

PA Lifesharing Coalition Meeting Minutes

8/21/14

- Carrie to send letter to Patti McCool and Matt Jones on behalf of LS Coalition regarding difficulties about time it takes to work through the system of Self-Inspection Tool of new LS home and the PROMISE approval process. Specific examples cited from across Commonwealth in which homes were not able to open for services for 4-6 months. This is unacceptable and can jeopardize an individual's LS placement.
- Focus group update w/Maggie. Discussed aforementioned issue with Jenn Fraker. Fair Hearing and Appeal process may be utilized. Emergency respite can be utilized for 30 days. After that, providers are in violation. Maggie will upload Fair Hearing process to PA Lifesharing website.
- Jen Fraker to coordinate meeting with Matt Jones, Chuck Frick, Patti McCool, and LS focus group to address this issue
- ODP Chapter 51 states that providers should not begin services until authorization is received.
- DOL final rule states that substitute care will probably turn into an employee relationship. In cost reports for agencies, sub care should be declared under Schedule D. There will be extra money for what is being called "relief." If providers have to increase their stipends, they would note extra costs. We won't see the results of this for the next 2 years.
- Maggie suggested that Lifesharing be removed from the residential services definition so that providers would be able to provide respite services.
- Affordable Care Act-If we have employee that works more than 20 hours/week, possibly 30 hours, providers must provide health insurance. Agencies should check with their HR departments.
- Governor Corbett's budget has been approved; however, we do not know if the Lifesharing incentive has been approved.
- ODP to send a memo indicating that the \$5,000 start up may be approved with parameters around the money
 - ≈ Time constraints, i.e., a person may have to remain in Lifesharing for at least 6 months in order to be granted the money
- Numbers of people in Lifesharing have slightly decreased. LS families and individuals are passing away and/or have increased medical needs which are difficult to support in a LS home.
- Jen Fraker is to get details from HCSIS or may use Survey Monkey to get a more accurate picture of why LS #'s have decreased
- ODP should be encouraged that if Lifesharing is part of the state's initiative that ODP should be addressing some of the barriers to Lifesharing. ODP's legal team should be looking at these issues.
- For many years, PAR has been advocating for parents to be permitted to become LS families. According to 1927 Article 10 of welfare code, this is prohibited, so PAR will no longer pursue this issue. Families can only provide Habilitation services. #241 is in the PA House Finance to review families and Home and Community Habilitation. There is an analysis of who can and cannot be paid.
- NASDAS information: Lawsuits are starting against DOL regarding companionship exemption issue
- Lifesharing Conference update
 - ≈ Room monitors and volunteers needed to be available for at least one session (**discuss at regional meetings**)

- ≈ Brochure being finalized and will go out next week.
- ≈ Include your t-shirt size with your registration
- ≈ Media & press release
- Legislative groups
 - ≈ Go to your local representative offices rather than the state capitol to advocate Lifesharing issues
 - ≈ Representative Murt will attend the Conference and distribute the Excellence in Lifesharing awards
 - ≈ Proclamation declaring October as official Lifesharing month has been approved again this year
 - Proclamation will be read on 10/6 at 1:00 am in Harrisburg on the House floor of the Capitol.
 - Only 20 providers, families, and individuals may attend as seating will be reserved
 - Each region to send 5 people. **PLEASE DISCUSS AT REGIONAL MEETINGS. POSSIBLY SEND EXCELLENCE IN LS AWARD WINNERS**
 - Names must be forwarded to James Malesky of Keystone Human Services jmalesky@keystonehumanservices.org
 - Media attention to the Proclamation
 - ≈ Possible hearing for Lifesharing
- ODP Deaf Services Overview: Required Training
- Par Solutions Conference to be held on 11/12 & 13
- Lokuta, Friel, Parker, Bechtel, LLC-newly formed consulting firm
- Carrie Kontis from Barber Institute and Mel Knowlton from PAR provided highlights for the DOL Final Rule.
 - ≈ Final rule came out 1/16/14 and became effective 3/17/14
 - ≈ CMS is looking for increased integration for waiver participants.
 - ≈ OLTL-6/30/14 amendment for 3 waivers; consolidated waiver, PFDS, and adult autism
 - ≈ From the Final Ruling, pay close attention to pages 26 & 96.
 - If someone goes to hospital, ODP has said providers cannot use waiver money for personal care or medical needs of the individual.
 - Pg. 26-discusses conditions in the hospital
 - Pg. 96-discusses conditions in the ER
 - Providers will not get paid during these times
 - ≈ Setting Must Meet Qualifications
 - Must be integrated in the community
 - Affects pre-vocational settings and possibly residential settings, i.e., people living on a farm or in a rural setting
 - Unclear about what CMS is looking for
 - Sample questions/issues to ask/review at public forums:
 - What is the future of sheltered workshops?
 - What is to be used for competitive wages?
 - Request clear definitions
 - Discuss lease agreement and how it affects Lifesharing
 - Individuals have ability to come and go and have visitors at any time and must have keys to their home. Can these issues be addressed in Assessments and ISPs under Health & Safety?

- Provider agency owned homes—what if people want to remain in home but choose another provider?
 - If agency owns home, lease must adhere to landlord/tenant guidelines
 - Look at eviction rights, i.e., 5 days for an appeal—What about if there is imminent physical risk to families? Cannot wait for 5 days, sometimes requires immediate removal
 - Individuals must have access to food at any time—What about diabetes or other issues? Can this be addressed in Assessment and ISPs?
 - PAR’s recommendation is that ODP involve stakeholders in writing of regulations or bulletins. (Precedence in mid-80’s in which stakeholder group wrote early intervention regs).
- More information on Final Rule can be found at:
<http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Long-Term-Services/Home-and-Community-Based-Services.html> or
<http://hcbsadvocacy.org>
- Public Forums for State wide Transition plan for Home and Community-Based Settings
 - ≈ **Pittsburgh-Monday, August 25, 2014**
 Homestead Grays Room (Lower Level)
 One Smithfield Street
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222
 1:30pm to 4:30 pm
 - ≈ **Erie-Tuesday, August 26, 2014**
 Erie City Hall
 Main Council Chambers
 626 State Street
 Erie, PA 16501
 9am to noon
 - ≈ **Scranton-Thursday, August 28, 2014**
 B3 – Scranton State Office Building
 100 Lackawanna Ave.
 Scranton, PA 18504
 1pm to 4pm
 - ≈ **Philadelphia-Thursday, September 4, 2014**
 Vision For Equality, Inc.
 The Cast Iron Building
 718 Arch Street, 6N
 Philadelphia, PA 19106
 1pm to 4pm
 - ≈ **Harrisburg-Friday, September 5, 2014**
 Dauphin County Case Management (CMU)
 1100 South Cameron Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17104
 1pm to 4pm

To register to present verbal comments or attend the public input meeting, go to:
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeoflongtermliving/hcbswaiver/index.htm>

PLEASE SHARE RESULTS OF PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS AT REGIONAL MEETINGS.

- Licensing issues
 - ≈ BHSL may trump ISP waiver.
 - ≈ Is BHSL using interpretive guide or code?
 - ≈ Recently LS provider man was convicted of embezzlement in 1965. Now this is considered a felony. Agency was cited. Possibly request a waiver for this.
 - ≈ Another agency cited because outside steps from deck did not have skid surface
- Regional Meetings:
 - ≈ Northeast – 9/9 @ HRC, 231 Service Road, Effort, PA
 - ≈ Central – 9/10 @ Skills, 341 Science Park Road, State College, PA
 - ≈ Western – 9/16 @ Emlenton Truck Stop
 - ≈ Southeast - 9/10 @ KenCrest Services, 2nd Floor, Plymouth Meeting, PA
- Excellence in Lifesharing Award Winners:
 - ≈ Western – Tina Pahula (Fayette County Lifesharing Committee)
 - ≈ Central – Mary Probst (CSG)
 - ≈ Northeast – Fatmata & Mohamed Sheriff (Spectrum Community Services)
 - ≈ Southeast – Cindy Hixson (KenCrest)
- Regional baskets for Conference—**PLEASE BRING ITEMS TO SEPTEMBER REGIONAL MEETINGS.**
- Due to the Lifesharing Conference on 10/20 & 10/21, there will not be a Coalition meeting on October 16. The next Lifesharing Coalition meeting will be scheduled on 12/11 at Camp Hill.