



**Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Lifesharing Conference  
Conference Program**

PA LIFESHARING COALITION



*Hosted by the PA Lifesharing Coalition, the 2023 Lifesharing Conference is supported by the PA Department of Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs*

## PA LIFESHARING COALITION



Welcome to the 2023 Lifesharing Conference! We hope this year's educational sessions and exhibit hall provide you with valuable and useful information.

We also hope that you will consider becoming more involved as a volunteer with the PA Lifesharing Coalition. We have some open leadership positions for several regions. We also need volunteers to serve on the 2024 Conference Planning Committee. Visit the Coalition's information table or let us know on the evaluation form of your interest.

Thank you for attending and enjoy the conference!

### **2023 Conference Planning Committee**

**Greg Aston, Achieva**—Conference Committee

**La'Tashia Gatling, Barber Institute** – Conference Committee

**Eunice Kinley, Clinton County Community Connections**—Conference Committee

**Haley Kinley, Clinton County Community Connections**—Conference Committee

**Crystal Houser, Clinton County Community Connections**—Conference Committee

**Alison Karnish, Spectrum Community Services** – Conference Committee

**Becky Kreischer, Bold, Inc.** – Coalition Leadership/Awards Program

**Rebecca Ndikwiki, C.A.R.E.S, Inc.** – Conference Committee

**Wendy Williams, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual  
disAbility Services** – Conference Committee

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

## **Visit Our Exhibitors and Sponsors**

Don't miss the opportunity to thank our exhibitors and sponsors for supporting the conference. Stop by each booth and spend a few minutes with each exhibitor to learn more about their resources.

## **Safety**

We encourage you to take whatever precautions make you comfortable, including masking and distancing.

## **Evaluations/Certificates**

Please complete the evaluation form in order to receive your certificate of attendance. Return the evaluation form to the registration desk at the end of the day you will be departing. Certificates will be emailed within two weeks after the Conference.

## **Gift Baskets/Grand Prize Drawing**

Join us in Crystal II and III at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday and drop your raffle ticket in the basket. You could win a gift basket from the Coalition or one of the five grand prize drawings of a \$100 gift card from Amazon. Must be present to win!

# Monday, October 23, 2023

7:30 AM Hotel Lobby	Registration Open
8:30 AM Courtyard	Continental Breakfast Available
9:30 AM Courtyard	Welcome <b>Conference Committee</b>
9:32 AM Courtyard	<b><i>Managing Difficult Conversations</i></b> <b><i>John Amato, Director, Training &amp; Consultation Services, Family Links</i></b> In this presentation, John will explore some of the reasons workplace conversations may be difficult. Discover methods for increasing your confidence and competence in having these difficult conversations to promote a positive outcome and work environment. You'll also gain a better understanding of the value of these conversations and the impact they can have on a cohesive team. Lastly, you'll learn 13 tips for having difficult conversations.
10:15 AM Courtyard	<b>Break and Visit Exhibitors</b>
10:30 AM Courtyard	<b><i>Trauma Basics</i></b> <b><i>Diane Wagenhals and Michelle Machado</i></b> As a society and as individuals we need to be better informed and prepared to prevent and address the traumatic impact of childhood adversities. This one-hour presentation will provide foundational knowledge of trauma including the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, understanding the impact of trauma on the developing brain and Dr. Bruce Perry's 3 R's. As professionals expand their understanding of trauma and are provided specific skills that enhance interactions, they have the ability to prevent, avoid and respond to trauma in emotionally and relationally healthy ways that promote healing.
11:30 AM Courtyard	<b><i>Lunch Sponsored by Keystone Human Services</i></b> <b><i>Excellence in Lifesharing Awards</i></b> <b><i>Becky Kreisler, Awards Program Chair</i></b> <b><i>Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary, PA DHS ODP</i></b>
12:45 PM Courtyard	<b><i>Selective Contracting</i></b> <b><i>Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary, PA DHS ODP</i></b> To improve quality, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) intends to change the home and community-based services agreements with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to "selectively contract" with providers of supports coordination and residential services including lifesharing. In this session ODP will provide an overview of the proposed changes, what will stay the same, and what will change.
1:15 PM Courtyard	<b><i>Trauma Informed Support and Path to Healings for IDD</i></b> <b><i>Dr. Karyn Harvey</i></b> <b><i>Emily Burger, ODP, Q&amp;A Facilitator</i></b> This workshop will provide a view of trauma from the perspective of the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. It will explore the sources of trauma unique to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and the effects of that trauma on both a biological and psychological level. The symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder as they often manifest in people with IDD will be explored as well. Finally, the key ingredients for posttraumatic recovery and healing will be discussed.
2:15 PM Courtyard	<b>Break and Visit Exhibitors</b>

2:30 PM Courtyard	<p><b><i>Using Enabling Technology in Lifesharing to Increase Independence</i></b>  <b><i>Amira LaGray, Service Director of Lifesharing, Keystone Human Services</i></b>  This presentation will engage participants with ideas, discussion, and examples on how both over-the-counter technology and vendor-supplied technology can be incorporated into Lifesharing homes to increase and/or maintain a person's level of independence.</p>
3:00 PM Courtyard	<p><b><i>A Discourse on the Nature and Spirit of Regulatory Compliance, and How to Achieve and Maintain Same.</i></b>  <b><i>-or-You Are Focusing on All the Wrong Stuff but We Can Fix That</i></b>  <b><i>Ron Melusky, PA DHS ODP</i></b>  After a long hiatus, ODP is once again able to do some research and development stuff. We have been analyzing plans of correction and compliance activity. It looks like providers send in plans of correction too quickly and end up making things more complicated than they need to be. This session will help you not do that.</p>
3:45 PM Courtyard	<p><b><i>Managing the Cliff--Employment Opportunities for Adults with Special Needs and IDD</i></b>  <b><i>Brian Damiani, Co-Founder. ABLE Force</i></b>  ABLE Force is a non-profit organization in Bucks County, PA. Co-founded by two fathers with sons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, the organization has begun four businesses with more than 95% of employees being adults with special needs or IDD. Brian will share more about how these businesses were formed and operate, including successes and challenges. He will also share his perspective as a father of a now young adult son with IDD.</p>
4:15 PM- 5:30 PM Courtyard	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Networking Reception Sponsored by Merakey. Visit Exhibitors and Enjoy the Art Showcase and Music</i></b></p>
Fountain Suite	<p><b><i>Activity Room: Will be open today except during breakfast, lunch and the networking reception</i></b></p>

# Excellence in Lifesharing Awards Ceremony

Every year we like to acknowledge a few families from the different regions throughout Pennsylvania that not only represent but exemplify the true spirit of Lifesharing. Nominations are collected across the state and reviewed by the Coalition's Leadership Committee who is also tasked with designating four winners from across the state (one from each region).

**Presented by:**                **Becky Kreisler, PA Lifesharing Coalition**  
   **Kristin Ahrens, Deputy Secretary, PA DHS ODP**

## *Congratulations to the Winners of the 2023 Excellence in Lifesharing Award!*

**CENTRAL REGION WINNER – TRUDY GOSSERT**  
(nominated by Elizabeth Bowman, Keystone Human Services)

Keystone Human Services is proud to nominate Trudy Gossert for the Excellence in Lifesharing Award. Trudy exemplifies Keystone's vision for a person-centered approach to the individual we have the privilege of working alongside. An approach that recognizes that all people with all abilities, can be valued and contributing members of society. Trudy encourages the individual she supports to have strong community connections. The individual she supports is recognized most places she goes. People are excited to see her at stores, the bank, the hairdresser, local coffee shop, just to name a few. Trudy takes the individual to festivals, shopping at various stores, yard sales, and other various community activities.

Trudy recognizes the importance of family to the individual she supports. Trudy ensures that she has a meaningful role with her family. They often go out of state together to meet and interact with the individual's family. Trudy will go elsewhere to give the family time to have quality interactions with each other. Supports for the individual has many challenges and can be difficult at times. Trudy provides outstanding support for the individual by prompting and assisting her to complete various household tasks throughout her daily routine. Due to a vision impairment and tremors, these tasks can be challenging for the individual to complete. Trudy could easily complete these tasks herself at a much quicker pace but offers the individual opportunities to complete household tasks that promotes independence and a sense of accomplishment. Doing laundry, cleaning up after meals, changing bedding, cleaning their room, emptying the trash, seasonal household chores, and pet care are just some of the tasks that the individual completes with Trudy's assistance.

Trudy is also a fierce advocate. At the end of last year, Trudy had noticed a change in the individual's depth perception and ability to walk. Trudy recognized this and was the first person to bring this issue to the team. The team then worked together to address the situation. Trudy advocated for the individual to get a specialized wheelchair that could be used in tough terrain due to the individual's physical disabilities. This allowed the individual to go to places that she may not otherwise have been able to go. Keystone believes that Trudy goes above and beyond to give the individual she supports a meaningful and person-centered life. We want to recognize her for all the hard work that goes into providing these supports.

**WESTERN REGION WINNER – ANGIE HOLSING**  
(nominated by Gavin O'Marehen, Mainstay Life Sciences)

In May of 2020, Justin began Lifesharing with his foster dad, Paul. Paul, who was also a recipient of the Excellence in Lifesharing Award, was hospitalized in the fall of 2022. Justin was alone in their home, but his family frequently visited and assisted Justin when he needed. Paul unexpectedly passed away on December 16, 2022; this news struck all our Lifesharing families and brought on deep sadness. Paul was truly a wonderful human and always had Justin's future and well-being as a priority. Even when I spoke to him that morning of December 16, Paul asked me to reassure him that Justin would be taken care of if anything were to happen to him- and so, we did. The following weeks (and months) were hard for everyone involved in Justin's life, but Justin,

through all his sadness, kept going. Although Justin adapted well to living alone while Paul was hospitalized, we at Mainstay were always hoping that we could resume Lifesharing with him. However, we did not have a Lifesharing Partner for him to do so with. Then along came Angie and her husband Corey. Corey and Paul were cousins, and just like Paul, Angie and Corey have caring hearts and couldn't stand by knowing that Justin would need support.

On April 22, 2023, Justin moved into Angie and Corey's home and started Lifesharing anew. Moving was bittersweet for Justin, having lived with Paul since he was a teenager and now at 29, he was excited to move in with Angie and Corey, who are also his cousins. Given all they have been through as a family, Angie, Corey, and Justin have been building memories and experiencing new things together. Angie and Corey have been nothing short of encouraging. Angie helps Justin study so he can pursue his dream of being able to drive a car, advocates with (not for) Justin to ensure that his work schedule reflects his availability, and helped Justin acquire his passport for his first international trip to Canada. Justin's family (fur and human alike) has greatly expanded in number, leading to an expansion in Justin's support system. Corey has opened up the world of gardening to Justin. Justin works as a landscaper, so this has been a niche activity for him, but since living with Angie and Corey, Justin has learned a lot about growing vegetables and herbs. Harvest has become a Justin and Corey activity. Justin is always proud of their work together each time they harvest the fruits of their labor.

You can easily see that Angie and Corey support Justin in his growth, but the difference with their support is they do not treat him as if he is their son, but an equal adult with his own desires and goals. Since living with them Justin has shown a lot of growth and has expressed his aspirations to others more often, and they have encouraged and assisted him in pursuing those goals. Justin has a very bright future ahead of him and thanks to Angie and Corey, his ideal future is becoming more of a reality.

#### **SOUTHEAST REGION WINNER – DANA AND JOHN MYERS**

(nominated by Sherie Gorley & SPIN Lifesharing Team, SPIN Inc.)

The true meaning of Lifesharing is a person receiving support finding that **chosen family** that loves, includes and cherishes them as a family member. Darnell (Donny) Rappo is blessed to have found this relationship 15 years ago with his Lifesharing Partners, Dana and John Myers. In 2021, Donny experienced extreme challenges with his health that led to several procedures, hospitalizations, rehabs, being placed on hospice and yet the unwavering support from Dana and John Myers was constant. During Donny's 15 month long hospitalization and rehabilitation, Dana and John's dedication and compassion made an immeasurable difference in Donny's life and has touched the hearts of all who know and love him.

From the moment Donny was admitted to the hospital, Dana and John's strong presence provided him with a sense of comfort and stability. Their daily visits and regular FaceTime calls served as a constant source of companionship, brightening his days during the most challenging times. When Dana and John were unable to see Donny due to their work schedule, they made sure one of their children were available to visit Donny. The thoughtfulness displayed by bringing his favorite meals and games exemplifies their commitment to ensuring Donny's well-being and happiness.

John's focus on Donny's dignity with regular haircuts while in the hospital showcased his remarkable commitment to going above and beyond the ordinary expectations of care. It is a testament to John's selflessness and willingness to ensure that Donny not only received physical care but also felt a sense of normalcy and dignity during his hospitalization.

During his hospitalization, Dana and John's inclusion of Donny in the annual family Fantasy Football event showcased their genuine understanding of the importance of maintaining a sense of belonging amidst difficult circumstances. This act of inclusivity brought joy to Donny and strengthened the bond between them, reflecting the true essence of a supportive and caring family.

During his stay at the hospital and rehabilitation center, Donny felt comfortable confiding in Dana and John about his concerns and fears. Their role as advocates for Donny was truly exceptional, as they urgently relayed his concerns to the appropriate team members, ensuring that his voice was heard and his needs were met promptly

and effectively.

It is deeply inspiring to witness Donny's unwavering faith, knowing that he would be able to return home to Dana and John despite the challenges he faced. Their commitment to supporting Donny throughout his journey, even when facing difficult decisions about his care, is a testament to their profound love and dedication to him. Donny was finally discharged on August 23, 2022 and came home to signs, cheers and hugs from family and friends. The exceptional care and support provided by Dana and John did not end with Donny's discharge. Recognizing Donny's need for a wheelchair-accessible van, Dana and John went above and beyond by financing the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible vehicle for him. This act of selflessness has provided Donny with the freedom and independence to travel safely and comfortably, further enhancing his quality of life.

Dana and John's tireless efforts and compassionate care exemplify the true spirit of caregiving and have made a significant impact on Donny's physical and emotional well-being. Their unwavering support has been instrumental in helping Donny maintain hope, dignity, and comfort during his hospitalization and rehabilitation. Donny's needs have changed significantly, yet Dana and John continue to be fully present and do anything they can to support him.

Dana and John's actions have touched the lives of all who care deeply for Donny. They are an excellent example of the impact that compassion and love can have on a person's life. Donny and The Myers are family – a shining example of Lifesharing.

**NORTHEAST REGION WINNER – CAROL CHAPMAN**

(nominated by Lynne Smith, Futures Community Support Services, Inc.)

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Carol Chapman for the excellence in life sharing award. Carol has spent her life caring for others, beginning her career as a nurse's aide at a local nursing home where she worked for many years. In 2000, Carol joined the Futures family as a life sharing provider and welcomed Bufette "Buffy" Callear into her family.

Buffy was raised in the small town of Athen, PA where she resided with her parents, two older brothers, and two older sisters. Buffy transitioned to a community living arrangement following the death of her mother from breast cancer when Buffy was in her early twenties. Buffy struggled to find successful placement in group homes and never found her niche; regulating her emotional and physical health was an ongoing challenge for Buffy during this time.

When Buffy first joined the Chapman family, the family included two teenage sons, a teenage daughter, Carol's husband Wayne, and Carol. Within the next couple of years, the family grew with the addition of another individual receiving support, Stevie.

Over the years, Carol and her family have given Buffy the support she has needed to live an everyday life. Buffy enjoys thrift store shopping and visiting yard sales; Carol and her daughter Linda make sure Buffy has every opportunity to pursue this hobby. Weekends are spent traveling to yard and rummage sales, enjoying lunches out, and going for girls' weekends to hotels to get away.

The Chapman family also enjoy trips to the Sleepy Hollow Campground. Buffy enjoys traveling around in the "bumble bee" golf cart, sitting around the bonfire, and truly loves the Halloween festivities at the campground. As the years have passed, Buffy has faced some health challenges that have slowed her down some. In 2018, Buffy was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent a double mastectomy. Carol stayed at the hospital from 6:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m., the day of the surgery and was with her through every follow-up appointment. Giving up on her was never an option for Carol and her family. They rallied around Buffy, supported her through chemo and radiation treatments, and monitored her health.

October 2018 presented Carol with a devastating change in her life. Her eldest son succumbed to type I diabetes. Buffy and Stevie, both supported her during this loss and the entire family came together. All were devastated at this loss; but Stevie and Buffy were included in the life celebrations and planning. In 2022,



another blow befell the family when Buffy's housemate and "family" member Stevie passed away unexpectedly. Again, this tragedy strengthened the bond between Carol, Buffy, and the rest of the family. At the funeral, Buffy sat with the Chapmans, and they all supported each other in their mutual grief. Losing Stevie has been a struggle for the family, but they are working their way through it.

Buffy is a funny and kind woman who marches to the beat of her own drummer. She is a non-traditional communicator but once you crack the code, she is a blast to be around. Throughout the years, she would often refer to Carol as "Wheatie". It wasn't until after Stevie's passing that I was finally able to figure out why she called her this. Buffy told me one day that Carol was "her wheatie". I said your sweetie and Buffy smiled and said "yes, my wheatie." Carol beamed, Buffy beamed, and they both looked at each other with pure love and affection. These two women truly love, respect, and cherish each other. They are both very special "Wheaties" in my opinion.

## **Congratulations to All of the 2023 Nominees!**

**Steve Howell, Barber National Institute**  
**Beatrice Davis, Kencrest**  
**Bobby Thompson, Kencrest**  
**Carol Leslie-Hood, Elwyn**  
**Comfort Golay, Brian's House**  
**Dwayne Gilliland, Kencrest**  
**Florence Perdunn, Kencrest**  
**Goldie Smith, Kencrest**  
**Ruth Abbott, Royer Greaves Services**  
**Cindy and Ron Ryder, Kencrest**  
**Bakary Conde, Spectrum Community Services**  
**Cindy Leslie, CARES**  
**Dalia Chambers, CARES**  
**Jim Hausman, LifePath, Inc.**  
**Judy Warnott, Human Resources Center, Inc.**  
**Linda Futterer, Keystone Human Services**  
**Linda Nagel, HRC**  
**Sandra Figueroa, Access Services, Inc.**  
**Trish Trevarrow, WCSI**  
**Kristy Cook, Raystown Developmental Services**  
**Tonya Cotton, Keystone Human Services**

# Tuesday, October 24, 2023

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM Hotel Lobby	Registration Open
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Courtyard	Full Buffet Breakfast Available
9:00 AM Crystal I	<p><b><i>HRST Screenings Are Complete—Now What? How to Stay in Compliance and Unlock the Power of the Tool</i></b>  <b><i>Tammy Armstrong and Daleigh Tallent</i></b>  <b><i>PA HRST Service Team, IntellectAbility</i></b></p> <p>This presentation focuses on supporting HRST users through utilizing features of the tool to strengthen screenings and maintain compliance with PA HRST protocol. We will discuss ways to use the Report Suite and Considerations to individualize support plans and identify people at risk for adverse health events.</p> <p>Learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Demonstrate using various features and training within the HRST to produce accurate screenings and maintain compliance.</li> <li>- Generate reports to identify opportunities for quality assurance and monitor compliance.</li> <li>- Incorporate Services and Training Considerations into risk mitigation person-specific planning, and share success stories from providers who use the HRST.</li> </ul>
9:00 AM Crystal II and III	<p><b><i>Lifesharing with Medically Complex Children--Keeping Families Together</i></b>  <b><i>Jennifer Harniman-Crangle, Family Facilitator</i></b>  <b><i>Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care</i></b>  <b><i>Monique and Deacon Lawrence</i></b>  <b><i>Jolanda Stringfield, Divine Providence Villages</i></b></p> <p>In 2020 ODP embarked upon a pilot program with the purpose of helping children with medical complexities move from pediatric nursing facilities back homes to families within the community. With updates to the Targeted Supports Management Bulletin and Waiver Amendments, children with medical complexities are now able to register with their County ID/A office and access waiver services to move home to the community and stay home-avoiding facility placement. Through the lifesharing service, families now have an option of being the paid caregiver for their medically complicated child.</p> <p>Jennifer Harniman-Crangle, PCHC’s first Family Facilitator for ODP, will describe the foundation for this project that is due for expansion in July 2023. She will share the specific ODP updates that have occurred and how Lifesharing is now an option for families with medically complicated children.</p> <p>Monique and Deacon Lawrence will share their unique perspective as one of the first families to become a lifesharing family with medically complicated children. Monique will share how this service has impacted Deacon and his sisters’ lives, and discuss how obstacles did not slow her down! Jolanda Stringfield, Administrator of Community Based Programs for Divine Providence Village, will share the ODP provider perspective. As an early adopter, Jolanda will share the challenges her organization faced while developing this service and the rewards of working with this population and how they plan to continue to support families.</p>
9:00 AM State Room	<p><b><i>Mental Health First Aid Class (pre-registration required) all day class</i></b>  <b><i>Shemiah Cooper and Tamara Brown</i></b>  <b><i>Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services</i></b></p> <p>We think of First Aid as something administered to people in need of physical health intervention. What about people who need immediate assistance for their mental health? The Mental Health First Aid course teaches the skills needed to identify,</p>

	understand, and respond to signs of behavioral health challenges or crises. Once a certified aider, you will be able to recognize behavioral health signs and administer aid until appropriate treatment and supports are received, or until the crisis is resolved.
9:00 AM Fountain Suite	<b>Activity Room</b>
10:00 AM	<b>Break and Visit Exhibitors</b>
10:30 AM Crystal I	<b>HRST Screenings Are Complete—Now What? How to Stay in Compliance and Unlock the Power of the Tool</b> <b>Repeat of 9:00 am Session</b>
10:30 AM Crystal II and III	<b>Empathy and Self-Care</b> <b>Emily Burger, MS, NCC</b> <b>Special Populations Clinical Support</b> <b>PA DHS ODP</b> Empathy is a key component of any healthy relationship. Recognizing how we can feel with others while also maintaining our own sense of self is an important part of this. In this workshop, participants will learn about the difference between empathy and sympathy as well as ways to connect with others. We will discuss healthy boundaries and ways to maintain ourselves in situations that require great emotional investment and vulnerability. Biological and social components of both empathy and self-care will be explored as well as providing tools and strategies to use this information in everyday life.
10:30 AM	<b>Mental Health First Aid Class (pre-registration required) continued</b>
10:30 AM Fountain Suite	<b>Activity Room</b>
11:30 AM Courtyard	<b>Lunch and Visit Exhibitors</b> <b>(exhibitors will be departing at 1 pm)</b>
1:00 PM Crystal I	<b>Supporting Individuals and Families Throughout Their Lifespan</b> <b>Jamie Mistretta, Aveanna Healthcare</b> Jamie will discuss the provision of care, support, and resources throughout all stages of life. She will also discuss and help prepare families and individuals for what to expect, how to navigate through getting enrolled/authorized for care, and share some experiences that other individuals have had working with Aveanna for transitional care.
1:00 PM Crystal II and III	<b>Finding Love on the Spectrum: An ASD Guide to Dating</b> <b>Louis Scarantino, Autism Advocate and Author</b> Louis Scarantino was born and raised in Old Forge, Pennsylvania. He graduated cum laude from Luzerne County Community College with a degree in Office Information Technology. Louis has built an inspirational platform as an award-winning autism advocate, using his gift as a certified motivational speaker and author to deliver speeches throughout North America. He is the author of two books, Love on the Spectrum: An ASD Guide to Dating and Autism: The Unstoppable Achiever which have inspired autistic men and women around the world. He is a proud member of Toastmasters and seeks to continue helping bring awareness and understanding to autism community.
1:00 PM	<b>Mental Health First Aid Class (pre-registration required) continued</b>
1:00 PM Fountain Suite	<b>Activity Room</b>
2:00 PM	<b>Break</b>

2:15 PM Crystal I	<b>The Truth About Nonspeakers: Let Us Spell It Out for You</b> <b>Spellers and Allies Advocacy Network</b> The Spellers and Allies Advocacy Network is run by nonspeakers for nonspeakers. Join us to learn directly from nonspeaking people about our experiences, access to communication, and how to support us. Some questions we will answer are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does nonspeaking mean, who is nonspeaking, and how does it affect our lives?</li> <li>• Why can't nonspeakers use their mouths to communicate? How do we communicate, and how did we learn to do it?</li> <li>• How can you help us?</li> </ul>
2:15 PM Crystal II and III	<b>Let's Talk ODP Policy</b> <b>Katie-Marie Wilson, Policy Supervisor,</b> <b>PA DHS ODP</b> It seems there is always something changing within our service system and most often, it is from changes in policy/rules/guidance. This breakout session will include conversation between ODP and participants about new policy changes that impact the Lifesharing service.
2:15 PM	<b>Mental Health First Aid Class (pre-registration required) continued</b>
2:15 PM Fountain Suite	<b>Activity Room</b>
3:15 PM Crystal II & III	<b>Regional Baskets Drawing and</b> <b>SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING!! (must be present to win)</b>
3:30 PM	<b>Adjourn—Safe Travels Back Home!</b>

## Thanks to Our Supporters

A Special Thank You to PA ODP for their extraordinary support of this year's conference.



**Thank You to our \$2,500 Level Sponsor**

**Keystone Human Services**

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### **SPIN Inc.**

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Cody Kreisler: Thank you for updating and keeping our website running.**

PA LIFESHARING COALITION



## Are You a PA Lifesharing Coalition Member?

The Coalition holds statewide and regional meetings. For more information on these meetings, please email the following Regional Contacts:

- **Central Region**

Becky Kreischer (bkreischer@boldinc.org), 717-906-1701 ext 12

- **Northeast Region**

Joe Karpinskie (karpinskiej@csgonline.org), 717-274-5170 or  
Alison Karnish (akarnish@spectrumcommunityservices.org), 484-460-1975

- **Southeast Region**

Kathy Trumbore (kathy.trumbore@kencrest.org), 610-487-1582 ext 2501

- **Western Region**

Carrie Kontis (carriek@barberni.org), 814-878-4043

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For more information,  
[www.palifesharing.com](http://www.palifesharing.com)

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**2024 Conference**

**More Information Coming Soon!**