



Connecticut Advisory Council on Palliative Care

Minutes

October 9, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

CHA, Wallingford

Attendees: Karen Mulvihill, Danbury Hospital; Lori Griffin, DPH; Kim Hriceniak, DPH; Joseph Andrews, CT Hospice; Cynthia Roy, Regional Hospice; James Prota, CT Hospice; Barbara Morrison, Renee Manworren, CCMC; Patricia Trotta, HHCAH.

Public: Mag Morelli, Leading Age; Taryn Hamre, APRN CCMC; Amanda Sadlon, American Cancer Society; John King, Kelly and Spelleey; Kassie Kosteck; Joanne Kuntz, UCONN Health.

Absent: Diana Cameron, Tracy Wodatch, Collen Mulkerin, Wendy Furniss

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Co-Chair Karen Mulvihill.
- II. A motion was made by Karen Mulvihill to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2015 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Lori Griffin.
- III. **Announcements**
 - The hospital care consortium will start at CHA.
 - JACHO is putting out feelers for community certification for palliative care.
 - Joanne Kuntz was introduced as the UConn- Director of Palliative Care.
- IV. **Updates from the Work Groups:**
 - Pat Trotta provided an update noting they receive funds to provide education to nursing homes. Need to have a mechanism to identify what nursing homes have received education including content of what was discussed and there is a need to establish education standards across the continuum of care.
 - Renee Manworren identified a concern about excluding professionals and questioned whether fellowships are available.
 - There are 170 physicians certified in Connecticut in palliative care. What are they doing? Require use of a standardized program if you identify you provide palliative care.



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What is the standard and how can you ensure that it is being followed across the state and across all disciplines?

- The recommendations from the work groups will be firmed up by December 2015 and formalized in a report to be submitted in January 2016.
- Dr. Kuntz suggested reviewing an app for Vital Talk on I phone or Vital Talk .org.
- The three main topics identified by each work group included education, standards, and reimbursement. These areas will be the focus of discussion at the December meeting.
- Mag Morelli suggested tying palliative care to facilities marketing piece to ensure greater success. Through the DPH Advisory Committee have discussions on changing DSS rates for dementia and palliative care.
- Partner's for Health was discussed and the possibility of representation from the palliative care council.
- On November 19, 2015 the American Society is hosting Advancing Palliative Care in Connecticut; Resources, Best Practices and Policy from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p. m. at the Legislative Office Building, Hartford. This will be televised (taped) so it can be posted on the DPH website.
- Karen provided long term care group with Center for Improving Quality, a Guide for Long Term Care and Hospice. The document will be provided to group for review prior to the December meeting.
- Lori Griffin identified that one roadblock for education is the cost to providers. Without mandated education through legislation, many facilities do not provide the education to staff. Qualidigm may be able to initiate education, ie: goals for care and then evolve into a Train the Trainer format for all provider types. Nursing home owners and Administrators need to buy into palliative care to ensure success.

V. Reminders:

- There will not be a November meeting. The December meeting will be used to make any changes to the recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on December 11, 2015 at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford