redirection when Bradley starts to exhibit a self-injurious behavior. Bradley is using the *Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention* services to help him better participate in socializing, making friends, engaging, and communicating with others in activities in the home and out in the community.” She continued,

“When reviewing the SELF Waiver with Bradley’s mom, she was very excited that her son would be able to obtain these services under SELF, as the Level One and Individual Options waivers do not offer these services. Tracey knew that Bradley would benefit greatly from having Clinical Therapeutic Intervention, and was excited about the flexible options in this waiver.”

Tracey Shonkwiler notes that the SELF Waiver has helped them to purchase a Rifton adaptive tricycle to provide therapeutic exercise (SELF waiver funded under ‘Participant-Directed Goods and Services.’) The adaptive tricycle offers the fun of riding a tricycle for children who do not have well-developed motor skills, while helping to strengthen their legs and sense of balance as they learn. She adds,

“When Kelly and I were looking over the options with the SELF Waiver we tried to think of anything and everything that could benefit Bradley, and then incorporate the most important aspects of those things. The Clinical/Therapeutic Intervention and Participant-Directed Goods and Services options have been so helpful already.”

As the first child enrolled on the Self Empowered Life Funding waiver utilizing one of the state-funded waivers for Children with Intensive Behavioral Needs, Bradley and his family have found the kind of assistance with day-to-day issues that the waiver was

designed to provide – so that children with these intensive behaviors can become adults more fully-participating in their communities.

17. *Archived at Pipeline Quarterly - Summer 2012*

Pipeline Quarterly - Summer 2012 – p. 4, Christine Brown and the SELF Waiver

-End File -