



## GEORGIA DIVISION OF AGING SERVICES SERVICES MANUAL

<b>Chapter:</b>	7000	<b>Effective Date:</b>	12/15/2023
<b>Section Title:</b>	Requirements and Training for Dementia Care Specialists		
<b>Section Number:</b>	7104	<b>Previous Update:</b>	N/A

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) will maintain awareness of dementia trends, education, and research opportunities as well as attend trainings, webinars, or conferences to stay up to date on their own skills and knowledge.

### BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

Required Training for DCS:

DCS must:

- Complete the Division of Aging Services (DAS) DCS Orientation within the first twelve weeks of employment.
- Attend DAS Orientation the quarter following hire.
- Participate in eight one-on-one sessions with the DAS Dementia Team Lead or assigned mentor within the first four months of employment.
- Maintain updated knowledge about dementia, evidence-based programming, best practices in dementia care, and research participation opportunities.
- Attend informal and formal education opportunities.
- Pursue continuing education by participating in conferences, webinars, and training events.
- Attend regional and statewide program meetings as well as DCS specific training.

### Required Certification for DCS:

The DCS and AAA will decide which of the following programs best fit their community needs. The DCS should participate in at least two of these training courses. Other certifications may be applicable with prior authorization from the DAS Dementia Team Lead.

- Ageucate
- Certified Dementia Practitioner
- Crisis Prevention Institute-Dementia Capable Care Training
- The Eden Alternative
- Positive Approach to Care
- Rosalynn Carter Institute
- Virtual Dementia Tour
- EssentiALZ
- Other dementia training/certification (with prior authorization from DAS Dementia Team Lead)