



Lifesharing Coalition Notes 8/20/15

Focus Group Update—Maggie Rothenberger

Focus group met briefly with Ron Melusky, ODP lifesharing point person and Joi Bennett .

Prior the focus group meeting Ron had e-mailed Maggie letting her know that Nancy Thaler, who recently returned to ODP as the Deputy Secretary, is interested in investing time and resources to build a culture within which lifesharing can thrive to support its growth. In the e-mail Ron went on to say that Nancy would like to meet with a couple of members from the Focus Group to talk about challenges and partnering to support the program. Ron reiterated that Nancy was really interested in the barriers to expansion and wanted to be involved in the discussion about solutions.

Maggie will be sending out a list of questions prior to the meeting with Nancy. One person from each agency is then to respond to the questions. Maggie is looking for information regarding referrals and discharges and the reason that referrals were not accepted or what where people went when they were discharged. The information should be from fiscal year 14-15. She may send out a survey monkey or questionnaire, but the turnaround time on the answers needs to be about a week so that the people who are meeting with Nancy will have it prior to the meeting. Maggie hopes with get the survey out by the week ending 8/28/15.

The larger group was broken down into smaller groups to identify their top five barriers. A list was then compiled and included rates, recruitment, lack of additional support for challenging individual, aging providers, aging individuals, support coordinators—turnover and lack of education, transportation, time line. PROMISE, appropriate referrals, substitute care, etc.

Introductions

Members were asked to introduce themselves and state how many individuals in their agency had moved from a community home into lifesharing. Most responded 0 or 1—the top agency had 4.

Letter from Dana Olsen—Carrie shared a paper that Dana had written for the Lifesharing Coalition as to why he felt the numbers of individuals receiving lifesharing services had decreased over the past couple of years. He sent the paper to the leadership group and had copied the info to Nancy Thaler. Dana listed a number of issues that he felt had contributed to the decline in lifesharing over the past several years. He challenged the coalition to ensure that lifesharing operates in the interests of people, families and the community, more than that of agencies, funders and administrative entities. He encouraged new alliances and partnerships and opening up lifesharing to young adults in college dorms and family members and practices that support relationships and community resources and safeguards. He asked that the paper be shared with the coalition. Any member who would like a copy of the paper, please contact a member of the leadership group. --

Review of the PATH

- **Conference Committee**
 - Jamie Walker updated the group on the conference; it is anticipated that the conference brochure will be uploaded to the website tomorrow
 - A sign up sheet for room monitors was circulated
 - There will be a dance group performing at the social hour. There will also be karaoke this year
 - Vote was taken on whether or not Regional Baskets will be done again this year. Each region is asked to bring a basket representative of their region. No agency logo items please.
 - Jamie is also looking for old pictures from Warm Springs or the beginning of lifesharing that can be put into sometime of slideshow; if you have any get them to Jamie asap
- **Training Committee**—looking for more volunteers; the group is looking to develop more trainings that can be readily put up on the website instead of getting hung up in ODP. If anyone is interested in being part of the group, e-mail Stephanie Brown or Kathy Trumbore
- **Increasing membership in the Coalition**—western region has reached out to the AE's in an effort to boost membership; a couple are in attendance at today's coalition meeting; also it was suggested that we reach out to SCO's and encourage them to attend as well

ODP Memo 062-15 –was shared

Updates from last meeting from Matt Jones—no response to date

Licensing Issues—Central Region said that licensing was interviewing individuals and requesting that the interviews be set up; they have also been pulling dryer vents and applying what had been said recently about the need for landlines—refer to Q&A---**Regulatory Question and Answer**

<http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/provider/longtermcareservices/regulatoryquestionandanswer/index.htm>

Reminder to do Mediceck on new families

Wage and Hour Issue—no update from DOL on independent contractor vs employee

Regional Updates

- **Northeast**—had a picnic for families and individuals at Promised Land State Park
- **Southeast**—had Family Fun Day which also included a training on Nutrition
- **Central**—reviewed conference, contracts, stipend process—level of care need, budget, tracking in and out and Benjamin settlement
- **Western**—had a training; supports coordination discussion to sent to Ron. PAR Campaign—We are Worth It

Excellence in Lifesharing Awards—25 nominations were received this year. The winners are as follows:

- **Central**—Virginia Wallace nominated by Mary Hiller from Access
- **Southeast**—Darlene Adams nominated by Beth Gibson from Horizon House
- **Northeast**—Lucy Mbugua—nominated by Kathy Shoemaker from RHD
- **Western**—Thomas Bailey nominated by Ian Legeion from NHS

Next Year's Meeting Schedule

- **February 18, 2016**—Giant . Camp Hill—PATH—hosted by Central Region
- **April 20 2016**—Celebration Hall---State College—hosted by Western Region

- **June 16, 2016—Celebration Hall—State College-hosted by Southeast**
- **August 18, 2016—Giant, Camp Hill—hosted by Northeast**
- **October—Conference????????**
- **December 8, 2016—Giant, Camp Hill—hosted by South East**