



Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care
a core program of PMHCC, Inc.

Lifesharing with Medically Complex Children- Keeping Families Together

BY JENNIFER HARNIMAN-CRANGLE, LSW, PCHC

MONIQUE AND DEACON LAWRENCE, LIFESHARING FAMILY

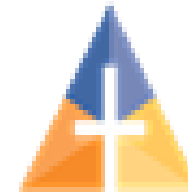
JOLANDA STRINGFIELD, DIVINE PROVIDENCE VILLAGE



Deacon Lawrence, 2nd Grader
Monique Lawrence,
Mother and Lifeshare provider



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The Communities of Don Guanella
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What is a Family Facilitator?

2019 hired as ODP's first Family Facilitator

Purpose of the position is to help children in pediatric facilities go home to families in the community. We are expanding across the State!

- ❖ Discharge or Diversion to/from a facility
- ❖ Work with families, facilities, MCO Special Needs Unit Case Managers, PA State offices (ODP, OMAP, OCDEL etc), Supports Coordination, County ID/A, DME, Nursing, ODP lifesharing providers

How are we able to open *medically complex children (MCC)*?

- TSM Bulletin #00-22-01-Released 7/2022
 - ✓ MA 51
 - ✓ DP 1090
 - ✓ ABAS-3/Vineland

Also need:

- Copy of birth certificate
- Copy of social security card
- Copy of insurance card
- Proof of address

Lifesharing With Children with MCC

Benefits of Lifesharing for a family:

- Child lives with their family-can still receive EPSDT services
- Reduce stress of nursing call outs/vacant shifts
- Seamless transition to the adult world at 21 (lifesharing is funded through a consolidated waiver)
- Additional support of provider agency via Program Specialist

Barriers to Getting Children Home

NURSING

- ✓ Shortage in general
- ✓ Trach/vent trained shortage
- ✓ Nurses to accompany to school shortage
- ✓ Staffing when families need help

HOUSING

- ✓ Not enough affordable housing
- ✓ Not enough accessible housing
- ✓ Modifications address some but not all barriers to living in the home
- ✓ Access to bathroom



Building the pool of ODP
Lifesharing Providers



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The Great Unknown

Prior to reaching the point of expressing our interest in pursuing adding medically complex lifesharing with children as a service we offer, our team went through a transition related to the uncertainties of the unknown. We sat together as a team and discussed our reservations with moving forward and how we could address these reservations in order to proceed.

Initial Reservations

- Will we be able to find qualified and committed Life Sharing Providers?
- Will home accessibility present as a significant barrier?
- Will prospective Providers be willing to make adaptations to their homes?
- Will we be able to provide the needed nursing support?
- How can we support the families with navigating the children's benefits/insurances?

Our Realizations and Resolutions

Provider Availability:

- A number of biological families would like to support their child or loved one in their homes, but just need a little extra support.
- Networking is key. Our program staff began reaching out to current providers for referrals of friends and family that may be interested in committing to a medically complex child.
- Our program currently offers our Life Sharing providers a referral bonus for referring new Life Sharing providers who are eligible to provide the service and successfully serves an individual in their homes for 6 months. We have committed to doubling the monetary amount for referral of prospective providers to serve medically complex children with the same 6 month criteria.
- Our Nursing Director reached out to nurses she has worked with in the past to inquire about their potential interest. This proved to be successful, as we are currently working with the family of one of these nurses to support one of the children we are working to admit.

Home Accessibility:

- Children's insurances will pay for adaptations.
- In talking to prospective provider families we found that if they are truly committed to providing the service, they will have no issue with making the needed adaptations.

Nursing Support:

- The majority of nursing needs are covered through the children's insurance.
- Anticipating issues arising with agency nursing through the children's insurance, specifically the shortage of nurses. We are currently hiring an additional nurse to assist in supporting the needs of children. It is an expectation that the person for this position will need to be extremely flexible with their schedule to be available when needed to support the families.

Nursing Support (continued)

- Once our number of admissions increase, we are exploring adding an additional nursing position who's sole responsibility will be to strictly support the Life Sharing families of the medically complex children.

Benefits Support

- With our 2021-2022 Strategic Plan, we identified the need for a Benefits Coordinator for our adult program and will be adding responsibilities related to the children to the job description.

Our Current Picture

- We admitted Deacon to our program October 28th, 2022. His mother is currently serving as his Life Sharing Provider.
- We have successfully placed a 5 year old little girl with a Life Sharing family on December 19th, 2022.
- 13 year old young man has met a potential recruited family-hoping to discharge home by the end of 2023!
- Referrals are flowing in!

What is it like to be a lifesharing provider (Q and A)?

Let's talk to Monique and Deacon Lawrence about their experience!

Deacon just had his 1 year anniversary of returning home in September, and will have his 1 year lifesharing anniversary on October 26th!





Happy to answer questions!

Thank
you!

The image features the words "Thank you!" in a highly stylized, 3D font. The word "Thank" is rendered in a gradient of pink, orange, and purple, while "you!" is in a gradient of blue and green. The letters have a thick, blocky appearance with visible depth. Several yellow five-pointed stars are scattered around the text, some appearing to be attached to the letters. The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.