

## **Attachment A: Service Description**

**Habilitation Therapy** is a service to support consumers and caregivers to create and maintain a positive experience for a person experiencing the effects of a dementia related illness. The objective is to provide education and support to the caregiver and to provide suggestions to modify elements of the environment that may exacerbate the disabilities of the disease. Habilitation Therapists provide knowledge and expertise to caregivers (and the person with the disease when appropriate) in understanding the disease process and pitfalls to avoid, as well as techniques of communication, behavior management, structuring the environment, creating therapeutic activities, and planning for future care needs.

Providers of Habilitation Therapy must be certified in Habilitation Therapy by the Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts Chapter, and have a valid Massachusetts license for any of the following:

- Registered Nurse
  
- Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
  
- Licensed Certified Social Worker
  
- Licensed Social Worker

LCSWs must have one year of experience working with persons with a dementia related illness. LSWs must have two years of experience working with persons with a dementia related illness.

Four years experience working with persons with a dementia related illness may be substituted for the professional qualifications. **Emergency Shelter** services provide temporary overnight shelter for an elder (and his/her household) who is without a home due to eviction, fire, flood, other natural disaster, abuse, neglect, alcohol dependency, economic incapacity, or unsafe/substandard housing conditions, including lack of fuel and/or utilities.