



Connecticut Advisory Council on Palliative Care

Minutes

September 9, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT

Attendees: Colleen Mulkerin, Hartford Hospital; Karen Mulvihill, Danbury Hospital; Wendy Furniss, DPH; James Prota, CT Hospice; Diana Cameron, VNA Community Healthcare, Inc., Lori Griffin, DPH; Kim Hriceniak, DPH; Barbara Morrison, Patricia Trotta, Dr. Kerry Moss, CCMC, Regional Hospice; Dr. Joseph Andrews, Greenwich Hospital; call in: Cynthia Roy, Regional Hospice.

Public: Taryn Hamre, CCMC and Yale University; Michael Culhane, Connecticut Catholic Conference; Bryte Johnson, American Cancer Society; Tracy Wodatch, Home Care and Hospice Association.

Guest: Suzanne Blancaflor, DPH, MOLST Lead

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by chair Colleen Mulkerin.
- II. A motion was made by Barbara Morrison to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2016 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. James Andrews. The vote was unanimous.
- III. Suzanne Blancaflor from the DPH provided an update on the MOLST project. To date, 107 people are enrolled in the MOLST program with thirteen facility participants. The current pilot program will conclude in October 2017 and there is a Legislative proposal to expand the program State-wide. Suzanne answered questions from the CCouncil identifying frequent misconceptions, although people want to participate there is a failure to follow through, and challenges because conservators are not recognized in the MOLST Law. Wendy Furniss noted advanced directives are not always being honored and they should be intertwined with MOLST and Palliative Care.
- IV. Karen Mulhivill as Co-chair of the CHA End of Life Group provided information regarding their last meeting. There will be a suggestion to the Group and CHA Board of Trustees to explore changing the name which will be discussed at the September 26, 2016 meeting. Accomplishments to date include: validation of the importance of advance care planning, and increase knowledge base for all populations. A review of all advance care planning tools being utilized is being done to determine the best model for Connecticut. Through collaboration with CHA a website is being launched that will include MOLST and advance care planning. Tracy Wodatch noted that work is in progress to identify launch goals that will be completed by April 16, 2017, National Decision Day. Further, it was noted that on September 26, 2016 there will be an education program on end of life and palliative care from 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. at CHA.

- V. Wendy Furniss discussed Public Act 13-55 and the provisions that charged the Council to analyze the state of palliative care in Connecticut and to advise the Department of Public Health on the findings, which was accomplished with the 2015 report to the Commissioner and Legislature. The Public Act further identifies the Advisory Council will meet biannually and does not specify an end date to the Council. After discussion, the Council is recommending not to make any changes to the current Public Act language. Wendy further noted a report to the Legislature is required again in January 2017 and DPH will begin drafting.
- VI. There was a discussion about the Advisory Council members' tenure concluding on October 1, 2016. All members need to submit letters to be reappointed. The members present indicated they are all interested in staying on the Council. Wendy will check to see if appointment letters are at DPH. It was further noted that there are many people interested in being on the Council. It was noted that Taryn Hamre is interested in joining the Council. The members were asked to send an email to the Co-chairs with any suggestions for additions to the Council.
- VII. Bryte Johnson indicated there is a Personalized Medicine Forum hosted by The American Cancer Society on December 1, 2016. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Reminder: The next meeting will be held on November 4, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the LOB, Hartford.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.