

173-14-13

**Continuing education requirements, approval of ~~clock~~-hours, certifying fulfillment.**

(A) Representatives of the office shall complete the following annual continuing education requirements:

- (1) Ombudsman associate: eighteen ~~clock~~-hours.
- (2) Ombudsman specialists: eighteen ~~clock~~-hours; ~~of which with~~ a minimum of nine ~~of those clock-hours shall be~~ earned through attendance at ~~state ombudsman-sponsored~~ SLTCO-sponsored education.
- (3) Ombudsman program directors: eighteen ~~clock~~-hours; ~~of which with~~ a minimum of nine ~~of those clock-hours shall be~~ earned through attendance at ~~state ombudsman-sponsored~~ SLTCO-sponsored education; ~~and with~~ at least one session ~~must include on~~ the training outlined in paragraph (C) of rule 173-14-07 of the Administrative Code. Topics of sessions may include, but are not limited to, supervision of staff, quality assurance practices, strategic planning, and interviewing, hiring, and retention of potential staff.

The required ~~clock~~-hours of continuing education shall be prorated for any representative of the office who has been certified for fewer than twelve months.

(B) The SLTCO ~~shall~~ may approve only those continuing education sessions ~~meeting that~~ meet the following requirements:

- (1) The individual(s) presenting the session has documented expertise in the content area.
- (2) The session transmits knowledge relevant to the duties of a long-term care ombudsman.
- (3) The session has not been held for the purpose of individual or group supervision.

(C)

- (1) The SLTCO ~~has discretion to assign credit for any continuing education session that is sponsored directly by the SLTCO and shall notify each representative of the credits that may be earned through attendance at~~ the an SLTCO-sponsored session in advance of before the date on which the session is scheduled and may assign credit for successfully completing the session.
- (2) Representatives or a program designee shall enter all requests for credit toward their continuing education requirements into the ~~electronic~~ ombudsman registry

or by email to the SLTCO or the SLTCO's designee before, or as soon as practicable after, actual attendance at the session.

All requests for continuing education credit shall contain the following:

- (a) The name of the session and the name of the entity that organized or sponsored the session.
- (b) A brief summary of the session's content.
- (c) The name of the presenters at the session and a statement addressing their expertise in the content of the session.
- (d) The length of the session, including the length of any time the representative spent presenting.
- (e) An explanation of how the session relates to the duties of the representative.
- (f) Proof of completion, if completed.

~~Requests for continuing education credits may be entered into the electronic ombudsman registry or sent by email before, or as soon as practicable after, actual attendance at the session. The SLTCO shall approve continuing education credits in terms of face-to-face contact clock hours or one-tenth parts of a clock hour earned. The SLTCO shall notify representatives of the approval or disapproval of their requests as soon as practicable.~~

~~No representative shall be precluded from meeting continuing education requirements with credits that were also counted toward the continuing education requirements of other professional organizations or boards.~~

- (3) The SLTCO shall approve continuing education credits in terms of face-to-face contact hours or one-tenth parts of an hour earned. The SLTCO shall notify representatives of the approval or disapproval of their requests as soon as practicable.
- (4) A representative may meet this rule's continuing education requirements with credits that were also counted toward the continuing education requirements of other professional organizations or boards.

(D)

- (1) The regional programs shall track the hours of continuing education accumulated by their volunteers and the SLTCO shall track the hours of continuing

education accumulated by the paid and volunteer staff of the state office. All continuing education shall be reported through the ~~electronic~~ ombudsman registry according to instructions provided by the state office.

- (2) By December first of each year, a state review shall be completed to ensure the continuing education requirements for each representative have been fulfilled. According to instructions provided by the state office, Regional regional programs shall enter records of volunteer continuing education into the ~~electronic~~ ombudsman registry by December fifteenth of each year and shall retain records on continuing education as long as the representative remains affiliated with the office. ~~All continuing education shall be reported through the electronic ombudsman registry according to instructions provided by the state office.~~ After records are entered into the ~~electronic system~~ registry, physical records may be destroyed.
- (E) If continuing education requirements cannot be fulfilled ~~within the given time frame~~ before each year's deadline, a representative may demonstrate extenuating circumstances or give an explanation to the ombudsman program director, for volunteers of that program, or to the SLTCO, for paid staff of the office and volunteers of the state office.
- (1) In the case of a regional program volunteer, if the explanation or extenuating circumstances are not acceptable to the ombudsman program director, the program director shall notify the SLTCO.
  - (2) In the case of a paid representative, if the explanation or extenuating circumstances are not acceptable to the SLTCO, the SLTCO shall notify the representative and program director or sponsoring agency director, as appropriate.
  - (3) The SLTCO may consider the performance of the representative and allow the representative to obtain the missing ~~clock~~ hours of continuing education by March thirty-first of the subsequent year. Any hours carried over from a previous year do not count toward the continuing education requirements of the subsequent year.
- (F) A representative of the office who does not meet the continuing education requirement annually, or within the extension period if approved based upon a demonstration of extenuating circumstances, shall be decertified according to rule 173-14-12 of the Administrative Code. The notice and hearing process for a paid representative ~~shall adhere to the requirements established in~~ is subject to rule 173-14-27 of the Administrative Code.

Effective:

Five Year Review (FYR) Dates: 11/16/2023

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Certification

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Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03

Statutory Authority: 121.07, 173.01, 173.02, 173.16, 173.21; 42 U.S.C. 3025, 3058g; 45 C.F.R. 1321.11, 1324.11, 1324.13, 1324.15

Rule Amplifies: 173.16, 173.21; 42 U.S.C. 3058g; 45 C.F.R. 1321.11, 1324.11

Prior Effective Dates: 07/11/1991, 12/27/2001, 12/28/2006, 01/02/2012, 05/01/2018, 01/28/2022