

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS  
Director

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Lisa Sherych  
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,  
Ph.D., M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer

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April 3, 2023

Dear Health Facility Licensee,

Since early 2021, many health facilities have been providing approved cultural competency training (CCT). By providing this training to your agents/employees who provide care to patients/residents, these trained staff may better understand the patients/residents who have different cultural backgrounds. The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) is thankful and applauds these efforts.

DPBH has received overwhelming feedback regarding the current approval processes for CCT programs, indicating that the approval process is burdensome. In reviewing the current regulations ([LCB File No. R016-20](#)), DPBH has determined these regulations have created unintended challenges for the health facility industry. With this in mind, the CCT approval process regulations have been included on a list in response to the Governor's Executive Order #003, which requires state agencies (such as DPBH) to evaluate regulations that are overburdensome.

In addition to the need to further evaluate the current CCT regulations, there are two bills ([AB267](#) and [SB365](#)) being considered right now by the Nevada Legislature. If passed, these two bills may have significant impact on the CCT approval process, who is required to be trained, and the number of required training hours. Due to this pending legislation and the review of the current regulations, DPBH is putting a hold on the approval process of new CCT programs until after the 2023 legislative session ends.

DPBH is committed to reworking the CCT regulations to ensure they include input from health facility industry members. We know that by working together and listening to you, the CCT requirements can be improved to reduce unnecessary burden while meeting the intent to protect patients' rights. As such, we will engage with the health facility industry on the CCT requirements after the 2023 legislative session ends in June.

In the meantime, health facilities **must** continue to train staff in accordance with the current non-discrimination requirements ([NRS 449.101 – NRS 449.104](#)). However, since these statutes do not require training to be repeated, once the training is received from an approved program, it results in compliance with these laws. Facility inspection processes will check to see that training is being accomplished and complaints will continue to be investigated where noncompliance with these laws is alleged.

For facilities that choose to employ an approved third-party trainer, a list of such programs can be found at [dpbh.nv.gov/culturalcompetency](http://dpbh.nv.gov/culturalcompetency).

If you have any questions, e-mail us at [DPBHCulturalCompetencyTraining@health.nv.gov](mailto:DPBHCulturalCompetencyTraining@health.nv.gov)

Sincerely,



Cody L. Phinney, Deputy Administrator  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Regulatory and Planning Services