

Planning for a Couple's Continued Care

Cynthia and Sebastian are a couple in their 60s facing dual diagnoses. He has been diagnosed with early to midstage Alzheimer's disease, while Cynthia suffers from the debilitating effects of a chronic autoimmune disease.

Cynthia came to us to discuss Medicaid planning, but the conversation quickly expanded to the Lifecare Affordability Plan (LCAP™). Cynthia's biggest fear was around what would happen to Sebastian, who would take care of him and where he would live, if her health declined. They lived in the suburbs and had children in their early 20s.

Cynthia really wanted to buy a house in another state to be closer to her extended family. Her plan was that when Sebastian's health declined and advanced care was needed, they would move into the second home, located in a part of the country where the cost of care is lower, and they could be surrounded by family. Cynthia planned to keep the second home unoccupied and stay there during visits to see family several times a year.

STEP 1

Step 1: Defining Reality

Ultimately, we needed to determine whether Cynthia really wanted to live out of state near family, or if she was making that decision out of a fear of not being able to support herself and Sebastian in their current home. We posed the important question to Cynthia and Sebastian:

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CLIENT PROFILE

Cynthia, 61, and Sebastian, 66, are a married couple with dual diagnoses: he has Alzheimer's disease, and she has an autoimmune disease..



MOST HOPEFUL FOR

Living together and receiving care in the home, supporting young adult daughters as they might be forced to become the primary decision-makers.



MOST FEARFUL OF

Cynthia was most afraid of something happening to her, leaving Sebastian without a caregiver.



LCAP IMPACT

LCAP allowed Cynthia the security of providing care for her husband, even in the midst of her own health uncertainties and took the burden of paying for care off the couple's children.

STEP
1

“Where do you WANT to live?”

The LCAP Team facilitated two meetings. During our first meeting, Cynthia and Sebastian were joined by a care professional who helped outline the pros and cons of living locally versus moving out of state by documenting the support system available in either case.

STEP
2

Step 2: Building Scenarios

The second meeting took place with the children present and the family's trustee on the phone. Cynthia talked about her understanding of the health realities she and Sebastian are facing now and in the future. They reviewed details of the LCAP that showed how long the money available to pay for care would last, and what the parents' options were. The couple's children were immediately relieved that there was a plan in place that plotted out how their parents could afford to live with these illnesses.

STEP
3

Step 3: Plan of Action

Based on the LCAP analysis, the LCAP Team recommended Cynthia rent out the second property until she decided to move in permanently. However, more importantly, we confirmed with her estate planning attorney that buying an additional property would close some doors in terms of Medicaid. This gave us a fuller, and more realistic, picture of the current situation and plans for the future.

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