

Citizen Care attends PA Life Sharing Conference October 28-29, 2024, Lancaster, PA



Several people representing Citizen Care attended the PA Life Sharing Conference on October 28 and 29 in Lancaster, PA. Citizen Care staff included Jen Dayton (Executive Director), Barb Dyer (Director of Life Sharing), Tracy Olivani (Service Systems Administrator), Jessie Neal-Soska (Life Sharing Coordinator), Peggy Walsh (Community Living Manager), and Jeff Truxell (Asst. Exec. Director of Community & Employment Supports).

Life Sharing Partners included Jean Mayes, Sue Dayton, Mellory Birner, and Paula Bayerlein. Mellory & Paula are part of Citizen Care's Medically Complex Conditions program.

Life Sharers included Ty D., Rosie M., Louis B., and John B.

On the first day of the conference, Barb Dyer facilitated a roundtable titled "Life Sharing with Medically Complex Conditions (MCC)". She invited Kathy Davis, Promising Practices Manager, Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services and Shelia Fullerton, Intellectual Disabilities/AUTism Director, Washington County Behavioral Health & Developmental Services, to join her. It was well attended, and there were a lot of great questions from the attendees. Barb took notes regarding the challenges and barriers being encountered by families, providers, supports coordination organizations and county administrative entities. The notes will be shared with Pennsylvania Health Care Quality Units' Pediatric Complex Care Resource Centers and the PA Office of Developmental Programs.

On the second day of the conference, Barb Dyer, Jen Dayton and Traci Olivani presented a session entitled "Building a Life Sharing Program for Medically Complex Children" and offered insight into how Citizen Care built its program with the intent to encourage other providers in the state to consider offering the Medically Complex Conditions life sharing service to support the kids in our state who should be at home with their families and not in hospitals or pediatric care facilities. As a result of Citizen Care's presentation, three separate organizations have reached out since the conference for support in building their programs.

Since August 2023, the Citizen Care Life Sharing program has been growing steadily. Our program as of November 2024:

- 11 Life Sharing Families with 14 People Admitted
 - 9 children with Medically Complex Conditions
 - 5 Life Sharers

- 16 Life Sharing Families Currently Onboarding
 - 10 children with Medically Complex Conditions
 - 6 Life Sharers

**See photos
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