

Palliative Care Advisory Council

February 7, 2025 | 9:30-1:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Barbara Cass, Billy Nolan, ToniAnn Marchone, Joe Sacco, Jennifer Kapo, Karen Mulvihill.

Members absent: Tracy Wodatch, Kerry Moss, Jennifer Kapo,

Others present: Natalie Shurtleff, Wendy Jiang, Virginia Day, Nicole Neifeld.

Introduction

- Barbara Cass called the meeting to order at 9:34am
- Barbara Cass motioned to approve the December 2024 minutes, and ToniAnn seconded. The minutes passed without discussion.

Public Comment

- Wendy Jiang, a student at the Yale Law School, mentioned that law students are working on compiling a white paper related to pediatric palliative care, hoping to be released at the end of the month. She offered the team of law students as a resource, if the working group members could use their efforts.
- Barbara Cass indicated that a presentation on the scorecard could be useful for the group.

Appointment Updates

- Barbara gave an update on the current appointments, and noted that because of legislative session, legislators are not focused on appointing at the moment.

Legislative Updates

- Barbara spoke about a piece of proposed legislation raised regarding the adoption of the recommendations of the pediatric hospice working group.

Committee Updates

Sub-committee on Infusion Services

- Dr. Sacco shared that his group is working on building out a compounding pharmacy that can provide infusion services to inpatient facilities and patients of other programs that are community-based. He will give further updates as he gets more information.

Legislative Pediatric Hospice Workgroup

- Looking at why there are not more children on hospice and palliative care – there may be some care that is lost such as shift nurses, or the associations that come with hospice itself.

- The group has seen fewer families take advantage of hospice care, because hospice cannot be done at all levels of care in the hospital.

Long-Term Care Project

- Karen shared her vision to educate long-term care staff on palliative care and develop some sort of metric to know that these long-term care facilities are providing quality palliative care.
- Many facilities say that they provide quality care, but it is hard to measure whether these facilities know what palliative care is, and if they are actually providing it adequately to their patients.
- The group discussed residential care homes, and the need for education in these facilities. Group members mentioned the problem with turnover and stressed the importance of having palliative services in facilities that are serving huge aging populations.
- Jennifer Kapo shared work that her team is planning to pilot with SNF patients, regarding revisiting patients' goals of care virtually while they are in a SNF. She is hoping that the provider at the facility will facilitate the telehealth using smartphones.

General Discussion

- Barbara gave an update on the MOLST advisory council. The legislature eliminated the requirement for a witness signature on the MOLST, so the working group is revising the MOLST form and training to reflect the changes in the legislation. They are moving forward with a digital-first approach to the form.

Closing

- The meeting adjourned at 10:28am.