



COMMISSIONER
Jon Weizenbaum

October 4, 2013

To: Assisted Living Facilities

Subject: Provider Letter **13-42** – Assisted Living Facility (ALF) Accreditation Organization Pilot Program

House Bill 1971, 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, added Section 247.033 to the Health and Safety Code (HSC). This new section allows the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to implement a pilot program that uses accrediting organizations to fulfill the requirements of health and Life Safety Code (LSC) inspections for ALFs.

In response to this direction, DADS is examining the feasibility of initiating a pilot that will allow interested accrediting organizations to conduct health and LSC inspection activities for licensure in lieu of a DADS licensure survey and inspection. In accordance with the legislation, DADS will review the standards and inspection protocols of any interested accrediting organization to ensure that the organization's standards meet or exceed the minimum licensing standards. DADS will work with those organizations that have standards and inspection protocols to initiate a pilot program. The goal of this program is to have at least one ALF use a pilot accreditation inspection in lieu of a DADS health and LSC inspection and achieve licensure renewal on or before August 31, 2014. Throughout the duration of the study, DADS staff will be available to provide interpretations and guidance relating to the licensing standards, inspection requirements and programmatic updates. DADS staff will also accept feedback and comments.

In order to be considered for participation in the potential pilot, interested accrediting organizations must submit electronic copies of the standards and inspection protocols that the organizations propose to use in the pilot by November 8, 2013. Each submission must clearly illustrate how the proposed standards and protocols will result in an accreditation process that meets or exceeds the health surveys and LSC inspection activities currently conducted by DADS. The submissions must also clearly indicate that the organization could successfully accredit at least one ALF on or before August 31, 2014.

Accreditation standards may be submitted to Dotty Acosta, Program Specialist, at dotty.acosta@dads.state.tx.us. If you have questions about this pilot project you may contact Ms. Acosta in the Policy, Rules and Curriculum Development unit at (512) 438-3161.

Sincerely,

[signature on file]

Mary T. Henderson
Assistant Commissioner
Regulatory Services

MTH:cg

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