

COLORADO

Part 8. SOCIAL SERVICES

8.1 SOCIAL SERVICES. The facility shall identify, plan care for, and meet the identified emotional and social needs of each resident to enhance resident psycho-social health and well-being.

8.1.1 Social services staff shall be involved in the pre-admission process, providing input as to appropriateness of placement from a psycho-social perspective, except in emergency admissions. Such involvement may include contact with the prospective resident or family member, or interdisciplinary conferences that consider psycho-social issues as well as medical/nursing criteria.

8.1.2 Social services staff shall provide for addressing needs of individuals or groups, either directly by staff or by referral to community agencies.

8.1.3 Social services staff shall assist residents and families in coping with the medical and psycho-social aspects of the resident's illness and disability and the stay in the facility.

8.1.4 Social services staff shall assist residents in planning, for discharge by coordinating service delivery with the nursing staff and by assessing availability and facilitating use of financial and social support services in the community.

8.1.5 When services, such as community mental health services, are available in the community to meet special residents' social and emotional needs, social services staff shall provide appropriate referrals to community services.

8.1.6 Social services staff shall coordinate transfers (other than medical transfers) within and out of the facility and assist residents in adjusting to intra-facility transfers.

8.1.7 Social services staff shall participate in resident assessment and care planning as prescribed by 5.2, 5.4, and 5.7, and shall provide social services to residents. Staff shall review and update the assessment and care plan at least every six months.

8.1.8 Social services staff shall record information on social history in the health record and review it at least annually.

8.1.9 Social services staff shall record progress notes in the resident's health record at least quarterly for the first six months that a resident is in a long-term care facility and at least semi-annually thereafter.

8.1.10 Social services staff shall participate in developing policies and procedures pertaining to social services in the facility.

8.1.11 Social services staff shall provide orientation to new residents and their families (including explanation of residents' rights) and assistance to residents and families in raising concerns about resident care.

8.2 STAFFING. The facility shall employ social services staff qualified as provided in Subsections 8.2.1 and 8.2.2 and sufficient in number to meet the social and emotional needs of the residents.

8.2.1 A qualified social work staff member of a public or private non-profit facility* is a person who is either:

- (1) A social worker licensed or authorized expressly by state law to practice under supervision of a licensed social worker; or
- (2) a person with a Master's or Bachelor's Degree in social work; or
- (3) a person with a Master's or Bachelor's Degree in a related human services field who has monthly consultation from a person meeting the qualifications in subsections 1, or 2. The consultation shall be sufficient in amount to assist the social work staff to meet resident needs.

8.2.2 A qualified social work staff member of a for-profit facility* is a person who is either a social worker licensed or authorized expressly by state law to practice under supervision of a licensed social worker or a person with a Master's or Bachelor's Degree in social work or other human services field who has monthly consultation from a person so licensed or authorized; the consultation shall be sufficient in amount to assist the social work staff to meet resident needs.

8.2.3 Any facility that on the effective date of these regulations employed a person with a high school degree or GED as social services staff may continue to employ that individual with prescribed consultation.

8.2.4 Any facility located in a rural area as defined by subsection 7.6.1 may apply for a waiver under Part 4 of chapter II of the qualifications for a social services staff member under this section if it demonstrates that it has made a good faith effort to hire staff with the required qualifications, but that qualified social services staff are unavailable in the area.

8.3 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT. The facility shall provide for social services staff suitable space, equipped with a telephone, for confidential interviews with residents and families. The space shall provide visual and auditory privacy and locked storage for confidential records and be accessible to non-ambulatory persons..