

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center**

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### **Ohio Nursing Home Diversion/Transition Program Showing Promising Results, Scripps Study Finds**

A new program aimed at diverting and transitioning Ohioans from nursing homes has helped approximately two-thirds of a targeted group of older Ohioans remain in or return to their own homes and communities, according to a recent four-page report from the Scripps Gerontology Center.

The report, *“Ohio’s Aging Network Efforts to Enhance Nursing Home Diversion and Transition,”* reveals that of 1,259 Ohioans who had been in a nursing home for three months or longer, but were identified as possibly able to live non-institutionally, 53 percent were living in their own homes and communities after six months, and another 14 percent transitioned to assisted living, less restrictive and less costly than nursing home care. Of 1,974 older Ohioans deemed “at risk” of entering a nursing home, nearly two-thirds were still living in their own homes and communities after six months. In that same time period, 18 percent were deceased and only 17 percent had entered a nursing home.

The intervention and study, conducted between March 2010 and February 2011, is in follow-up and evaluation of a legislative directive that the Ohio Department Aging (ODA) and the state’s 12 area agencies on aging (AAAs) develop a state nursing home diversion and transition program. ODA and the AAAs, along with state and local long-term-care ombudsmen, worked together to identify long-stay nursing home residents who might be able to live more independently, as well as older persons whose health and lack of family and social support put them “at very high risk” of nursing home placement. Some of these high risk persons were already enrolled in the state’s PASSPORT home-care program, or experiencing a short stay in a nursing home or hospital.

Interventions used by the state to help divert and transition mostly older Ohioans in this concentrated effort include more pro-active planning, along with increased in-home and community services and enhanced caregiver training and support.

The report, authored by Robert Applebaum, Tony Bardo, Suzanne Kunkel and Elizabeth Carpio, cautions that results are preliminary, but notes that “the finding that two-thirds of both the diversion group and the nursing home transition group are in the community after six months indicates a potentially promising practice for the area agency network.”

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For a copy of the report, search online at: <http://www.scripps.muohio.edu/publications>  
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