

# LIFESHARING

## Supports Coordinator Training

Developed by the Pennsylvania Lifesharing Coalition



Last Updated 6/1/2016

# MISSION OF PENNSYLVANIA LIFESHARING COALITION



# PRETEST

1. As per IM4Q data over multiple years, it shows that individual satisfaction is higher with those receiving Lifesharing services than those receiving services in other residential models. T/F
2. Lifesharing should be presented as a residential option at the ISP team meeting. T/F
3. Lifesharing is limited to individuals who have the potential to become independent. T/F
4. The Supports Coordinator has an important role in the Lifesharing matching process. T/F
5. The Lifesharing matching process is quick and easy. T/F

# OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Enhance understanding of Lifesharing
- ❖ Provide Supports Coordinators tools to explain Lifesharing to individuals, families, and ISP team members

# OUTLINE

- ❖ Lifesharing DVD
- ❖ History
- ❖ Definition of Lifesharing
- ❖ Lifesharing Referrals/Matching Process
- ❖ Common Misconceptions Regarding Lifesharing
- ❖ SC Role/Responsibilities

# DEFINING LIFESHARING

Sharing life  
experiences

Pursuing individual  
goals

Loving trusting caring  
relationships

More than just a  
place to live

Encourages  
growth

# LIFESHARING DVD

- Created in 2013
- Dolly, Charles, and Brenda

<http://www.odpconsulting.net/featured-stories-ii/lifesharing/>



# COMMON TERMS

- Individual- person receiving Lifesharing services
- Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family- (host family or person the individual lives with and receives care and/or support from)
- Lifesharing Agency- agency who provides oversight and support to both Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family and Individual
- Substitute Care- Person/family who provides care/support in absence of the Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family



# BENEFITS OF A LIFESHARING HOME

- Individual is involved in a specialized matching process
- Consistency-Support provided by household members (no shifts)
- Greater level of Stability for the Individual



# HISTORY

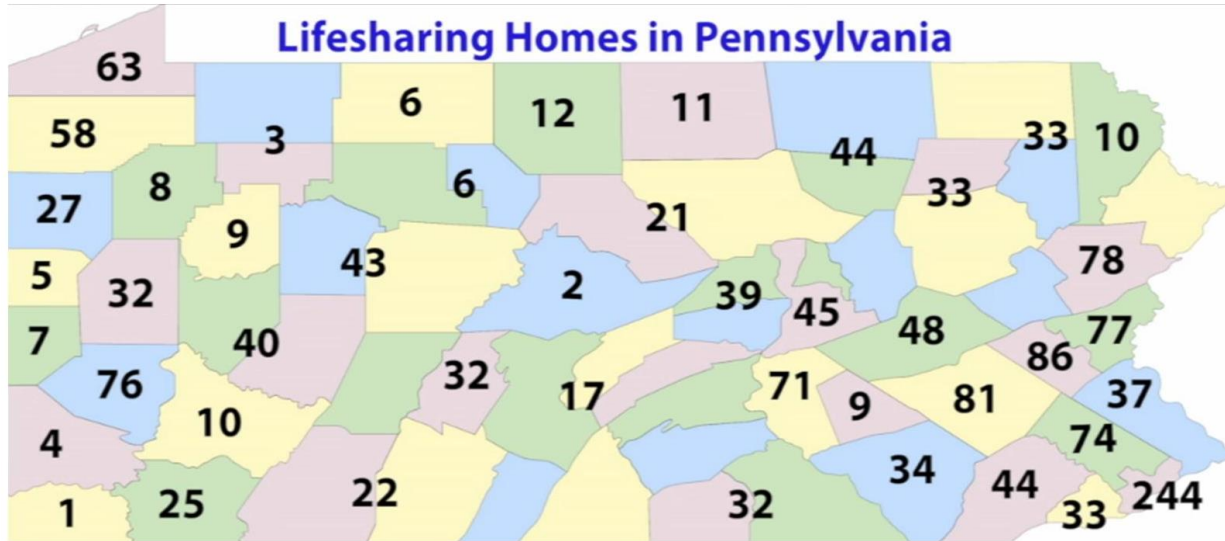
# HISTORY OF LIFESHARING

				<b>Alternatives</b>				
	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>to a group</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>Lifesharing</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Institutions</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>First Group</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>home model</b>	<b>PA Pilot;</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Catches on</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>were the</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Homes</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>were</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>across the</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Answer</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Opened</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>explored</b>	<b>Living</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>state!</b>	<b>7</b>

**Present Day**



# PRESENT DAY

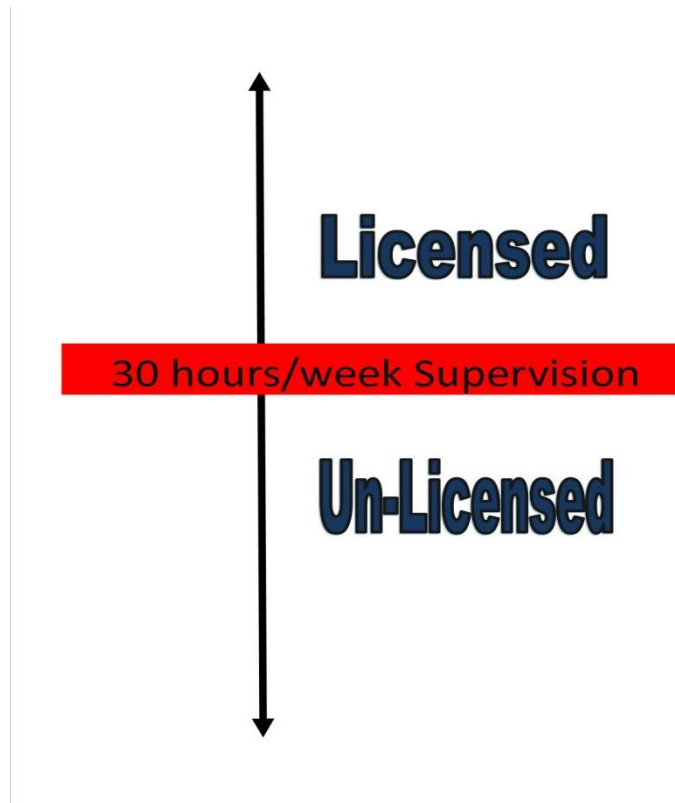


**Total: 1598\***

\*As of 6/30/13 (Master Client Index)

Last Updated 6/1/2016

# TYPES OF LIFESHARING HOMES



# Activity

- ❖ Determine whether Susan can live in a licensed or unlicensed setting.

## Susan

- Interested in Lifesharing
- Lives with parents
- Fairly independent
- Has a part-time job
- Needs assistance going to doctor and follow-up
- Can be left alone for long stretches of time, 9 hours a day
- Likes to have people check-in on her daily

# ACTIVITY (CONT.)

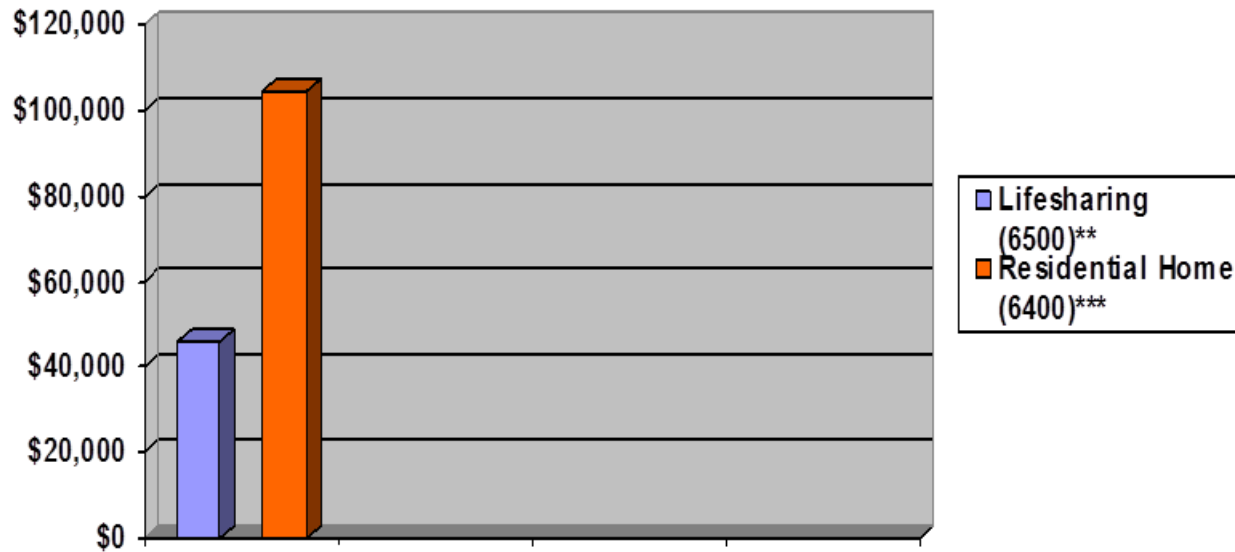
## Question

- Which type of Lifesharing home do you think Susan would likely need? What made you come to that decision.

## ❖ Answer Unlicensed

- Would need to be a team decision, based on a variety of elements in Susan's life
  - Level of supervision needed could change as Susan's needs changed.

# COST COMPARISON



Data Source: Lakin, K.C. MSIS and NCI data from 4 states (AL,KY,WY,OK-1,240 Individuals as of 6/30/2016)



# COST OF LIFESHARING

## ❖ Costs

- Funded through Consolidated Waiver, Base, Other Waivers, or Private Funds
- Room & board paid to Lifesharing Provider Agency by the individual
- Lifesharers/Lifesharing Families receive a monthly stipend from the Lifesharing Provider Agency
- Stipend, transportation costs, and at times substitute care are factored into Lifesharing Provider Agency's daily rate

# SUBSTITUTE CARE

## ❖ Substitute Care

- Caregiver relief
- Pays for a substitute caregiver, to provide the individual care when the Lifesharer is temporarily absent or unable to offer needed services.
- It is part of the Lifesharing services rate, and is not a separate service identified in the service definitions.

# QUALITY OF LIFE

## Consumer Satisfaction

### **Data Comparison of Life Sharing with Others**

- IM4Q Data from FY 2007 to FY 2010
- Groups: Life Sharing and Others (including own home, with family, community home, and congregate care)
- Number of individuals varied by year. Life Sharing ranged from 327 to 441; Others ranged from 5586 to 5650.
- On Satisfaction scale, higher score means higher satisfaction

PA Satisfaction Survey from 2007 through 2010

	Lifesharing	Community Homes	
<b>2010</b>			
<b>Satisfaction Scale (significant difference)</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>6 item scale, range 0-100</b>
<b>Liked where they live</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>2009</b>			
<b>Satisfaction Scale (significant difference)</b>	<b>87.3</b>	<b>84.7</b>	<b>6 item scale, range 0-100</b>
<b>Liked where they live</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>2008</b>			
<b>Satisfaction Scale (significant difference)</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>6 item scale, range 0-100</b>
<b>Liked where they live</b>	<b>95.7</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>2007</b>			
<b>Satisfaction Scale (significant difference)</b>	<b>88.6</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>6 item scale, range 0-100</b>
<b>Liked where they live</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>90.1</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Overall Average</b>			
<b>Satisfaction Scale</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>6 item scale, range 0-100</b>
<b>Liked where they live</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>Percentage</b>



# **LIFESHARING REFERRALS/ MATCHING PROCESS**

# LIFESHARING REFERRALS AND MATCHING PROCESS

Take a moment and think about it....Who can  
Lifesharing be appropriate for:

*(Select as many as you feel are appropriate.)*

- a) Children
- b) Someone used to living with their mom/dad
- c) Someone who lives on a very rigid routine
- d) Someone who is aging
- e) Someone who has an emergency need for residential services
- f) Someone living in a traditional Community Home
- g) Someone living in a state center

# LIFESHARING REFERRALS AND MATCHING PROCESS

## Answer!

- ❖ All of the above!!!
- ❖ Just as there is a home for each of you with your unique needs and desires, there is a home than can meet the needs & desires of the individual(s) you serve
- ❖ Take a minute to think of the most unique and/or challenging person that you support and think of the type of home that the person would thrive in. What would he/she need?

# LIFESHARING REFERRALS AND MATCHING PROCESS

The Matching Process is meant to develop a relationship between the Individual and the Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family

1. The matching process begins with a thorough review of the ISP and discussion with the Individual's Supports Coordinator that captures the details of an individual's needs and preferences
  - ❖ These are valuable tools for Lifesharing Agencies to determine if they have potential Lifesharing Provider families who would be a good match for the individual



# LIFESHARING REFERRALS AND MATCHING PROCESS Cont.

2. It is important for the Lifesharing Agency and Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family to meet with the individual interested in Lifesharing.
  - ❖ This initial meeting should be at a place convenient and comfortable for the individual- individual's current home, a restaurant, day program, etc.
  - ❖ Following this initial meeting, the SC and Program Specialist should discuss the initial meeting and feedback. If both parties choose to move forward they can select a mutually agreed upon location and date to meet next.
  - ❖ It is up to the Individual and Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family to decide if they are interested in getting to know each other more.



# LIFESHARING REFERRALS AND MATCHING PROCESS Cont.

3. It is up to the team to determine the length of the transition plan.
  - ❖ If possible, an individual should be given the opportunity to explore many Lifesharing environments.
  - ❖ The move doesn't take place until everyone is comfortable.
  - ❖ If during this process either party decides that this match is not for them, alternate plans should be developed with the individual.

# **COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFESHARING**

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFESHARING

## ❖ Misconception

- Lifesharing is only for individuals who are independent

## Reality

- Lifesharing is a residential option for **EVERYONE**
  - Individuals in Lifesharing often become more independent.

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFESHARING, CONT.

- ❖ Individuals with challenging behaviors are inappropriate for Lifesharing

Reality: Behavior Support services are available to assist individuals in Lifesharing who are facing behavioral challenges. Lifesharing services increase an individual's autonomy, independence, and control, which itself can help reduce challenging behaviors.

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFESHARING, CONT.

- ❖ Individuals who require 24-hour supervision cannot be supported in Lifesharing
  - Many individuals requiring 24-hour supervision thrive in supportive and caring Lifesharing homes
- ❖ Lifesharing is somehow less safe than community homes
  - Lifesharing would not be an approved Consolidated Waiver service if it were inadequate to meet the health & safety needs of waiver participants

# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT LIFESHARING, CONT.

- Those who use a wheel chair are not appropriate for Lifesharing Services

Reality: Homes can be modified to meet the individual's needs and there are Lifesharers/Lifesharing Families willing to support someone who needs that level of care.

# SC ROLE

# SC ROLE: LIFESHARING FIRST

- ❖ Consider Lifesharing First
- ❖ Informed Choice is imperative
- ❖ Education is the Key



# SC ROLE: MATCHING PROCESS

- ❖ Advocate for the individual and what he/she values
- ❖ Have team meetings to discuss openly everyone's viewpoints
- ❖ Be objective and open to new or different ideas
- ❖ Coordinate a transition plan with the team
- ❖ Be a part of the process

# SC ROLE: SUPPORTING SOMEONE IN LIFESHARING

- ❖ Plays an role in ensuring health and safety needs are met.
- ❖ Monitors to ensure the ISP is implemented appropriately
- ❖ Monitoring Requirements
- ❖ Be sensitive and remember the Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family Home is their private home. Please ask the homeowner if you would like to see anything or have questions about the home.
- ❖ Continued Compatibility

# SC ROLE: BIOLOGICAL FAMILY

- ❖ Ensure families have opportunities to meet with Lifesharing Provider Agencies
- ❖ Address concerns up front
- ❖ Empower families to find their loved one's Lifesharer/Lifesharing Family
- ❖ Encourage biological family to maintain their relationship
- ❖ Families may need to be reassured that Lifesharers/Lifesharing Family are not “replacements” for the biological family

# SUPPORTS COORDINATORS

- ❖ Therefore, you have the power to reach out and help
- ❖ You have the knowledge of resources
- ❖ You can help make the *Difference*

Offer

Lifesharing!



# WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

- Stay connected
  - [Local Coalitions](#)
  - [County Lifesharing Point persons](#) (p.2)
  - [Agency Contacts](#) (p.6)
- Stay informed
  - [PA Lifesharing Website](#)
  - [ODP Consulting Lifesharing section](#)
  - [Facebook](#)
- Take away resources
  - [Brochure](#)
  - [DVD](#)

# POST TEST

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