MISSISSIPPI

State Board of Mental Health

By 2013 statute, the State Board of Mental Health is required to develop a state plan to implement dementia training requirements. By regulations promulgated in 2014, the Mississippi Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementia Planning Council was created to advise and assist the Department of Mental Health in its statutory duty to develop a long range state plan for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Both the Department and the Council have responsibility to develop a plan that includes education and training of service providers, caregivers in the home setting and others who deal with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia, and development of adult day care, family respite care and counseling programs to assist families who maintain persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia in the home setting.

Dementia Care Units in Facilities (Nursing Homes and Personal Care Homes)

By regulation, all new employees in dementia care units must have an orientation. In addition, staff with direct contact with residents must receive in-service training at least quarterly. The regulation includes topics to be covered, but does not set specific minimum hours of training. Training topics must include: the nature of Alzheimer's disease, including the definition, the need for careful diagnosis, and knowledge of the stages of Alzheimer's disease; common behavioral problems and recommended behavior management techniques; communication skills that facilitate better resident-staff relations; positive therapeutic interventions and activities, such as exercise, sensory stimulation, activities of daily living skills, etc.; the role of the family in caring for residents with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the support needed by the family of these residents; environmental modifications to avoid problems and create a therapeutic environment; development of comprehensive and individual care plans and how to update and implement them consistently across shifts, establishing a baseline and concrete treatment goals and outcomes; and new developments in diagnosis and therapy.
**Medicaid Waiver**

Medicaid home and community-based services waiver with a limited number of slots covers services in assisted living facilities for residents that are Medicaid eligible. Facilities are reimbursed on a flat rate, per diem basis. In addition, there is a regulatory requirement that assisted living waiver providers provide certain staff training, including training in the care of residents with Alzheimer’s disease.