

# Opportunities for Living Life (OLL) Newsletter

T H E O K L A H O M A H E A L T H C A R E A U T H O R I T Y

## What is OLL?

Opportunities for Living Life (OLL) is charged with developing, operating and administering new program initiatives for SoonerCare. Additionally, OLL is charged with developing collaboration among state and private agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders in creating a system of health care, long-term care support and home and community-based services support that meets the needs of every Oklahoma citizen.



## The Living Choice Project

SoonerCare members living in a nursing home now have the option of living in a community setting through the Living Choice project. Living Choice allows qualified SoonerCare members to gain back that sense of independence by living in a community of their choice. Individuals can receive services such as personal care, skilled nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy while living in their own home.

To qualify for the Living Choice project, the individual must live in a nursing facility for at least six months, have SoonerCare (Oklahoma Medicaid) for at least one month prior to transition, be interested in moving to the community and be guaranteed home and community supports once he or she transitions.

“The great thing about this program is that it’s the individual’s decision to transition out of the nursing home and back into the community,” said Amy Bradt, outreach coordinator for Living Choice. “In a time when he or she may feel like all sense of freedom is lost, we offer a program that allows the individual to choose.”

Living Choice will empower individuals to have choice and control of the services and supports necessary to live in, and be part of, the community. Since January, the Living Choice Project has transitioned 14 people from nursing facilities back into the community.

For more information about whether you or someone you know may qualify, to make a referral, or for more information on transitioning back into the community, visit [www.oklivingchoice.org](http://www.oklivingchoice.org) or call a Living Choice representative at (888) 287-2443.

Sign up to receive the OLL Newsletter by e-mailing [OLL@okhca.org](mailto:OLL@okhca.org) or calling Ashley @ 405-522-7902.

### OLL Mission Statement

To enhance quality of life for target citizenry by delivering effective programs and facilitating a partnership with the community.

## Quality Oklahoma Team Day 2010

The Quality Oklahoma Team Day 2010 kicked off with a great start on May 6 at the State Capitol. This year was an eventful year. I had never attended the event before, so I was new to the surroundings. My thoughts were you go there and present a project. I never knew the public was invited. What a grand way for the public to check up on their investment. This year with the budget deficit in mind many booths presented projects on how the state of Oklahoma is saving money.

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority presented 14 booths on Team Day. Included in the 14 booths were 10 projects submitted for the Governor's Commendation for Excellence award. The Living Choice Project, the Focus on Excellence Project and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly from the Opportunities for Living Life division were three projects presented that have participated in Team Day for the last two years. Each year, these three projects continue to amaze the public with the programs' initiative and effectiveness.

The Living Choice Project staff attended Team Day for the third year in a row. This year, entering as an exhibit-only display, staff enjoyed meeting fellow Oklahomans and informing them of what Living Choice is all about. "Team Day is a great opportunity to meet people from all areas of Oklahoma and familiarize them with services available for Oklahoma citizens," said Amy Bradt, Living Choice Project outreach coordinator. The Living Choice Project allows long-term care services to be provided in a person's home instead of an institution, thereby saving SoonerCare dollars. For more information about Living Choice, call (888) 287-2443 or visit us at [www.oklivingchoice.org](http://www.oklivingchoice.org).

The Focus on Excellence Project (FOE) presented a booth on Team Day as an exhibit-only display with a new staff member, Carolyn Starks, attending the event. I spoke with Carolyn briefly regarding the exhibit displayed. "The Focus on Excellence Project is a reimbursement program developed to increase all SoonerCare contracted nursing facilities' quality of care," said Carolyn Starks, FOE data project specialist. "I enjoy having the opportunity to present something I believe so deeply in to the citizens of Oklahoma," said Jennifer Wynn, FOE program coordinator.

The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) presented a booth on Team Day. "The PACE project provides in-home social and medical services for the elderly and frail or care at the Cherokee Elder Care Center in Tahlequah," said Dennis Pennington, PACE senior program manager. This project was submitted for the Governor's Commendation for Excellence award and received the award hands down.

Team Day, I feel, was a wonderful event developed to learn about new projects within the state of Oklahoma. The event truly stimulated many minds, and to see such a crowd shows that the citizens of Oklahoma want to learn about how different agencies progress. I was very impressed by the enthusiasm each agency had in providing me with information regarding their booth. It further enhanced my zest for coming to work for the state of Oklahoma.

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