Alzheimer’s Disease Grant Program

Under this statute, Wisconsin awards a grant to a non-profit to collect and disseminate information on Alzheimer’s and advise the Department on Alzheimer’s public policy issues. It seems like the training this non-profit is expected to provide must have to do with Alzheimer’s, but it is unclear from the statute.

Nurses Aide Training

Wisconsin regulation requires 120 hours of training (no dementia-specific hours requirement) and testing for nurse aides. A minimum of five (5) test questions must be in the area of dementias. The regulation requires that the training include the needs of clients with Alzheimer’s disease and the nurse aides be able to demonstrate an understanding of seven (7) specific training goals. These include:

1. The nature of dementia, including the cause, course, symptoms of the impairment, and the effects that brain changes have on the person's moods, abilities and functioning.

2. The effects on the client of staff verbal and nonverbal communication with the client and means of modifying these communications and approaches to facilitate effective interaction between clients and staff.

3. The feeding and fluid intake problems associated with dementia and the specialized techniques for addressing those problems.

4. The effect of the environment on clients with dementia and the appropriate environmental stimuli to use with those clients to reduce stress and maximize normal functioning and how to incorporate strategies that preserve function and prevent excess disability.
5. Possible causes of dementia related symptomatic behavior changes, specifically focusing on understanding behavior as an attempt to communicate unmet needs and then how to address the unmet need including an understanding of how pain impacts behavior.

6. Ways to help the person with dementia continue meaningful involvement in his or her day, the importance of structure and routine and the incorporation of the person's life story and past interests, routines, tastes, values and background.

7. The stress involved for the client, family and nurse aide in caring for a client with dementia and techniques for coping with this stress and ways to address the person with dementia's core needs of having self-esteem boosted, being useful, giving and receiving love, and caring for self and others.

**Assisted Living Facilities**

Wisconsin regulates residential assisted living at three levels: community-based residential facilities; adult family homes; and residential care apartment complexes. While there are special licensure rules for residents with Alzheimer's in community-based residential facilities and adult family homes, dementia-specific training requirements only apply to community-based residential facilities. This training includes: recognizing, preventing, managing, and responding to challenging behaviors. Specific training topics shall include, as applicable: elopement, aggressive behaviors, destruction of property, suicide prevention, self-injurious behavior, resident supervision, and changes in condition. Challenging behaviors training must be completed within 90 days after starting employment. While 15 hours a year is required for continuing education, it is not dementia specific.

**Medicaid Waiver**

Wisconsin has a Medicaid waiver to cover the cost of services in a community-based residential facility.