

NE Lifesharing Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes 1/8/13

Meeting Held at : Community Services Group in Pottsville

In Attendance: Jennifer Tomaino, Alison Karnish, Linda Wile, Debby Hewitt, Christina Diehl, Cathy Hare, Bridget Delemare, Judy Webb. Teresa Milinski, Joe Karpinskie

- Group discussed issues related to contiguous site requirement. The group understands the intent of the requirement ; however, the group feels there are several issues related to not allowing contiguous neighbors to be providers and wonders whether or not it can be discriminatory. The group would like some clarification on this issue.
- The previous meeting's discussion about increasing attendance at the lifesharing subcommittee meetings was resumed. The goal is to have more provider agencies, SCOs and AEs attend the regional meetings. Things that will be tried include beefing up the invite process, sending invites as outlook calendar requests, sending out information about who we are and what we do; addressing turnover by looking for new e-mail addresses, putting a link on the state webpage, adding a link to the state Facebook page, having regional minutes put on the state page and putting the agendas out before the meeting
- Discussion then focused on developing topics for the upcoming meetings instead of developing the PATH.
 - March 12—meeting will be held at Spectrum Community Services, 2921 Windmill Rd, Sinking Springs—Berks County Lifesharing Committee will talk about providers and AE working together to increase lifesharing numbers in Berks county
 - May 14 —meeting will be held at HRC. HRC will reach out to Maureen Veety about presenting information on the Chapter 51 regs
 - Friday, July 19th—Picnic at Promised Land State Park starting at 10 am—HRC will take the lead and look into reserving the pavilion that day; basket raffle will continue to be part of the day—anyone is welcome to donate a basket—the money raised from the donations to the basket raffle will be used to pay for the following year's pavilion rental and picnic supplies; any additional donated money will be donated to the excellence in lifesharing awards. HRC will chair the picnic committee.
 - Families will be surveyed at the picnic to see what they would like from this group or in the way of supports—Cathy Hare will take the lead on developing the survey
 - Paper and a box for "Excellence in Lifesharing Awards" will be available at the picnic.
 - Information regarding the "Excellence in Lifesharing" awards will be sent with the picnic invite to solicit more nominations.
 - Sept 10th ---Meeting will be at Keystone, 3722 Lehigh St., Suite 403, Whitehall, PA ; Christina will look into having licensing come and talk about the replacement to the LII.
 - Nov 12th —Meeting will be held at Step by Step---topic to be determined

- Excellence in Lifesharing Awards---Christina said that she hopes for more nominations this year from this region. Last year we only submitted two nominations. She then provided clarification on the nomination process. Nominations can come from providers, supports coordinators, community members, other lifesharing providers, parents or really anyone. There is not specific nomination form—a letter telling about the family being nominated should be submitted. Letters can be submitted to jmalesky@humanservices.org in July or by the August lifesharing coalition. Also the families who receive this award receive \$250 Visa/Mastercard and a clock with their name and date on it.
- Lifesharing video is supposed to be completed by next month; as a result of the Lifesharing symposium there is a power point being developed as well
- Med Training Manual is with legal at the state---
- New licensing process aiming for consistency/standardization across the state; at Warm Springs last month Matt Jones said that providers should feel free to dispute any citations that they feel they should not have received; also when citations are disputed this can be included in the plan of correction that eventually gets posted on-line. 2013 will be a year of transition---there will be no more recommendations. Agencies may initially see more citations.
- Licensing has been coming out to do investigations and they have been coming to lifesharing provider's homes unannounced; they will do unannounced investigations for all anonymous complaints.
- Teresa shared some information out about the Dual Dx Treatment Team thru NHS that is available to come out and work with teams that are struggling with difficult individuals. She will sent out more information to the group.

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