

July 18, 2004

To Indiana Health Facility Administrators and Directors of Nursing:

You recently received a brochure from the Alzheimer's Association announcing Alzheimer's and dementia specific training offerings for 2004. I am writing to encourage the participation of your facility in these training offerings. These courses are part of the Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH) two-year *Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Training Program*. The ISDH funded this program to assist health facilities in the implementation of a new ISDH rule and promote the development of quality training programs on dementia care. The courses being presented by the Alzheimer's Association are excellent courses and will provide health facility personnel with a better understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

On May 14, 2004, the ISDH adopted a rule requiring dementia specific training for all health facility staff with regular resident contact. Staff with regular resident contact must receive six hours of dementia specific training within six months of hire and three hours annually thereafter. For facilities with an Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Unit, staff assigned to those units must receive six hours of dementia specific training within 30 days of employment and three hours annually thereafter. The rule also specifies training requirements for the director of an Alzheimer's special care unit. The ISDH rule is currently completing the promulgation process and will likely become effective in September. Once the rule becomes effective, all health facility personnel must receive dementia care training as specified in the rule.

To assist health facilities in the implementation of the new rule, the ISDH collaborated with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana to develop an *Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Training Program*. The *Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Training Program* is a two-year program consisting of eight training courses ranging from a basic course on the fundamentals of dementia care to an advanced course on directing an Alzheimer's and dementia special care unit. Courses begin in late August 2004 to closely coincide with the effective date of the new ISDH rule. The first two courses will be presented in 2004 with the remaining six courses presented in 2005. Courses will be presented multiple times at various locations throughout Indiana. The brochure that you received from the Alzheimer's Association is the announcement of the first two courses in this program.

This two-year program will develop and provide dementia specific training courses at no cost to health facilities or participants. The program is funded by the ISDH civil money penalty (CMP) fund. The CMP fund is used to fund educational and training programs designed to reduce deficient practices in long term care facilities. The CMP fund is paying for the development of the courses, program coordination, training the trainers, administration costs of presenting the courses, course materials for participants, and presenter expenses. There are no registration fees for any of the courses in the program. The "fee" referred to in the Alzheimer's Association's brochure only covers the costs of food service for participants.

The initial courses to be offered this fall are *Fundamentals of Dementia Care for Health Facility Personnel* and *Directing an Alzheimer's / Dementia Care Unit*. In this initial round of courses, there will be space for approximately 1000 participants in the fundamentals course and approximately 325 participants in the director course. Obviously, there are not enough available spaces for facilities to send all of their staff. The ISDH hopes that each health facility will send key personnel to participate in the training courses. Those persons will then carry the information back to their facility and use it to create training programs for their entire facility staff. By the conclusion of the two-year program, the eight courses will be presented in a total of 52 sessions to approximately 1,865 health facility staff and 150 ISDH health survey staff.

The ISDH is very pleased to be working with the Alzheimer's Association in the development of this program. Because of their unique expertise in this subject matter, the ISDH requested the assistance of the Alzheimer's Association in developing the courses and administering the program. The effort has now become a truly collaborative effort with contributions and presenters from the Indiana Health Care Association (IHCA), Hoosier Owners and Providers for the Elderly (HOPE), and Indiana Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (IAHSA). The ISDH appreciates the efforts and contributions of all of these organizations and individuals in making this a quality educational program.

On behalf of the Indiana State Department of Health and the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana, I invite and encourage Indiana health facilities to participate in the *Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Training Program* courses. It is our hope that health facilities will participate in this program and participants will carry information back to the facilities and implement the best care practices suggested by the courses. Our senior citizens deserve the very best of care and our hope is that this program provides a forum for health care providers and experts to share ideas towards achieving the best of care for our senior citizens.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel welcome to contact me at
twhitson@isdh.in.gov or (317) 233-7022.

Cordially,

Terry Whitson
Assistant Commissioner
Health Care Regulatory Services
Indiana State Department of Health

FALL 2004 COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is the current schedule for the fall 2004 courses. On many dates there are multiple sessions running concurrently. Courses begin at 8:00 am and end at 4:00 pm.

Fundamentals of Dementia Care for Health Facility Personnel

August 24, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
September 8, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
September 21, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
September 28, Vincennes, Vincennes University
October 6, Fort Wayne, Hilton at the Grand Wayne
October 13, Hammond, The Center at Purdue University Calumet
October 20, Muncie, Ball State University
October 26, Fort Wayne, Hilton at the Grand Wayne
November 16, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
November 18, Lafayette, Purdue University Memorial Union
December 1, Columbus, Holiday Inn

Directing an Alzheimer's/Dementia Special Care Unit

August 25, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
September 9, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
September 29, Vincennes, Vincennes University
October 5, Indianapolis, Radisson at the Airport
October 7, Fort Wayne, Hilton at the Grand Wayne
October 19, Fort Wayne, Hilton at the Grand Wayne

2005 COURSES

In 2005, the following courses will be presented. Except as noted, each course will be presented twice at a variety of locations throughout Indiana. An announcement of dates and places for these courses will be sent in early 2005.

Fundamentals of Dementia Care for Health Facility Personnel (presented 6 times)

Directing an Alzheimer's or dementia special care unit (presented 3 times)

Problem Solving and Managing Behavior Issues in Dementia Care

Effective Communication in Dementia Care

Activities of Daily Living in Dementia Care

Physical Health and Safety in Dementia Care

Managing Daily Activities in Dementia Care

Strategies for Creating Better Care Environments in Dementia Care

For further information about courses and registration information, contact the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Indiana, 9135 N. Meridian Street, Suite B-4, Indianapolis, IN 46260; phone (317) 575-9620, ext. 24.