



Life Sharing in Minnesota

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Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the vision for Life Sharing and influence the design of the service.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of the Life Sharing Specialist Agency and the individual/family that provides support to the person.
- Learn about success stories from providers of Life Sharing

Life Sharing in other states

- Colorado
- Massachusetts
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- Vermont



What is Minnesota's vision?

- One person at a time
- Life sharing works best nation wide when one person is matched with an individual or family based on mutual agreements and sincere and thoughtful relationship building.



(1) Life Sharing: What is it?

- People choosing to live with each other by building a mutual respected relationship over time.
- Sharing responsibility and supporting each other.
- Different for each person and emerges using person centered best practices
- One choice among many



(1) New York Association of Community and Residential agencies “Creating Innovative, Individualized Living Options for Person with Disabilities December 2009

(1) What it's not?

- A “program” to fix or change people
- Segregation by disability or income
- Compatible with services that congregate & control people
- Signing a lease on a place that staff control
- A funding stream for use to do more of the same kinds of services
- Another name for “downsizing” existing facilities into smaller units or otherwise renaming existing service



(1) What it's not 2

- A kind of “slot” or “bed” with prerequisite entry & exit criteria
- A test to see if you can live with no problems & if not, you get sent back to group living
- A fixed amount of assistance forever
- Forcing people to live the way we think is good for them



(1) What it's not 3

- Justified because it is cheaper than group living
- Having permission to live in an agency controlled apartment
- Being assigned roommates
- Expecting that the amount of assistance necessary will always decrease



Who is eligible?

Adults who are enrolled in the following waivers:

- Brain Injury (BI)
- Community Alternative Care (CAC)
- Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI)
- Developmental Disabilities (DD)

Where can people move from?

- Family or corporate adult foster care homes
- Hospitals
- Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD)
- Intensive rehabilitation treatment and rule 36 settings
- Intermediate care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD)
- Nursing facilities
- Registered housing with services establishments
- Unlicensed living arrangements.

Family responsibilities

- Share relationships and assist the person to experience new things and support preferences in the person-centered plan.
- Meals and meal planning support
- Positive support with the person
- Transportation
- Medical appointments
- Be trained in person-centered practices
- Complete mandate reporting training

What are the Life Sharing Specialists responsibilities?



Life Sharing Specialists 2

- Matching
- 245D oversight
- Training and ongoing support
- Back-up support



State and County Roles

- Licensing review of Life Sharing Specialist Agency
- Administer funding/contracting/certification of Life Sharing Specialist Agencies
- Promotion and technical assistance to interested people and stakeholders.

Recruitment

- Print adds and on-line resources
- Finding people who the person already has relationships
- Current or former staff that supported the person
Extended family
- Starting a pool or using existing respite providers that after time might yield to be a good fit as a Life Sharing family.
- RUMI

Learning.
Developing.
Shaping.



How can Life Sharing be funded with existing services?

- [Family Training and Counseling](#)
- [Specialist Services](#)
- Family Foster Care Rate

How do we address the challenge of setting appropriate family foster care rates?

Questions?



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