

Northeast Pennsylvania State Lifesharing Coalition

Meeting Minutes

9/20/16

***The mission of the Pennsylvania Lifesharing Coalition is to promote, support, and embrace the concept of Lifesharing and the philosophies of self-determination and everyday lives.***

**Introductions—**

**Bob Conklin, Program Manager for the Northeast Region and Tim Little, Regional Lifesharing Lead attended the meeting**

* **Both Bob and Tim stated that they would like to be able to attend the meetings more frequently and that they would like to serve as a resource to the group. If the group or members have questions for them that they would like to have answered, they asked if possible to have the questions prior to the meeting so that they can be prepared with answers.**
* **SNAP Benefits can be applied for in that anyone can apply, but it is unlikely that individuals in lifesharing would be eligible**
* **ODP Newsletter is on the website. A copy will be sent out with the minutes**
* **FY 16-17 Start Up Funds—Bob said that he thinks the funds may be available and that providers should continue to send in requests and if the money is available they will be sent out; Bob said that requests should be sent to him and copied to Agnes at c-arudolf@pa.gov. He said that it is very important to do it this way because they will be put on a waiting list in the order that they are received. He is not always in the office and not copying Agnes can cause your submission to be further down the list.**
* **According to Bob, there are approximately 1687 individuals in lifesharing; 570 of which are in the northeast region which equates to 28%.**
* **Lifesharing Service Definition comment period is projected to start on October 29th.  Everyone is encouraged to make comments. Relatives will be able to provide lifesharing services. There are many questions as to how this is all going to look and all going to work out. There will be many models for lifesharing and all will be relationship based.**
* **Focus will be on supporting people through life changes; group should consider how going forward different models can provide additional services in the homes; look to see what can be done to increase flexibility**
* **6100 Regs will be coming out shortly as well for comment and will have to change to correspond with service definition, regs, waiver renewals, etc.**
* **Also the SIS assessment was discussed and it is seeming as though eventually it may be tied to funding.**
* **Northeast Region’s Excellence in Lifesharing winner is Mary Bosshard from HRC.**

**Update on Lifesharing Coalition PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope)**

* **Social Media/Advancement Group update:** Still need stories, pictures ( everyone in the picture will need a photo release) , events, and outings for newsletter. Bring LS stories to regional meetings. Newsletter is pending. Selfie contest will be held again during Conference. Will provide feedback regarding updating LS brochure. Group has not had a phone conference since June.
* **Training Group update:**  SC training is on the website. SC training will be used as a Lifesharing training at Conference. Training Hub being worked on with Cody.
* **BHSL Work Group:** BHSL presented at the August coalition meeting. Questions and answers were shared with the group.

**Lifesharing Conference Update:**

* 4th Annual Lifesharing Conference on October 17 & 18 at Blair County Convention Center—to date there are fewer people registered than in the last two years; people are encouraged to register if they have not already done so
* Keynote speaker: Andrew Steed
* Theme: Dancing through life…sharing lives. Focus will be supporting people through all phases of their lives.
* Regional Basket Donations are being requested for give away at the Conference. Please do not include agency labeled items. We are still in need of items for the basket. If you have a donation and did not bring it to the meeting, you can still donate it. E-mail Jen Tomaino and let her know you have a donation and we will make arrangement to get it

**October official Lifesharing month:** Coalition reached out to State Representative Tom Murt to continue with the annual Lifesharing proclamation, declaring October as official Lifesharing month in Pennsylvania. ***During the month of October, please be sure to celebrate Lifesharing in your agencies, SCOs, and AEs****.*