

Lifesharing Western Region Meeting

Minutes 3/17/15

Facilitator: Anna Rankin

Agenda Builders: Anna, Rankin, Darlene McConnell and Carrie Kontis

Note Taker: Marilyn Shiwarski

Time Keeper: Anna Rankin

Training was provided by the Western HCQU, Milestone and was part one of a three part series called, Positive Approaches - Listening.

The group agreed that the training was well done and beneficial. The trainer will be invited to return to continue the three part series.

Mel retired from PAR. Maggie Rothenberger (MRothenberger@KenCrest.org) will be the contact/go between for the Lifesharing Coalition and PAR.

The statewide Lifesharing Coalition developed a PATH. There are three main focus areas:

1. Training: The goal of the training committee develops standardized trainings concerning Lifesharing, to make the trainings accessible to the public and to locate training resources for Lifesharing provider agencies, and providers. The last training completed by the committee was adding questions and answers to ODP's Lifesharing DVD. **Please contact Katharine Trumbore: KTrumbore@accessservices.org, to join this committee and work on future trainings.** Please note: It would be beneficial to have someone from the western region participate on this committee.
2. Conference: The conference has been scheduled and Save the Dates has been distributed. It will be held 10/19 and 20 at the Ramada Inn, State College. The theme this year is "From our Roots, Together We Grow" sponsorship requests (to reserve a table with agency information, and or have the agency name added to a T-Shirt) has been sent out. **Please share the Save the Date with your contact list. If you have any questions, about sponsorship, please contact Jamie Walker at 724.830.3944 or at walkerj@westmoreland.swsix.com**

David Hinsberger will be the keynote speaker. Help with locating speakers/trainers is being sought. Possible topics might be family dynamics, cultural diversity, blended families, supports geared to young adults (19 – 25), cultural diversity, aging, deaf services, stress reducers, and supports for Lifesharing caregivers, best practices. **Anyone able to refer a speaker/trainer for the conference can contact Jamie Boehme**

boehmej@westmoreland.swsix.com or **Anna Rankin** arankin@stepbystepusa.com. The speaker would not have to pay the conference registration fee, but would not be paid. There will be a separate track at the conference for people receiving intellectual disability supports, and a separate track for agencies on how to get Lifesharing started.

3. **Increasing Membership:** Ways to increase participation in Lifesharing Coalition Meetings are being considered. One suggestion put forth by the W. Region is to hold meetings in different parts of the W. Region. Discussion and suggestions was limited. Allegheny County agreed to host a meeting, but suggested it coincide with scheduled meetings held in Allegheny County. Someone else said changing the location could be confusing.

New ODP Lifesharing Lead Liaison is Ron Melusky (Ron was formerly BHSL Director). Ron replaces Jennifer Fraker.

Promise Billing: Wait time is not getting any better. It is suggested that providers keep data on the wait times they are experiencing for each step on opening a new home. There is to be no back billing. The coalition met with a small group from ODB, BHSL and OMAP. Ron Melusky (ODP Lifesharing liaison) stated he was working on a way to make the enrollment quicker by possibly pre-authorizing. The average is a minimum of six months.

Licensing: If it takes longer than six weeks to get a license contact Rob Robinson rerobinson@pa.gov or 717-705-0328.

Demographics on Lifesharing show a drop in number of participants. It is suggested that Provider Agencies track the number drop. Agencies should talk with AE's and SCO's about the drop in number.

Discussion on the reasons the number of Lifesharing participants is dropping: decline in medical status, individuals have developed the skills they need to live in their own apartment/home with minimal supports. Lifesharing caregivers are aging and developing health issues. It was suggested that the real issue is to track why no one was choosing Lifesharing as a support.

Chapter 51 Work Group: A group is meeting to rewrite and update chapter 51. One of the changes would be to call them Chapter 61. The purpose of name change is that the number 61 reflects the regulation numbers used for residential placements like 6400 and 6500.

BHSL and the TB Requirement: Although, the TB regulation is not being cited in every area, provider agencies are reporting the possibility of being cited for non-compliance if one person is late or missing the TB test which is to occur every 2 years. (Remember that there is no grace period with a 2 year deadline. There is only a grace period if the regulations say "annual"). One agency reported being cited because they did not have access to physical and TB test from move-in date which was 7 years prior to current inspection.

BHSL Surveys in W. Region: Provider agencies shared being cited/questioned during licensing, included the way water safety in a swimming pool was documented in ISP... long, rural driveway needing paved

due to ice, items chosen by BHSL staff for temperature taking, lack of prostrate testing that was documented as medically unnecessary by doctor.

Upcoming Meetings

State: 4/16 10:00 AM Celebration Hall, State College

The June 18th state meeting will have a training provided by Matt Jones on licensing and if anyone has specific questions, please send them to CarrieKontis@barberinstitute.org or Anna Rankin, arankin@stepbystepusa.com.

W. Region: 5/19, 7/21, 9/15, 11/17, No January Meeting.