Title: Section 415.5 - Quality of life
... (g) Social Services.

(1) The facility shall provide a social service program to meet the psychosocial needs of the individual resident which will provide services, based upon a comprehensive assessment, which will assure the maximum attainable quality of life for the residents, the residents’ emotional and physical well-being, self-determination, self respect and dignity. Such services shall include:

(i) conducting an initial admissions assessment and interview with the resident and family to evaluate the appropriateness of placement and identify the need for special services;
(ii) interpreting the residents’ rights to family and staff;
(iii) advocating for the resident with personal and social problems and problems involved with institutionalization;
(iv) facilitating needed communication with other disciplines on behalf of the residents, including medical, nursing, dietary, rehabilitation and psychiatric services;
(v) coordinating and monitoring needed available services for individual residents to assure optimum level of emotional, physical and psychological well-being and independence based upon educational background;
(vi) involving the resident, other disciplines and administration as appropriate regarding matters such as bed retention, room change, transfer and discharge;
(vii) interpreting residents’ needs and behaviors and extending professional intervention to all levels of staff suggesting positive approaches, such as alternatives to the use of restraints and psychotropic drugs.
(viii) initiating and facilitating small group meetings of residents, family and staff directed at a fuller understanding of the institutionalized resident and fuller joint participation in improving the residents' emotional and physical well-being;
(ix) initiating and participating in interdisciplinary meetings and team conferences;
(x) providing assistance and support to residents’ family members;

(xi) arranging for residents and families to meet with Department of Health surveillance staff as necessary;
(xii) participating, if requested by residents, in the organization and on-going functioning of the resident and family councils;
(xiii) making available social work staff at varying schedules, including weekends and evenings;
(xiv) coordinating and facilitating the referral of residents for needed and requested services and outside resources not available in the facility; and
(xv) organizing bereavement counseling for roommates, families and other affected individuals.

(2) The facility shall employ a qualified social worker. Facilities with more than 120 beds shall employ such individual on a full time basis; facilities with 120 beds or fewer shall employ such individual on a full or part time basis. A qualified social worker for purposes of
this Part is an individual who:

(i) holds a masters degree in social work or is a Certified Social Worker, and has pertinent experience in a health care setting;
(ii) holds a bachelor’s degree in social work, or in a related field, and has regular access through a contract which meets the provisions of subdivision (e) of section 415.26 of this Part with a person who meets the requirement of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; or
(iii) had four years of social work experience in a nursing home in New York State prior to October 1, 1990, as a social work assistant or case aide and has regular access through a contract which meets the provisions of subdivision (e) of section 415.26 of this Part with a person who meets the requirement of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph