

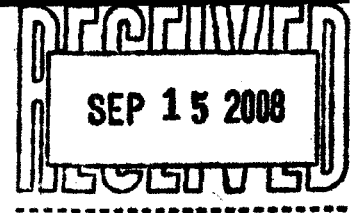
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14-514

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Weidman-Jones, Gail

From: maureen.benson@gsa.gov
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 10:11 AM
To: Weidman-Jones, Gail
Subject: Regulation No. 14-514, Assisted Living Rule-making Proposal



I agree that with the growth of the aging population and the extensive appearance of "assisted living" facilities within Pennsylvania, that minimum standards must be set and licenses for residences need to be required. The proposal before us includes a requirement that Administrator's must spend at least 40 hrs/week on site; that an Administrator must be a registered nurse with at least one-year's experience in health care; when absent, Administrator must designate someone specific with the same training to manage the facility in their absence; other care-giving staff must be healthy, over 17, and possess a high school diploma or GED. Here more needs to be added. all employees must undergo & pass a criminal background check, as well as pass a drug test, for employment. Individual employees may only be given responsibilities commensurate with their level of education and experience. Those with no formal advance medical training may not perform any medical related duties. Staff must provide at least one hour of care per day to mobile residents and 2 hours per day to immobile residents. Facility must report number of residents fitting into each category, and demonstrate a sufficient number of employees to provide this level of service. (i.e. if there are 30 mobile residents needing 1 hour each/day (30 hours) and 20 needing 2hrs/day (40 hours) and employees work 8 hour/shift, then a minimum of 9 people (x8 hrs/day = 72 hrs/one shift) would be required. Less individuals per shift would be dependent upon when needs occur most often (meal times, mornings for personal care/hygiene, etc.). Every facility must have a defibrillator accessible and someone trained on site to use it. If there is more than one floor, one would be required for each level. Facilities must have at least two wheelchair-accessible common rooms (excluding bathrooms) and at least one TV and radio on each floor of the premises.

Thanks for your time. I hope to see a new statute on the books of the Commonwealth in the near future, protecting our seniors who elect to reside in an Assisted Living Facility.

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