

Florida Services

Adult and Elderly Services

Residential Support

Enhanced Home Care (EHC) / Enhanced Family Care / Shared Living / Host Family Services

This model is an alternative to facility-based residential settings, group homes, nursing homes, or staffed residences. In this model, the individual in need of residential support moves in with a home care provider, who is thoroughly trained and closely supervised by LifeShare. On some occasions, the home care provider may also be a family member. Through this model and with the support of their provider, individuals are encouraged to increase their independent living skills and to build relationships within the home and community. They participate in social events with friends, travel, go to movies, and explore new and exciting opportunities and other interests. As this program is developed and maintained for each individual based on his/her unique needs, the creative possibilities are endless!

The EHC model is ideal because:

- There is no stigma attached to the individual's home (as there is for a group home or nursing home).
- The individual has more choice and control in his/her life leading to a feeling of safety and security.
- The setting is more normalized (no shift-staff coming in and out).
- The home is truly in the community (not segregated). With the help of the provider, the individual can access the community on his/her own terms.
- This model is less expensive than group homes and more effective at connecting the people to the community, leading to the individual becoming more independent and self-reliant.

Child and Family Services

Foster Care

Traditional & Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care Services

LifeShare's therapeutic foster care program provides youth with support and preparation for adulthood by focusing on the youth's strengths and by using a positive development approach to care. The program provides the youth with the goals of permanence, well-being, and safety. An emphasis is placed on developing the youth's knowledge and skill and preparing the youth to successfully acclimate into his/her community by incorporating "real life" activities. Our mission is to provide a structured home setting with wraparound services such as counseling, psychiatry, behavior therapy, case management, and independent living skill development.

LifeShare provides specialized residential services to youth in need of behavior and therapeutic support. Our foster care providers receive extensive training in the areas of positive behavior support, Gentle Teaching, The Mandt System®, and behavior assistant training. Our behavior support team provides ongoing training, support, and oversight to all therapeutic foster homes. We ensure that wraparound services are provided to youth and foster families by working collaboratively with behavior analysts, behavior assistants, psychiatrists, mental health counselors, case managers, and other team supports.

Our foster care providers work with youth to develop community connections, natural supports, independent living, and vocational skills. Activities may include, but are not limited to, support with activities of daily living such as hygiene skills, increased independence, and positive coping skills. Providers also assist families in managing challenging behaviors within the home and working towards individualized goals that enrich their lives. As this is the youths' program, they are an integral part of the team and make the choices of what to do with their time. LifeShare's position is to support each individual and facilitate his/her success within the home and community settings.

Therapy

Individual Counseling

LifeShare pairs each youth with a Master Level Clinician to provide one-on-one counseling on a weekly basis. This may be provided in the home and/or community and is based on the youth's treatment plan and goals. We have a team of highly qualified Master Level Clinicians that are available to provide in-home therapy to children, foster, adoptive, and biological families. After a comprehensive intake, an assessment and treatment plan are developed. Our licensed clinicians specialize in play therapy, trauma therapy, and family therapy.

Case Management

Targeted Case Management

LifeShare provides case management services for youth with developmental, behavioral, and mental health needs.

LifeShare's case managers utilize a holistic approach and a comprehensive database to connect youth and their families with community resources, person-centered planning, assessment, treatment planning, advocacy, coordination of medical and dental care, education, recreation, and vocational services.

Clinical Services

Psychiatric Consultation

Psychiatric Services

LifeShare Management Group contracts with licensed psychiatrists to provide medication assessment, evaluation, and management.

Behavioral Support

Behavioral Consultation Services

Behavioral health services are available to provide short-term, intensive therapeutic support to children and their families within the home. Our consultants, who are Board Certified Behavior Analysts and/or Board Certified Associate Behavior Analysts, are specifically trained to work with families to identify the antecedents to a youth's challenging behavior within the home and assist the family in developing behavior management techniques. Our consultants also work one-on-one with each youth in the home to develop positive coping skills, utilization of community activities and resources, and social/emotional skill development. The goal of this service is to prevent out-of-home placements and/or to reunify a youth with his/her family following placement. LifeShare's certified Mandt® trainers are available to provide crisis management training to families on an as-needed basis.

Other Services

Respite

Respite is offered to families in need of additional support. All respite providers are required to undergo background screenings as well as meet specific training requirements needed to be a respite provider. LifeShare requires a respite checklist to be completed prior to the individual receiving respite services. The checklist includes extensive information on the care of the individual receiving respite.

Quality Assurance

Our QA department ensures that visits are made to homes on a monthly basis to review documentation, medication administration records, and the home environment. We review all incident reports and progress made towards individual treatment plan goals. A quarterly report is compiled and reviewed with our management team on how to improve quality as part of our agency self assessment. LifeShare is affiliated with the Council on Accreditation to assure that best practice is followed and only the highest standards in QA are followed.

Advocacy Services

LifeShare is available for consultation with regard to local and national advocacy services, such as legal proceedings, residential transitions, or any situation that may call for extra support and advice.

Crisis Resolution Services

All individuals, providers, and families will have access to our Urgent Response Line available 24 hours/7 days per week. This service is available to people needing immediate support and intervention wherever they are. Support will include individual support strategies and necessary intervention to prevent the crisis from escalating. Following the resolution of the crisis, a written support plan will be available that outlines how the crisis will be stabilized as well as offer prevention methods to avoid further crises from occurring.

Training, Recruitment, and Licensing

The Mandt System®

The Mandt System training courses are based upon the philosophy that all people have a right to be treated with dignity and respect, and that relationships should be based on principles in which people are allowed to participate in decisions about their lives. We recognize and consider people's behavior, even negative behavior, as a form of communication.

Mandt 1 is taught in three sessions:

- Mandt Part I: Relational Skills form the basis for skills needed to be effective in de-escalating, resolving, preventing conflict, aggression, and violence.
- Mandt Part II: Conceptual Skills presents a collection of special topics that are related to working with people in crisis and can enhance and strengthen programs that serve aggressive and violent people.
- Mandt Part III: Technical Skills consists of the physical skills, maneuvers, and techniques that may be used if an immediate threat of harm is present and a failure to respond would in fact lead to greater injury or death.

Core Module Training

This series of seven classes was developed to give the Direct Support Professional a basic awareness of concepts that are critical to the provision of personal services.

- an overview of developmental disabilities
- rights
- a quality life in the community
- understanding and supporting effective behavior
- helping people learn useful skills
- everyday health and safety
- support through empowerment

American Heart Association Certification:

- adult/child/infant CPR
- adult/child AED
- first-aid
- blood borne pathogens

Visions

The purpose of Visions is to educate our staff and providers of the history of LifeShare and our roots, our mission—why we do what we do, and our values—how we believe everyone should be treated and our responsibility to ensure that those we support also enjoy those same beliefs.

LifeShare's LifeSpecific Training

This two-part training provides LifeCoaches and Providers with a complete outline of each individual that they will be supporting. Part I: Staff/Provider is given the opportunity to review the clinical record of the person they will be supporting. The staff will meet with their director/clinical team to discuss how the training they received applies and can be utilized with their supported individual. Part II: A mentoring process in which all newly hired LifeCoaches be paired with a seasoned LifeCoach who will act as a mentor during the process. New LifeCoaches will learn about daily routine, activities, etc, and will not have sole responsibility for the individual until the mentoring process is complete.

Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

General knowledge for all staff and providers concerning what HIPAA is, how it effects the protection of individual personal information (privacy), and their role in ensuring that this is done.

Home Visit/Behavior Support

A home visit with providers and parents concerning issues they are facing in interacting with their child or adult. We provide both information and insight into how parents should react to the behavior being expressed.

Body Mechanics

A general outline of facts around back injuries, types of injuries, contributing factors, and some effective proactive preventive measures.

Common Health Conditions

Available to staff/providers/guardians, this training gives an overview of common health conditions that may be faced by those that we support. Staff should be able to recognize symptoms and report these to the individual's health care team so he/she can receive treatments early, before there are life threatening consequences.

Boundaries

The class outlines what boundaries do, and the effects of having good or bad boundaries on relationships and social skills.

Safety for the Professional Visitor

For staff who provide services at various times of the day or night, this course offers safety tips, things to watch out for, proper dress, and appearance. The class outlines the importance of knowing when and when not to enter someone's home, when to know that it is unsafe, and what steps to take to be safe.

The Effects of Psychotropic Medications on Children

A general overview of the effects of psychotropic medications on children and the effects of overuse and misdiagnosis. The intent of this training is to ensure that providers/guardians know their rights in order to make informed choices when psychotropic medications are recommended.

Inhalant Abuse

The class provides general knowledge of what inhalant abuse is, symptoms, effects, and products used in the abuse including common items found in the home.

Self Injurious Behavior (SIB)

This course gives insight into the different types of SIBs, the causes, signs to watch for, and measures to take to reduce or prevent this behavior.

Reporting Abuse and Neglect

A review for staff, providers, and volunteers on recognizing and reporting of actual or suspected neglect, abuse, or exploitation of an individual we support.

The Language and Ideas of Best Practice

An overview of practices that reflect the best ideas we have today regarding how to support people with developmental disabilities.

Assessment of Suicidal Risk

A general overview for the new clinician that gives a demographic view of suicide victims, statistics, and reasons. This course is taught by a minimum of a Master Level Clinician.

Traumatic (TBI) or Acquired (ABI) Brain Injury

This course offers a close look at what a TBI or ABI Injury is, and the effect each one has on the brain. The course will help staff/providers/guardians have a better understanding on the nature of the injury and the challenges faced by the individual in expressing thoughts, memory, and completion of tasks.

Bullying Among Children & Youth

The course helps staff/providers/guardians of children to understand the different types of bullying, what is known about the nature and prevalence of bullying, why we should be concerned about bullying, how schools are addressing bullying, and what works and doesn't work in bullying prevention and intervention. The course offers an overview of HRSA's National Bullying Prevention Campaign.

Foster and Adoptive Caregiver Essentials (FACES) Orientation and Regulations

This course, required for those who want to be licensed to do foster care, covers the history of child welfare and the Child Welfare System and reviews the process and implications of the foster care program. The class teaches providers the risk factors including familial, environmental, economic, and cultural that contribute to child abuse and neglect. It also explains the roles and expectations of foster and adoptive parents, and helps providers identify ways to assist children and families.

Real Life for Real People

This workshop discusses the human service system's approach to providing services to people in need of support. It outlines the system's need to go from a protective approach to an empowerment model, giving service recipients choice and control in their lives. We focus on the elimination of institutionalization, the use of restraints, and overstuffed programs as a way of moving people into a real life model of support. True stories of people who have moved from highly staffed settings to living on their own in the community are provided. We also outline the approach we take in these cases, and the process the individual goes through while experiencing a real life approach.

Home Licensing / Certification

Recruitment Services

Our licensing team will conduct a needs assessment to determine the specific requirements of children in need of placement and/or waiting for adoption. A tailored recruitment and retention plan is developed for recruiting foster families to adopt children in certain populations (i.e. teens, sibling groups, and children and adolescents with special needs). Specific recruitment and retention performance measures are outlined in the plan as described in the service contract for licensure of new homes, retention, re-licensing, safety, and permanency.

Family Development and Adoption Specialists actively participate in recruitment events such as attendance at match events, heart gallery openings, committee meetings, and community events, presentations at local churches, schools, community groups, and organization of quarterly informational sessions. These specialists are responsible for responding to inquiries, sending informational packets to prospective families, follow up, and coordination of orientation and pre-service trainings.

Retention Services

The Case Managers are responsible for conducting monthly visits at each home to monitor the child's adjustment to the home, provide support and technical assistance to the providers, and ensure the home remains in compliance for state regulations. The Case Managers also attend all child-specific meetings such as treatment plan meetings, school meetings, medical and therapeutic appointments as requested, and visitations to provide support to the child and foster/adoptive families.

Additional supports that are available to foster families include: 24/7 crisis resolution services, intensive case management, individual and family counseling, monthly foster parent support groups, behavioral health services to include assessments and behavior consultation, psychiatric consultation, and in-service specialized care training.

Licensing Services

The Case Managers are responsible for assisting each prospective foster family through the licensure process and for completing a thorough home study on each family during the time period that the family is attending the MAPP training sessions.

The home study will address the following elements: autobiography to include personal and family background, family relationships, demographics, motivation to foster/adopt, marriage and family relationships, description of the home and neighborhood, social history (medical history, parenting experience, discipline, religion, child care), transportation, employment, financial capacity and income, parenting skills, references, background screenings, trainings, and summary/recommendations.

Once the home study is complete, the Case Managers will review the prospective foster family's licensure file to ensure accuracy and uniformity of forms.