



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Office of Aging and Adult Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nursing Facilities

FROM: Tara A. Leblanc *Tara A. Leblanc*
Interim Assistant Secretary

Cecile Castello, RN *Cecile Castello*
Director, Health Standards Section

DATE: April 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Incorporating CMS Hand in Hand Toolkit into Dementia Training Program

The Louisiana Dementia Partnership brought to our attention the challenges that nursing facility providers were experiencing relative to incorporating the CMS Hand in Hand Toolkit into their Dementia Training programs. We have reviewed the licensing regulations regarding dementia training and have determined that the initial dementia-specific training required within 90 days of employment must have curriculum approval. A memorandum to providers dated July 15, 2013 addressed the incorporation of four of the Hand in Hand modules into an existing and previously approved curriculum.

However, according to Title 48 Part 1 Subpart 3 Chapter 97 Subchapter B §9727 G (9) (b) the "Continuing education undertaken by the provider does not require the department's approval." Therefore, the CMS Hand in Hand Toolkit can be used without curriculum approval by the department or its designee for the annually required dementia training component.

The Louisiana State University School of Social Work is the current designee for curriculum approval for the initial required training. For information about the approval process, please contact Lilly Allen, PhD, MSW at 225-578-1325 or by email at pallen2@lsu.edu.

The CMS Hand in Hand Toolkit is a valuable resource and we strongly encourage its use. For more information on this toolkit, go to <http://cms-handinhandtoolkit.info/>.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Margaret Huguet at 225-342-2795 or Margaret.Huguet@LA.GOV.

cc: Lilly Allen, LSU School of Social Work