

Subchapter 13 - Staff Requirements

310:675-13-1. Required staff
Sufficient, adequately trained staff shall be on duty, twenty-four hours a day, to meet the needs of all residents residing in the facility without regard to the direct staff ratios.
[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-2. Staff orientation
All staff shall complete orientation, and specific training, for their respective responsibilities before working without supervision. Staff shall immediately be oriented to the use and location of fire extinguishers, procedures to be followed in the event of a fire and resident rights.
[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-3. Administrator
(a) The administrator shall be licensed by the State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators and has the authority and responsibility for the total operation of the facility, subject only to the policies adopted by the governing authority.
(b) The facility shall designate a person to act for the administrator during his/her absence. The designated person shall have the authority to exercise normal management responsibilities.
[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-4. Medical director
(a) The facility shall designate an Oklahoma licensed medical doctor or osteopathic physician to serve as its medical director.
(b) The medical director shall coordinate the medical services within the facility.
[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-5. Nursing service
(a) General. The nursing facility shall be organized, staffed, and equipped to provide nursing and health related services to all residents on a continuous basis.
(b) Licenses. All licensed nurses shall hold a current license issued by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing.
(c) Director of nursing
(1) A registered nurse or licensed practical nurse shall be designated as the director of nursing.
(2) The director of nursing shall be on duty on the day shift and be responsible for all resident care including, but not limited to, the physical, mental, and psycho-social needs. The director of nursing or designee shall be available by telephone when needed by facility staff.
(3) When necessary, the director of nursing may work other than the day shift but for no more than three shifts a week. This exception shall not exceed three consecutive weeks in a three month period.
(d) Licensed nurses
(1) The facility shall employ licensed nurses for a sufficient number of hours to meet the residents' needs.
(2) A licensed nurse shall supervise direct care staff and shall direct nursing care for the residents.
(3) The facility shall use licensed practical nurses only for the medical procedures for which they are trained.
(e) Consultant registered nurse
(1) If the director of nurses is a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse shall be employed for at least eight hours per week as a consultant.
(2) A consultant registered nurse shall evaluate and consult with the director of nursing concerning residents' needs and shall coordinate the assessment and care plan of each resident.
(3) A consultant registered nurse's visit shall document the date and the hours spent in consultation. The documentation shall be signed and reviewed by the director of nursing.

(f) **Certified medication aide**
(1) Each medication aide shall be a certified nurse aide who has passed a Department approved medication administration program.
(2) A graduate nurse or a graduate practical nurse, who has not yet been licensed, may administer medications if the nurse has passed an approved competency test for medication administration.
(3) A certified medication aide may administer physician ordered medications and treatments under the direction of a licensed nurse.
(4) The facility shall have a licensed nurse or physician on-call to handle medical emergencies. The charge person shall notify the designated person when a medical emergency arises.
(5) A certified medication aide shall complete eight hours of continuing education a year that is approved by the Department.

(g) **Nurse aide**
(1) No facility shall use, on a full-time basis, any person as a nurse aide for more than 120 days unless that person is enrolled in a training program.
(2) No facility shall use, on a temporary, per diem, or other basis, any person as a nurse aide unless the individual is listed on the Department's nurse aide registry.
(3) The facility shall contact the Department’s nurse aide registry prior to employing a nurse aide to determine if the person is listed on the registry, and if there is any record of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of resident property.

(h) **Nursing students.** Facilities participating in a state approved nursing education program may allow nursing students to administer medications to residents. The facility shall have a written agreement with the nursing education program. The agreement shall specify the scope of activities, education level, and required supervision. The facility shall maintain a current roster of nursing students in the program. Details about the program and its operation within the facility shall be included in the facility's policy and procedure manual.

(i) **Inservice.** The facility shall provide all direct care staff with two hours of inservice training specific to their job assignment per month. This training shall include, at least, the following:
(1) Fire safety and first aid classes semi-annually.
(2) Resident rights and resident adjustment to institutional life annually.
(3) Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Heimlich maneuver procedures annually.
(4) All supervisory staff shall receive training in regards to applicable local, state, and federal regulations governing the facility.
(5) Each staff person shall be provided training in pain recognition at the time of orientation and at least once a year thereafter.
(6) Each certified nurse aide shall be provided training in pain screening at the time of orientation and at least once every year thereafter.
(7) Each licensed practical nurse shall be provided training in pain screening and pain management at the time of orientation and at least once every year thereafter.
(8) Each registered nurse shall be provided training in pain assessment and pain management at the time of orientation and at least once every year thereafter.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93; Amended at 23 Ok Reg 156, eff 10-6-05 (emergency); Amended at 23 Ok Reg 2415, eff 6-25-06; Amended at 27 Ok Reg 2545, eff 7-25-10]

310:675-13-6. Registered/licensed dietician or qualified nutritionist
(a) The facility shall have a registered/licensed dietician or qualified nutritionist to sufficiently meet the needs of all residents. The registered/licensed dietician or qualified nutritionist shall consult with the food service supervisor, director of nursing, administrator and physicians.

(b) The registered/licensed dietician or qualified nutritionist shall supervise and direct the residents' nutritional care, advise and consult with appropriate staff, and provide inservice training for food service personnel and direct care staff.

(c) A qualified nutritionist shall complete eight hours of continuing education a year approved by the Department.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-7. Food service staff

(a) Food service supervisor.

(1) The food service supervisor shall be responsible for all aspects of food service preparation and delivery. The food service supervisor may serve only one facility. The food service supervisor hours shall be sufficient to meet the residents' needs.

(2) The food service supervisor shall complete certification as a dietary manager within three (3) years of beginning employment.

(3) The food service supervisor shall complete, and maintain continuous, ServeSafe food safety certification, or a Department approved alternative, within ninety (90) days of beginning employment.

(b) Food service staff.

(1) The facility shall have food service staff on duty sufficient to meet the residents' needs. There shall be at least one (1) hour of food service staff per three (3) residents, a day based on the daily census.

(2) The food service staff shall complete a basic orientation program before working in the food service area. This orientation shall include, but not be limited to: fire and safety precautions, infection control, and sanitary food handling practices.

(3) Each food service staff member shall successfully complete a food service training program offered or approved by the Department within ninety (90) days of beginning employment. Food service training shall be renewed as required by the authorized training program.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93; Amended at 24 Ok Reg 2030, eff 6-25-07; Amended at 25 Ok Reg 2482, eff 7-11-08]

EDITOR'S NOTE: See Editor's Note at beginning of this Chapter.

310:675-13-8. Activities personnel

(a) The facility shall have sufficient, trained activities program staff, on duty, to meet the resident's needs. There shall be at least twenty hours per week of designated activity staff.

(b) The activities director shall be qualified by training, or experience, under one of the following:

(1) An associate degree or a baccalaureate from an accredited university or college in art, music, physical education, recreational therapy, education, or similar program.

(2) A licensed occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.

(3) Successful completion of a Department approved training course.

(4) One year experience in a recreational activity or long term care environment, and is enrolled within 180 days of employment, in a Department approved course for activities directors.

(c) Department approval of activities director course. Any person or entity seeking to conduct an approved activities director-qualifying course pursuant to 310:675-13-8(b)(3) (pertaining to successful completion of a department approved course) shall make application to the Department.

(1) Application Content. Applications shall include the following information:

(A) Name and address of the individual or entity applying to sponsor the course;

(B) Contact person and his or her address, telephone number and fax number;
(C) Course outlines, which list the summarized topics covered in the course and the time allotted for each topic and, upon request, a copy of any course materials;
(D) Information as to how the proposed course meets the course content standard provided in Section 310:675-13-8(c)(9);
(E) A sample certificate of completion;
(F) Procedures for monitoring attendance; and
(G) Procedures for evaluating successful course completion.

(2) Application Review. The Department shall complete review of the application within thirty (30) calendar days. If the Department finds the application has not addressed all requirements in 310:675-13-8(c)(1) (relating to application content) written notice shall be provided detailing the requirements not met and providing opportunity for amendment to the application.

(3) Program affiliation. Training shall be provided through a program sponsored or approved by a nationally affiliated association of providers subject to this chapter, regionally accredited institution of higher learning, Oklahoma career technology center, or nationally recognized professional accrediting body for activity professionals.

(4) Loss of approval. The Department may, upon notice and right to hearing, withhold or withdraw approval of any course for violation of or non-compliance with any provision of this section.

(5) Advertisement. No person or entity sponsoring or conducting a course shall advertise that it is endorsed, recommended, or accredited by the Department. Nor shall any person or entity sponsoring or conducting a course advertise or advise program participants that completion of the program grants a certification. Such person or entity may indicate that the Department has approved the course to qualify for employment as an activities director.

(6) Failure to prepare. The Department may, upon notice and right to hearing, decline to renew, or revoke the approval of, any previously approved course upon a showing or demonstration that the course, instructor or entity has substantially failed to adequately prepare its attendees or participants as activity directors.

(7) Instructor requirements. Instructors shall have a degree or substantial recent experience in the subject matter being taught, or other educational, teaching, or professional qualifications determined by the course provider.

(8) Course content. The course shall address the following content:
(A) The guidance and regulations for activities as detailed in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, State Operations Manual, Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities and the Code of Federal Regulations at CFR § 483.15(f);
(B) Oklahoma regulation for activity services as specified at OAC 310:675-9-10.1;
(C) Resident rights as detailed in state and federal statute and regulation;
(D) State and federal statute and regulation for resident protection from abuse, neglect and misappropriation;
(E) Working with volunteers and the community to enhance activity options;
(F) Specialized programming for Alzheimer’s and related dementias;
(G) Role play or actual experience in leading group and one-on-one activities programming;
(H) Issues in aging; and,
(I) Infection Control.
(j) Where course content is delivered through Internet or other self-directed media, course content shall include not less than twelve (12) hours of role play or actual experience in leading group and one-on-one activities programming.

(9) Duration. The approved course will consist of not less than twenty-four (24) hours of instruction. A course taught in combination with social services director training may share eight (8) hours of programming.
(10) **Certificate.** Participants shall be issued a certificate of attendance indicating the name of the sponsoring entity; participant name; course name; course dates; printed name and signature of official representing the sponsoring entity.

(11) **Course approval expires.** Course approval shall be for a period of three (3) years from the date of approval issuance. In the interest of updated curriculum, reflecting the latest best practice, a new application, and curriculum review are required triennially. Currently approved training programs shall apply under this section within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this rule.

(12) **Continuing education.** This section creates no obligation for continuing education beyond requirements specified otherwise in this Chapter. The Department will not approve continuing education or update courses for activity directors.

(13) **Records retention.** The course sponsor shall maintain course records for at least five (5) years. The Department may order an examination of the records for good cause shown.

(14) **Fee.** A non-refundable application fee of one hundred dollars ($100) shall be included with each application for course approval.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93; Amended at 26 Ok Reg 2059, eff 6-25-09]

310:675-13-9. **Social services personnel**

(a) The facility shall provide sufficient, trained social services staff to meet the resident's needs. There shall be at least thirty (30) minutes per resident a week of designated social service staff based on the daily census. The facility shall have at least twenty (20) hours per week, of designated social service staff, regardless of the number of residents.

(b) The social services director shall be qualified by training, or experience, under one of the following:

(1) A baccalaureate, from an accredited college or university, in social work or in a human services field including, but not limited to, sociology, special education, rehabilitation, counseling or psychology.

(2) Successful completion of the Department approved training course.

(3) One year experience in social work or long term care environment, and is enrolled within 180 days of employment, in a course approved by the Department.

(c) **Department approval of social services director course.** Any person or entity seeking to conduct an approved social services director-qualifying course pursuant to 310:675-13-9(b)(2) (pertaining to successful completion of a department approved course) shall make application to the Department.

(1) **Application Content.** Applications shall include the following information:

(A) Name and address of the individual or entity applying to sponsor the course;

(B) Contact person and his or her address, telephone number and fax number;

(C) Course outlines, which list the summarized topics covered in the course and the time allotted for each topic and, upon request, a copy of any course materials;

(D) Information as to how the proposed course meets the course content standard provided in Section 310:675-13-(c)(9);

(E) A sample certificate of completion;

(F) Procedures for monitoring attendance; and

(G) Procedures for evaluating successful course completion.

(2) **Application Review.** The Department shall complete review of the application within thirty (30) calendar days. If the Department finds the application has not addressed all requirements in 310:675-13-9(c)(1) (relating to application content) written notice shall be provided detailing the requirements not met and providing opportunity for amendment to the application.

(3) **Program affiliation.** Training shall be provided through a program sponsored or approved by a nationally affiliated association of providers subject to this chapter, regionally accredited
institution of higher learning, Oklahoma career technology center, or nationally recognized professional accrediting body for activity professionals.

(4) **Loss of approval.** The Department may, upon notice and right to hearing, withhold or withdraw approval of any course for violation of or non-compliance with any provision of this section.

(5) **Advertisement.** No person or entity sponsoring or conducting a course shall advertise that it is endorsed, recommended, or accredited by the Department. Nor shall any person or entity sponsoring or conducting a course advertise or advise program participants that completion of the program grants a certification. Such person or entity may indicate that the Department has approved the course to qualify for employment as a social services director.

(6) **Failure to prepare.** The Department may, upon notice and right to hearing, decline to renew, or revoke the approval of, any previously approved course upon a showing or demonstration that the course, instructor or entity has substantially failed to adequately prepare its attendees or participants as activity directors.

(7) **Instructor requirements.** Instructors shall have a degree or substantial recent experience in the subject matter being taught, or other educational, teaching, or professional qualifications determined by the course provider.

(8) **Course content.** The course shall address the following content:
   (A) The guidance and regulations for social services as detailed in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, State Operations Manual, Appendix PP - Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities and the Code of Federal Regulations at CFR § 483.15(g);
   (B) Oklahoma regulation for social services as specified at OAC 310:675-9-11.1;
   (C) Resident rights as detailed in state and federal statute and regulation;
   (D) State and federal statute and regulation for resident protection from abuse, neglect and misappropriation;
   (E) Alzheimer's and social services;
   (F) Issues in Aging; and
   (E) Ombudsman services.

(9) **Duration.** The approved course will consist of not less than twenty-four (24) hours of instruction. A course taught in combination with activity director training may share eight (8) hours of programming.

(10) **Certificate.** Participants shall be issued a certificate of attendance indicating the name of the sponsoring entity; participant name; course name; course dates; printed name and signature of official representing the sponsoring entity.

(11) **Course approval expires.** Course approval shall be for a period of three (3) years from the date of approval issuance. In the interest of updated curriculum, reflecting the latest best practice, a new application, and curriculum review are required triennially. Currently approved training programs shall apply under this section within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this rule.

(12) **Continuing education.** This section creates no obligation for continuing education beyond requirements specified otherwise in this Chapter. The Department will not approve continuing education or update courses.

(13) **Records retention.** The course sponsor shall maintain course records for at least five (5) years. The Department may order an examination of the records for good cause shown.

(14) **Fee.** A non-refundable application fee of one hundred dollars ($100) shall be included with each application for course approval.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93; Amended at 26 Ok Reg 2059, eff 6-25-09]

310:675-13-10. Maintenance personnel
(a) The facility shall employ maintenance staff to maintain the facility and equipment in safe working condition.
(b) Maintenance services may be provided by staff or by a contract. If services are provided by a contract, the facility shall designate an employee to coordinate the maintenance services.
(c) Each person who provides maintenance services shall have a current license from the state or political subdivision if required to provide such service.
(d) The maintenance staff shall complete one hour of inservice each quarter relevant to maintenance services.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-11. Housekeeping personnel
(a) The facility shall employ housekeeping staff in sufficient numbers to maintain the facility in a safe and sanitary manner.
(b) Housekeeping personnel shall receive effective supervision, orientation and training.
(c) Housekeeping personnel shall be skilled in the six basic functions of sweeping, mopping, dusting, cleaning, waxing, and polishing.
(d) The housekeeping staff shall complete one hour of inservice per quarter about housekeeping practices.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93]

310:675-13-12. Direct care staffing
(a) Each facility shall maintain at least the minimum direct-care-staff-to-resident ratios specified in the Act at 63:1-1925.2.
(b) A licensed nurse shall be on duty eight hours a day, seven days a week on the day shift.
(c) If the director of nursing is a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse shall be employed for at least eight hours per week as a consultant.
(d) There shall be a licensed nurse on duty twenty-four hours per day; provided however, that a facility licensed as a specialized facility for the developmentally disabled shall only be required to provide 24 hour nursing when it has a resident who has a medical care plan. The department may waive this requirement when the facility demonstrates it has been unable, despite diligent effort, to recruit licensed nurses. The Department shall determine that a waiver of this requirement will not endanger the health or safety of the residents.
(e) There shall be at least one certified medication aide on duty when any shift is not covered by a licensed nurse.
(f) At least two direct care staff persons shall be on duty and awake at all times regardless of the number of residents.
(g) Willful violation of the requirements regarding direct-care staff shall be determined based on a review of facility staffing records and interviews with staff, residents, resident family members and/or guardians, and other parties which may have information relevant to the investigation. The determination by the Department of Health will include, but will not be limited to, the following factors:
(1) The nature, circumstances and gravity of the violations;
(2) The repetitive nature of the violations at the facility or others operated by the same or related entities;
(3) The previous degree of difficulty in obtaining compliance with the rules at the facility or others operated by the same or related entities; and
(4) Any substantial showing of good faith in attempting to achieve continuing compliance with the provisions of the Nursing Home Care Act.

[Source: Added at 9 Ok Reg 3163, eff 7-1-92 (emergency); Added at 10 Ok Reg 1639, eff 6-1-93; Amended at 10 Ok Reg 4227, eff 8-1-93 (emergency); Amended at 11 Ok Reg 3851, eff 7-11-94;
310:675-13-14. Flexible staff-scheduling
(a) Implementing flexible staff-scheduling. Each facility seeking to implement the flexible staff-scheduling provisions of 63:1-1925.2(B)(5) shall request in writing a determination from the Department that the facility is in compliance with the staffing requirements of 63:1-1925.2(B)(3).
(b) Requirements for eligibility. Determination of flexible staff-scheduling privileges shall be based on compliance with the requirements at 63:1-1925.2(B)(6) and review of the staffing hours reported to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Reports shall be submitted to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority either through electronic mail or three and one-quarter inch diskette in an electronic format approved by that agency. The reviewed hours shall be for the previous three (3) calendar months from the date the request for determination is received.
(c) Determination of compliance. A determination of compliance with the requirements at 63:1-1925.2(B)(6)(a)(2)-4 will be based on staffing reports and surveys for the three (3) months preceding the date the request for determination is received by the Department. For intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded loss of eligibility shall include findings of non-compliance with the Condition of Participation at 42 CFR 483.430, Facility Staffing.
(d) Failure to meet the direct care service rate. Facilities that have been granted flexible staff-scheduling privileges and receive a determination they have not met the direct care service rate shall lose their flexible staff-scheduling privileges until the facility re-establishes their eligibility under the requirements at 63:1-1925.2(B)(6)(b) and (c). Facilities shall have the right to appeal and to the informal dispute resolution process with regard to penalties and sanctions imposed due to staffing noncompliance. [63:1-1925.2(E)].
(e) Loss of eligibility based on surveys or fraud. Facilities seeking to re-establish flexible staff-scheduling privileges after a loss of eligibility under 63:1-1925.2(B)(7) shall be subject to the requirements at OAC 310:675-13-14(a), (b) and (c). For intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded loss of eligibility shall include findings of non-compliance with the Condition of Participation at 42 CFR 483.430, Facility Staffing.
(f) Minimum staff in flexible staffing. A facility failing to meet the flexible staff-scheduling requirement at 63:1-1925.2(B)(5)(b) shall be ineligible for flexible staff-scheduling privileges until the facility re-establishes their eligibility under the requirements at 63:1-1925.2(B)(6)(b) and (c).
(g) Notification requirements. The Department shall notify the facility and Oklahoma Health Care Authority on all decisions of eligibility.
(h) Re-establishing eligibility. A facility seeking to re-establish eligibility shall submit a written request to the Department. A request to re-establish eligibility is subject to the requirements at OAC 310:675-13-14(b).
(i) Shift-based ratios for noncompliant facilities. This paragraph implements 63:1-1925.2(F)(4).
(1) When the provisions of 63:1-1925.2(F)(1) are in effect, pursuant to 63:1-1925.2(B)(7), the following minimum direct-care-staff-to-resident ratios for non-compliant facilities shall apply in addition to other state and federal requirements related to the staffing of nursing facilities:
(A) From 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every five residents,
(B) From 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every seven residents, and
(C) From 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., one direct-care staff to every thirteen residents.
When the provisions of 63:1-1925.2(F)(2) are in effect, pursuant to 63:1-1925.2(B)(7), the following minimum direct-care-staff-to-resident ratios for non-compliant facilities shall apply in addition to other state and federal requirements related to the staffing of nursing facilities:

(A) From 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every five residents,
(B) From 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every six residents, and
(C) From 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., one direct-care staff to every eleven residents.

When the provisions of 63:1-1925.2(F)(3) are in effect, pursuant to 63:1-1925.2(B)(7), the following minimum direct-care-staff-to-resident ratios for non-compliant facilities shall apply in addition to other state and federal requirements related to the staffing of nursing facilities:

(A) From 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every four residents,
(B) From 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., one direct-care staff to every six residents, and
(C) From 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., one direct-care staff to every eleven residents.

[Source: Added at 21 Ok Reg 987, eff 3-30-04 (emergency); Added at 21 Ok Reg 1317, eff 5-27-04]