Therap® / *Person-Centered. Data-Driven.*

State Spotlight: Missouri and Ohio Using Technology to Increase Meaningful Participation in Everyday Life for People with IDD

www.nasddds.org | @NASDDDSTA

NASDDDS

National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services

1

IntellectAbility

At the Intersection of Technology and Lived Experience:

Using Technology to Increase Meaningful Participation in
Everyday Life for People of All Ages
Across the Disability Spectrum

Presented by:

BJ Stasio, self-advocate

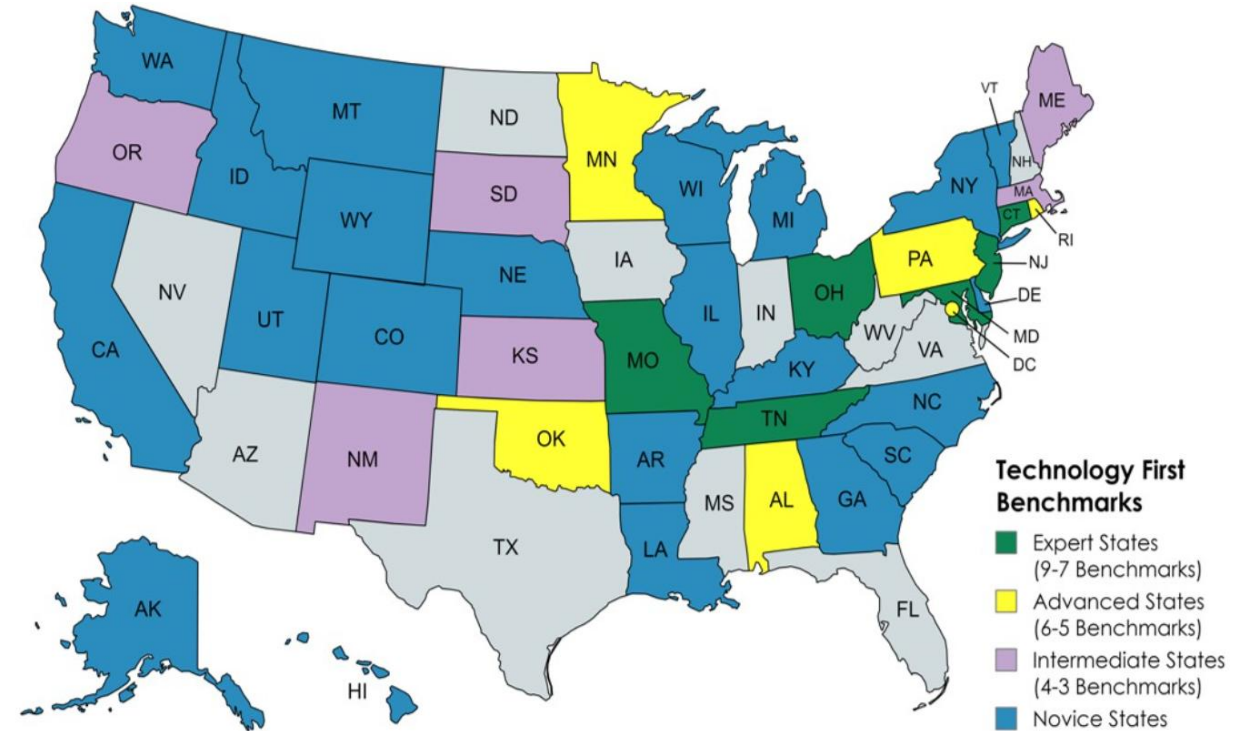Craig Escudé, MD, FAAFP, FAADM, President, IntellectAbility

Keith Banner, OH DODD

Holly Reiff, MO DMH

Technology First

Technology First began as a movement but has transformed to a "framework for systems change where technology is considered <u>first</u> in the discussion of support options available to individuals and families through person-centered approaches to promote meaningful participation, social inclusion, self-determination and quality of life" (E.S., Tanis, 2019).

Reference: State of the States In Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Project: Technology First | State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Technology First Benchmarks

- Expert States (9-7 Benchmarks)
- Advanced States (6-5 Benchmarks)
- Intermediate States (4-3 Benchmarks)
- Novice States (2 or Fewer Benchmarks)

IntellectAbility

Technology First Benchmarks

Implementation or advancement of statewide legislation

Modernization and harmonization of policies to support technology access

Regularly convening a statewide group focused on technology access, services, and programs)

Considerations of technology solutions as a requirement within the Person-Centered Plan

Pilot programs for evaluating technology impact for people with I/DD

Statewide evaluation of technology needs

Statewide data collection plan or protocol for impact evaluation

Statewide capacity building for providers and consumers

Communications strategy for sharing Technology First enforcement of statewide legislation

Health Technology And People with IDD

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)

- experience numerous challenges accessing healthcare and health disparities.

- Technological advances are facilitating earlier detection of illnesses that are often missed.

- These advances additionally have widespread applicability.

- Can be used to optimize expenditures

IntellectAbility

"Watch" That Seizure

Did you know your watch can detect seizures?

- Electronic watches with motion sensors can detect body movements consistent with seizure activity.

- They can alert staff or family members of the possible seizure and prompt a check-in on the person.
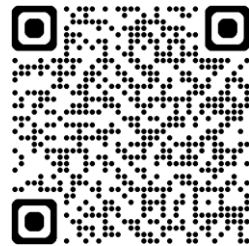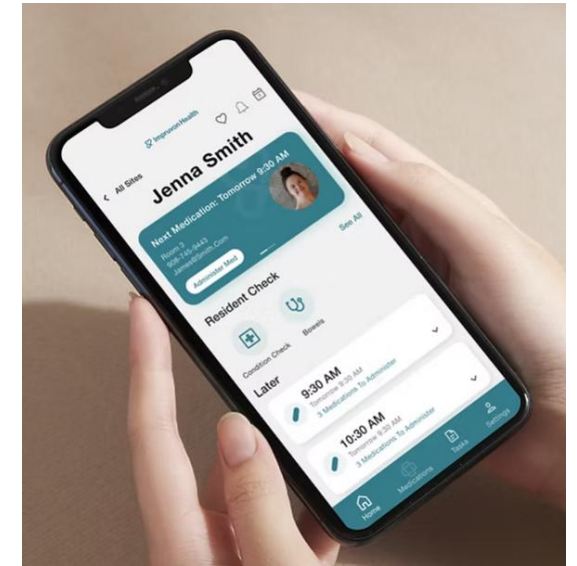
IntellectAbility

Monitoring From Afar

- Remote monitoring systems can enable people who need extra support to live more independently.

- They can prompt people to perform activities such as daily grooming or taking their medication at the right time.

- The independence gained from utilizing such supports can be life-changing to the person.
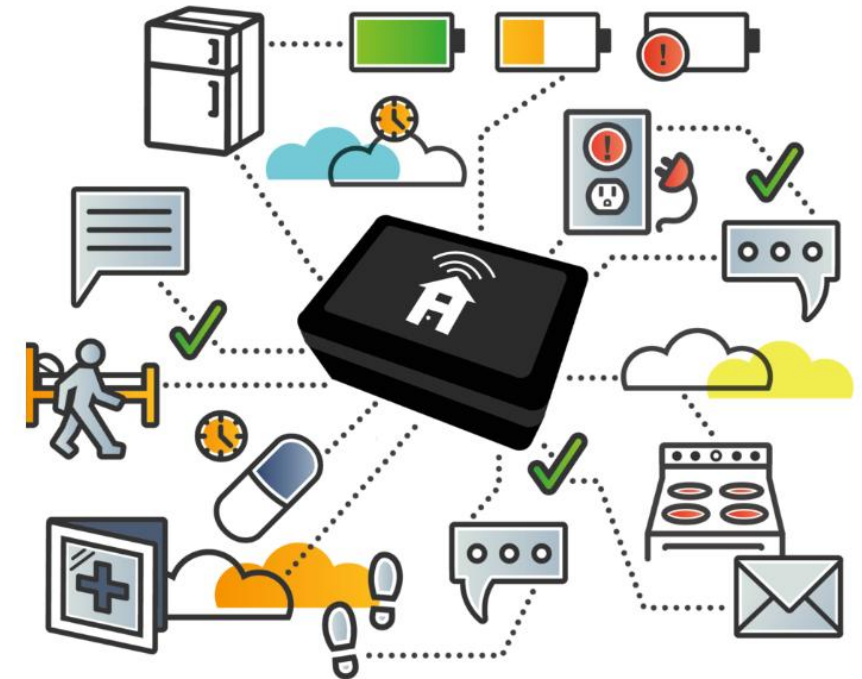
Improving Safety and Accuracy with Medication Usage

- People with IDD often utilize many medications .

- Apps tailored to IDD Residential workflows, along with their app-connected medication boxes, can dramatically improve medication and regulatory compliance and independence

- Can drastically reduce the number of medication errors, improve safety, and reduce the time needed by nursing and direct support staff to deliver medication to the person.

ImpruvonHealth

IntellectAbility

Health Risk Informed Telemedicine™

StationMD

HRST — HEALTH RISK SCREENING TOOL

Facilitates real-time access to current health risk data to help inform clinical decision-making during a telehealth visit.
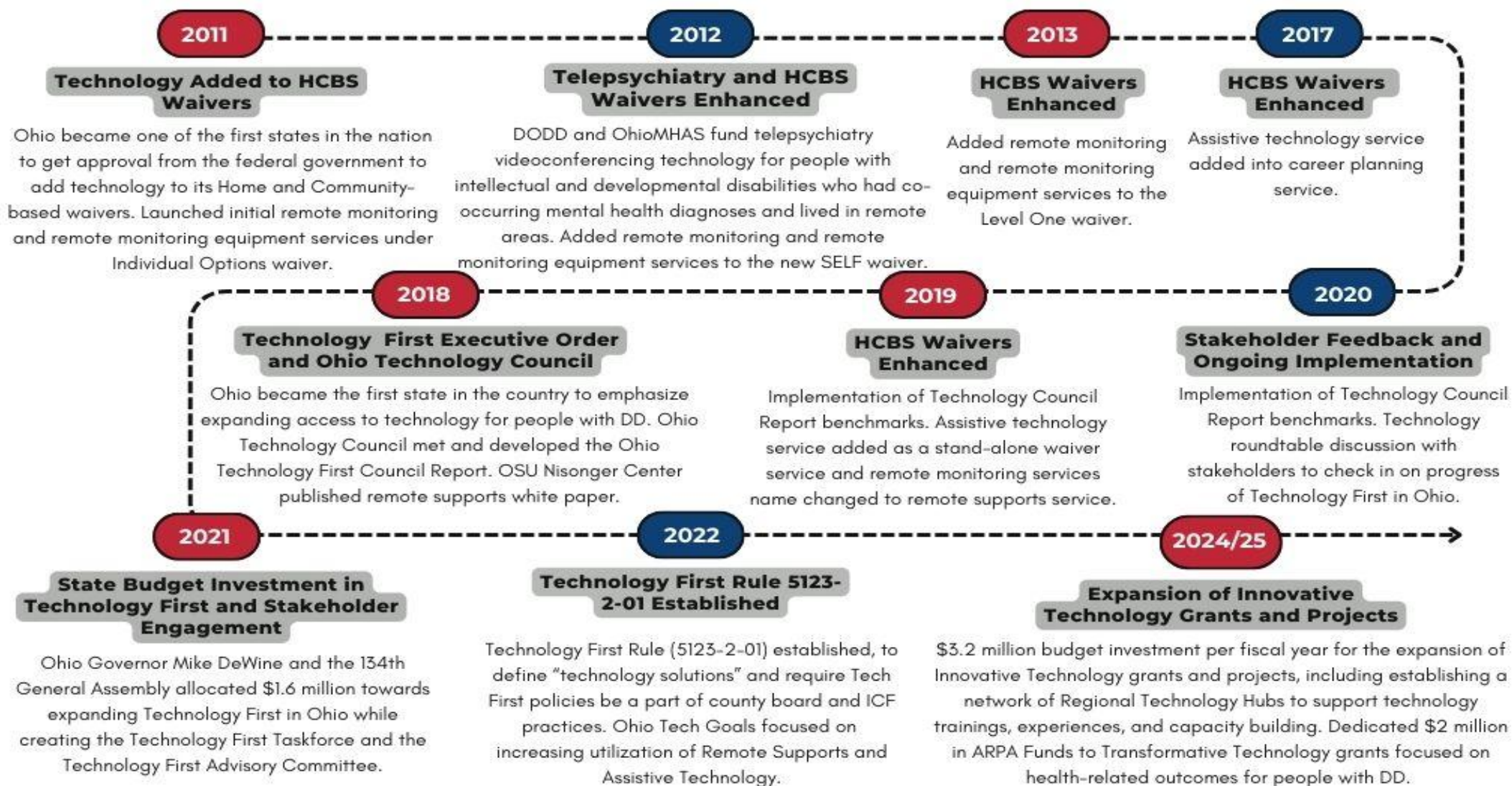
IntellectAbility

BJ Stasio's Perspective on Technology Use

Technology First

2011
Technology Added to HCBS Waivers

Ohio became one of the first states in the nation to get approval from the federal government to add technology to its Home and Community-based waivers. Launched initial remote monitoring and remote monitoring equipment services under Individual Options waiver.

2012
Telepsychiatry and HCBS Waivers Enhanced

DODD and OhioMHAS fund telepsychiatry videoconferencing technology for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who had co-occurring mental health diagnoses and lived in remote areas. Added remote monitoring and remote monitoring equipment services to the new SELF waiver.

2013
HCBS Waivers Enhanced

Added remote monitoring and remote monitoring equipment services to the Level One waiver.

2017
HCBS Waivers Enhanced

Assistive technology service added into career planning service.

2018
Technology First Executive Order and Ohio Technology Council

Ohio became the first state in the country to emphasize expanding access to technology for people with DD. Ohio Technology Council met and developed the Ohio Technology First Council Report. OSU Nisonger Center published remote supports white paper.

2019
HCBS Waivers Enhanced

Implementation of Technology Council Report benchmarks. Assistive technology service added as a stand-alone waiver service and remote monitoring services name changed to remote supports service.

2020
Stakeholder Feedback and Ongoing Implementation

Implementation of Technology Council Report benchmarks. Technology roundtable discussion with stakeholders to check in on progress of Technology First in Ohio.

2021
State Budget Investment in Technology First and Stakeholder Engagement

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the 134th General Assembly allocated $1.6 million towards expanding Technology First in Ohio while creating the Technology First Taskforce and the Technology First Advisory Committee.

2022
Technology First Rule 5123-2-01 Established

Technology First Rule (5123-2-01) established, to define "technology solutions" and require Tech First policies be a part of county board and ICF practices. Ohio Tech Goals focused on increasing utilization of Remote Supports and Assistive Technology.

2024/25
Expansion of Innovative Technology Grants and Projects

$3.2 million budget investment per fiscal year for the expansion of Innovative Technology grants and projects, including establishing a network of Regional Technology Hubs to support technology trainings, experiences, and capacity building. Dedicated $2 million in ARPA Funds to Transformative Technology grants focused on health-related outcomes for people with DD.

"For most of us, technology makes things easier. For a person with a disability, it makes things possible."

Judith (Judy) Heumann,

American Disability Rights Activist

Ohio Tech Priorities

- Technology to **Increase Safety, Independence, and Control** (Person w/DD focused)

- Technology as a **Solution** to meet a need (DSPs, providers, families focused)

- Technology **Across the Lifespan** (EI, School-based, Transition Age, and Adults)

Ohio Tech Goals

- **Indicator 1:** Increase the number of people using Remote Support (RS) Services 45% by June 30, 2026.

- **Indicator 2:** Increase the overall usage of Remote Supports, Assistive Tech, and Virtual Services to 25% by 2026.

Ohio Tech Benefits

- **Workforce**
- **More independence and safety for people**
- **Innovation in service delivery across different services and lifespans**
- **Innovation in provider processes and efficiencies**

Ohio's Technology First Rule

Each person served by a county board or an ICF will participate in a person-centered assessment and planning process which identifies the person's:

- Unique strengths,
- Interests,
- Abilities,
- Preferences,
- Resources, and
- Explores how technology might support the individual's desired outcomes

- The Rule also provides guidance for county boards and ICFs to develop their own Tech First policies and partnerships.

Ohio HCBS Waiver Technology Supports

- **Remote Supports**
- **Assistive Technology**

The Difference between Remote Support and Assistive Technology

- **DODD's supportive technology-based services include Assistive Technology and Remote Support.**

- **Something is considered Assistive Technology if it helps provide personalized support for daily tasks, such as a cellphone application that reminds someone to stay on task at their job, or appliances with automatic shut-off features.**

- **Remote Support uses two-way communication in real time, just like Skype or FaceTime, so a person can communicate with their providers when they need them. This allows for a person to be more independent in their home without a provider being on site.**

- **View the Technology Solutions One-Pager.**

Ohio **Technology First**

Ohio Technology First: Tech Ambassadors

In January 2021, the Ohio Tech Ambassador Network, through a grant with the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, launched a program to shed light on how technology solutions, can enhance the lives and foster independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Currently, there are 16 Tech Ambassadors who share their personal experiences through interactive web and in-person mentoring sessions to empower and encourage other Ohioans with developmental disabilities to consider Supportive Technology in their own lives.

Ohio Technology First: Taskforce

Mission: to expand technology solutions within service delivery and operations, reduce barriers, and align state policies. Monthly meetings include agency updates, presentations from supportive tech providers and experts, and touching base on the Taskforce's workplan, based on information from the Tech First Advisory Committee.

The Taskforce is comprised of representatives from:
- Department of Developmental Disabilities
- Office of InnovateOhio
- Department of Education and Workforce
- Department of Medicaid
- Department of Job and Family Services
- Department of Aging
- Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Health

Ohio Technology First: Communications

- Memo Monday for events/trainings/guidance updates
- Monthly Tech Updates for stories/links/updates/events/trainings
- Quarterly Tech First Communities of Practice
- Tech First CoP padlet
- Supportive Tech Trainings through Charles Lea Center and Able Opportunity's Jennifer White
- Social media (Instagram, Facebook, X for events/videos/links/updates)
- Monthly Ohio Technology First Taskforce
- Regional Tech Hubs
- Remote Support and Assistive Tech MyLearning trainings
- What the Tech? Trainings (40 counties since 2023)
- Technology First webpage
- Rapid Response

Ohio Technology First: Tech Summit 2025

Thank you!

Until Jeremiah was 26 years old, he was never alone...now in his words, "I am alone, by myself and I like it."

"The most important thing to understand about technology is anyone can use it."
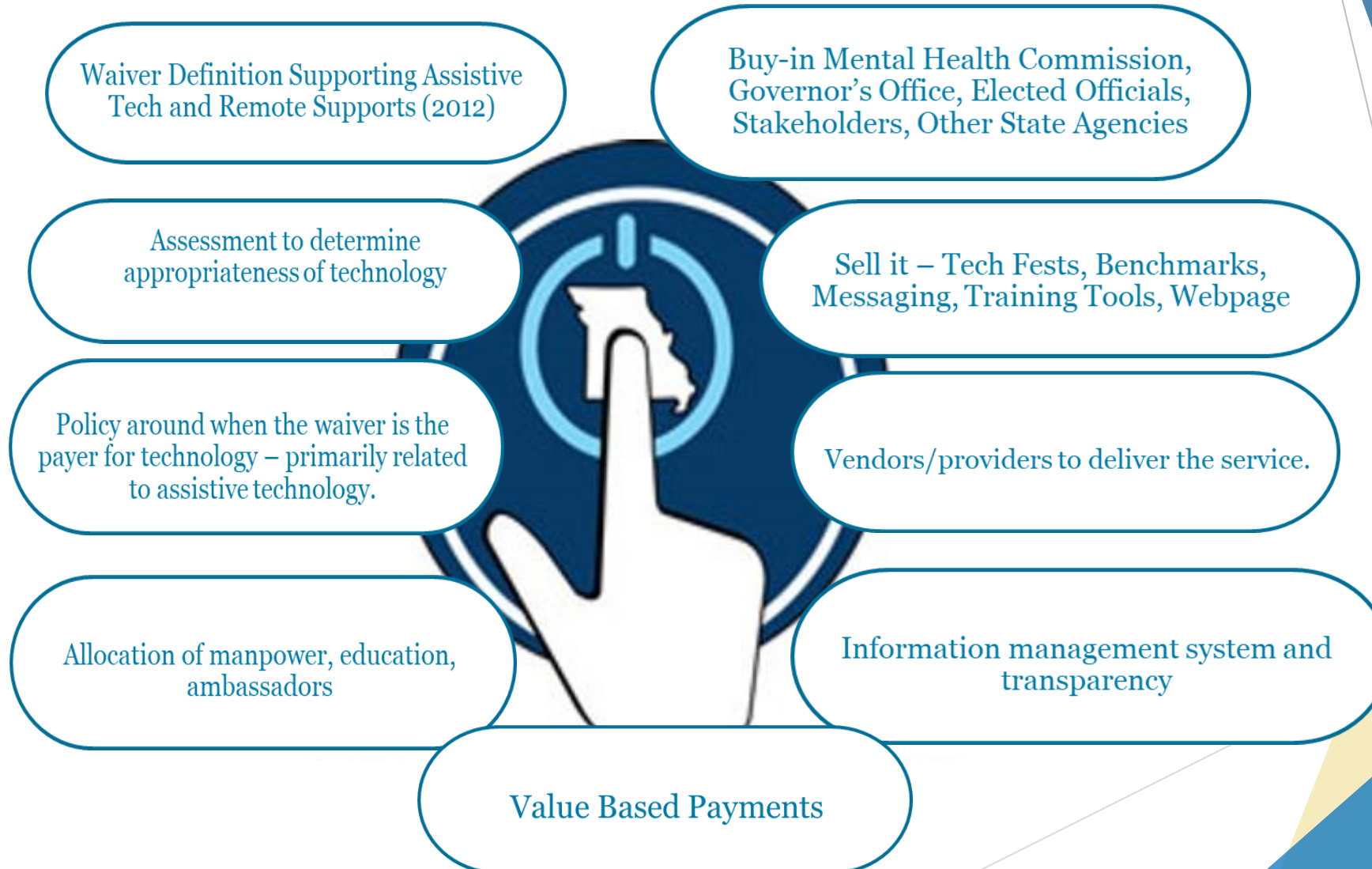
...it may be what the people we support want.

Technology First?

▶ Improves quality of life.

▶ Increases independence and privacy.

▶ Provides tools that increase safety and health.

▶ Allows real-time data to be used to track medication adherence, sleep patterns, and the occurrence of other health events.

▶ Bends the Medicaid cost-curve.

▶ Addresses the direct care staffing shortage.

▶ Connects healthcare data to improve health outcomes and communication.

Missouri Department of Mental Health
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Technology First

- Waiver Definition Supporting Assistive Tech and Remote Supports (2012)
- Buy-in Mental Health Commission, Governor's Office, Elected Officials, Stakeholders, Other State Agencies
- Assessment to determine appropriateness of technology
- Sell it – Tech Fests, Benchmarks, Messaging, Training Tools, Webpage
- Policy around when the waiver is the payer for technology – primarily related to assistive technology.
- Vendors/providers to deliver the service.
- Allocation of manpower, education, ambassadors
- Information management system and transparency
- Value Based Payments

Key Allies/Stakeholders

❑Individuals
❑Families/Guardians
❑Support Coordinators
❑Provider Agencies
❑Other State Agencies
❑Missouri Assistive Technology Council

❑NASDDDS
❑HSRI–NCI
❑DD Council
❑UMKC
❑Media
❑Elected Officials
❑SHIFT

Sam's Story

Identify the baseline and stretch goals...

Goal 1: 1,658 people with disabilities receiving Medicaid-waiver funded supports will have supportive technology authorized in their annual plan by December 31, 2021

> January 2019: 304

> August 2025: 1500

Goal 2: All 115 counties will access Medicaid funding for at least one person for supportive technology.

> January 2019: 50 counties

> August 2025: 85 counties

Stretch goals, flexibility

▶ **Elevate Expectations**: Each person will have an opportunity, during the person-centered planning process, to consider how technology may meet assessed needs

▶ **Build Capacity**: Increase the number of contracted technology

▶ **Measure success**: Utilize the NCI survey process gather data on the utilization, satisfaction and impact of technology

▶ **Information interactivity: T**echnology development to impact health communication and positive outcomes

Bending the Medicaid Cost Curve

	Agency A	**Agency B**
Annual cost of night shift	$127,837.60	$127,837.60
Annual cost for Remote Support Agency	$54,902.40	$9,000.00
Cost Savings	$72,935.20	$118,837.60

Impact on workforce

▶ Career paths

▶ Professional and personal growth

▶ Increased earnings opportunities

▶ Increased availability to deliver services to more people

Remember Technology First is not Technology Only

Up Next…

▶ Value Based Payment

▶ Health Information Network and PCSP

▶ Technology Ambassadors (thanks Ohio!!)

▶ Exploring how to make testing technology options possible

▶ Evaluating goals

▶ Setting new goals

Resources

- [Missouri Technology First Website](#)

- [Supportive Technology Planning Questions](#)

- [Success Stories](#)

- [Health Information Exchange](#)

- [Medicaid Waiver Manual](#)

SERVING, EMPOWERING AND SUPPORTING MISSOURIANS TO LIVE THEIR BEST LIVES.

https://dmh.mo.gov/dev-disabilities MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Tech supports…

- **Better communication** – reduces misunderstandings
- **More independence** – lowers staffing needs
- **Data-driven support** – targets resources efficiently
- **Proactive health monitoring** – prevents costly crises
- **Skill development** – builds ability cost-effectively
- **Enhanced care coordination** – avoids duplication of services
- **Improved health outcomes**– improves health, reduces costs

Thank you!

Craig Escude, MD, FAAFP, FAADM

Craig@ReplacingRisk.com

ReplacingRisk.com