

Proposed Lifesharing Service Definition

October 17, 2016

Everything that will be discussed today is **DRAFT** or **PROPOSED** and is subject to change

You will see the “final” version of the definition during the public comment period and **will have 45 days to submit your comments.**

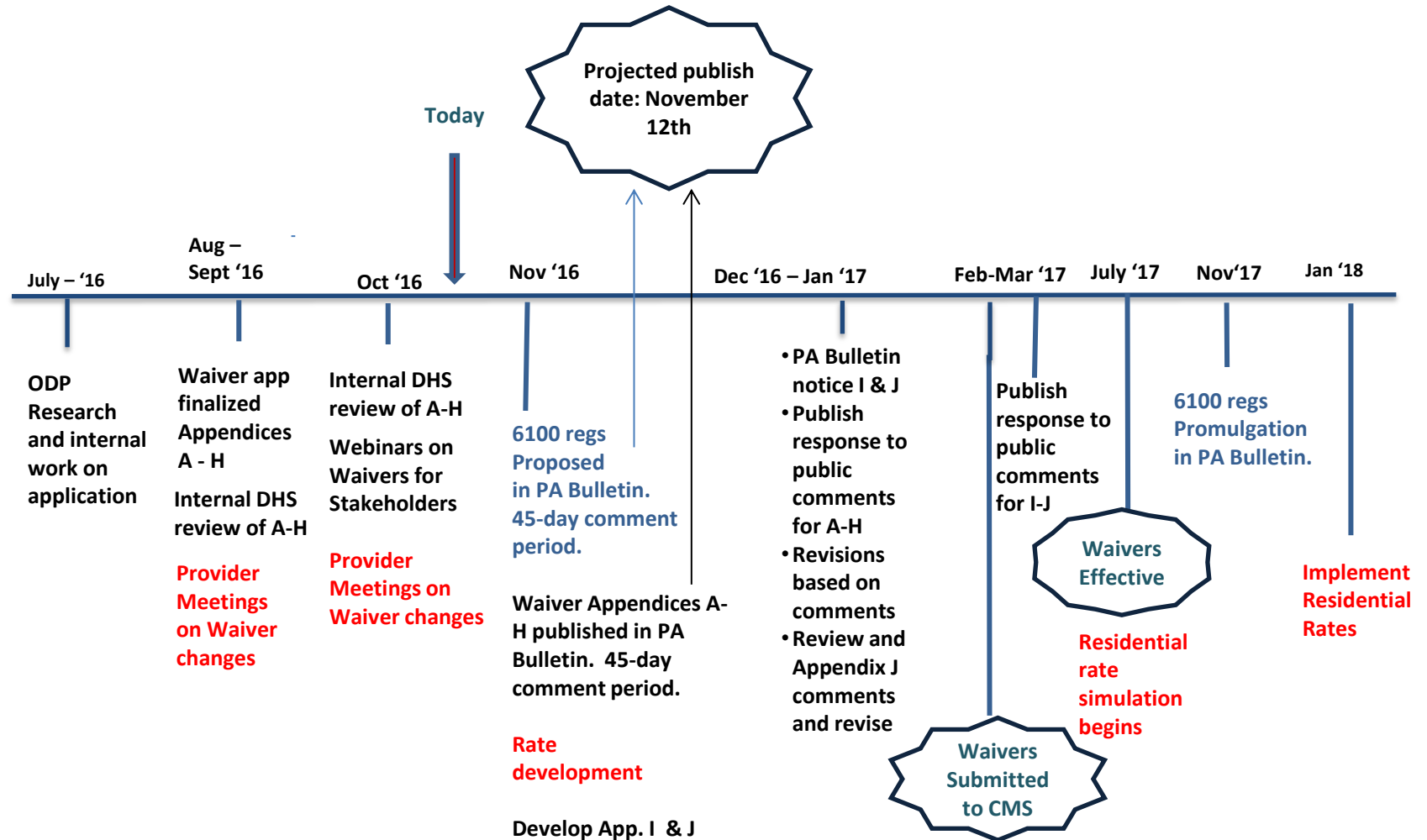
6100 Regulations and Waiver Renewal Development Timeline

WAIVER RENEWAL

6100 REGS

RATES SETTING

KEY DATES



Life Sharing is **living with and sharing life experiences** with relatives, host families, or other individuals who choose to share their homes and lives with the participant to form a caring household.

Life Sharing facilitates the inclusion of the participant **into the daily life and community of the supporter** through the sharing of a home and creation of natural opportunities for participation in community life through social connectedness.

The Life Sharing arrangement is chosen by the participant, his or her relatives and team and with the host family and Life Sharing provider agency in accordance with the participant's needs.

Life Sharing services may be provided up to **24 hours a day based on the needs of the participant receiving services**. The type and amount of assistance, support and guidance are informed by the assessed need for physical, psychological and emotional assistance established through the **assessment and person-centered planning processes**.

The type and amount of assistance are delivered to **enhance the autonomy of the participant**, in line with their personal preference and to achieve their desired outcomes.

Services consist of assistance, support and guidance – which includes **physical assistance, instruction, prompting, modeling, and reinforcement** - in the general areas of self-care, health maintenance, decision making, relationship development and socialization, and use of community resources.

Assistance, support, and guidance in:

- ☐ Performing activities of daily living
- ☐ Promoting good health and wellness (e.g. meal planning and exercise)
- ☐ Management of medical care and emotional wellness
- ☐ Participating in person-centered planning
- ☐ Identifying and evaluating choices and options
- ☐ Household management
- ☐ Achieving financial stability

Assistance, support, and guidance in:

- ☐ Communication
- ☐ Using transportation options
- ☐ Developing and maintaining relationships at home and in the community
- ☐ Exercising civil rights
- ☐ Develop personal interests
- ☐ Perform desired activities of community living (e.g. shopping, dining, going to the movies)

- ☐ The private home of a host family where the host family is not a relative of the participant that requires licensure pursuant to 55 Pa. Code Chapter 6500 (relating to Family Living Homes). This also applies to a legal guardian who is not a relative of the participant.

- ☐ The private home of a host family where the host family is not a relative of the participant to which licensing criteria do not apply as specified in 55 Pa.Code § 6500.3(f)(5). This also applies to a legal guardian who is not a relative of the participant.

- ❑ The private home of a host family where the host family is a relative of a participant who is age 18 or older to which licensing criteria do not apply as specified in 55 Pa. Code § 6500.3(f)(1). Life Sharing is not available as a service through the waiver to participants who are under the age of 18 who reside in the private home of a relative. This also applies to a legal guardian who is a relative of the participant.

- ❑ The private home of the participant where a host family who is not related to the participant moves into the participant's home and shares the participant's home as their primary residence. This also applies to a legal guardian who is not a relative of the participant.

With the exception of the host family and the participants, the total number of people living in a private home where Life Sharing services are provided may not exceed four.

In accordance with 55 Pa. Code Chapter § 6500.4, a **relative** is defined as a parent, child, stepparent, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, aunt, uncle, niece or nephew.

A **private home** is a home that is owned, rented or leased by the participant, his or her relatives or another person with whom the participant lives. Homes owned, rented or leased by a provider are not private homes. Homes owned, rented or leased by a provider and subsequently leased to a participant or his or her relatives are also not private homes.

Host families include one or more persons with whom the participant lives in a private home. The host family is responsible for providing care and support to the participant in accordance with the service plan.

1. To receive scheduled and unscheduled visitors, and to communicate and meet privately with individuals of their choice at any time as would be typical for any individual in the home.
2. To send and receive mail and other forms of communication, unopened and unread by others.
3. To have unrestricted and private access to telecommunications.
4. To manage and access his or her own finances.
5. To choose any individual with whom they will be sharing a bedroom.

6. To furnish and decorate his or her bedroom and to participate in decisions relating to furnishing and decorating the common areas of the home.
7. To lock his or her bedroom door.
8. To decide what to eat, decide when to eat and have access to food at any time.
9. To make informed health care decisions.

When any of these rights are modified, **the modification must be supported by a specific assessed need, agreed upon by the service plan team and justified in the service plan.**

When any of these rights are modified due to requirements in a **court order**, the modification must still be included in the service plan but **the service plan team does not have to agree upon the modification.**

Decisions made in the provision of Life Sharing services to participants under the age of 18 that mimic typical parental decisions, such as bedtime, nutrition, etc. **do not rise to the level of a modification based on an assessed need, and do not need to be documented in the service plan.**

All private homes in which Life Sharing are provided must be **integrated and dispersed in the community in noncontiguous locations, and may not be located on campus settings.** To meet this requirement, the location of each home in which Life Sharing is provided **must be separate from any other ODP-funded residential habilitation setting.** Homes that share only one common party wall are not considered contiguous.

Any home in which Life Sharing is provided should be **located in the community and surrounded by the general public**. New homes where Life Sharing will be provided or changes to existing homes where Life Sharing will be provided must be approved by ODP or its designee utilizing the ODP residential habilitation setting criteria.

Any home that begins to provide Life Sharing services on July 1, 2017 or later shall not be located adjacent or in close proximity to the following:

- ☐ Another human service residential facility.
- ☐ Another human service day facility serving primarily persons with a disability.
- ☐ A hospital.
- ☐ A nursing facility.
- ☐ A health or human service public or private institution.

Any home that begins to provide Life Sharing services on July 1, 2017 or later shall not be located in any development or building where more than 10% of the apartments, condominiums or townhouses are waiver funded Residential Habilitation and Life Sharing.

Through the provision of this service, participants will acquire, maintain, or improve skills necessary to live in the community, to live more independently, and to participate meaningfully in community life. To the extent that Life Sharing is provided in community settings outside of the residence, **the settings must be inclusive rather than segregated.**

1. Have a waiver service location in Pennsylvania.
2. Have Commercial General Liability Insurance.
3. Have automobile insurance for all automobiles owned, leased, and/or hired and used as a component of the Life Sharing service.
4. Have Workers' Compensation Insurance.
5. The corporate entity must have a minimum of 5 years providing residential services for individuals with disabilities without regulatory or service standard violations resulting in a provisional license or sanctions related to either program of fiscal management.

6. At least one of the following must have experience working with individuals with an intellectual disability and/or autism and have a bachelor's degree:

- Executive Director of Residential Services,
- Chief Executive Officer
- Chief Operations Officer,
- President,
- Vice President,
- Assistant or Associate Director of Residential Services

7. The organization must also have a chief financial officer with 5 years' experience or evidence of contracted financial management services.

8. In the case of an entity newly enrolled to provide Life Sharing services, the Executive Director must have a minimum of five years' experience as a senior manager in an organization providing residential services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism, and a bachelor's degree.

9. Employ life sharing program specialist(s) who are responsible for up to 8 homes and no more than 16 participants for this or any other service.

Life Sharing services include the support of a life sharing specialist for each participant with **overall responsibility for supporting the participant and the host family in the lifesharing relationship**. The life sharing specialist **provides oversight and monitoring of the habilitative outcomes, health and wellness activities, ongoing assessment of supports and needs of the participant as identified in the service plan, as well as coordination of support services, such as relief, for the host family.**

Life sharing specialists must meet the following standards:

1. Receive training which includes family dynamics, community participation, individual service planning and delivery, relationship building in addition to training required by licensing or agency policy.
2. Be at least 18 years of age.
3. Complete necessary pre/in-service training based on the service plan.
4. Have criminal clearances as per 35 P.S. § 10225.101 et seq. and 6 Pa. Code Chapter 15.
5. Have a valid driver's license if the operation of a vehicle is necessary to provide Life Sharing services.

10. Have an annual training plan to improve the knowledge, skills and core competencies of agency personnel.

11. Have an orientation program that includes:

- Person-centered practices including respecting rights, facilitating community integration, honoring choice and supporting individuals in maintaining relationships.
- The prevention, detection and reporting of abuse, suspected abuse and alleged abuse.
- Individual rights.
- Recognizing and reporting incidents.

12. Have an organizational structure that assures adequate supervision of each residence and the availability of back up and emergency support 24 hours a day.
13. Ensure that staff (direct, contracted, or in a consulting capacity) have been trained to meet the needs of the participant which includes but is not limited to communication, mobility and behavioral needs.
14. Comply with Department standards related to provider qualifications.

Life sharers contracting with agencies must meet the following standards:

1. Be at least 18 years of age.
2. Complete necessary pre/in-service training based on the service plan.
3. Have criminal clearances as per 35 P.S. § 10225.101 et seq. and 6 Pa. Code Chapter 15.
4. Have a valid driver's license if the operation of a vehicle is necessary to provide Life Sharing services.

Questions and Open Discussion