

MOLST Advisory Council

June 4, 2024 | 9:30-10:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Amelia Breyre, Barbara Cass, Rebecca Henderson, Mary Horan, Cathy Ludlum, James McGaughey, Mag Morelli, Cynthia O’Sullivan, Carl Schiessl, Scott Sussman, Tracy Wodatch

Members absent: Matt Barrett, Kadesha Collins, Judge Darby, Barbara Jacobs, Richard Kamin, Sherry Ng, Yuliya Riat, John Spencer, Gary Wiemokly

DPH: Melia Allan, Dante Costa, Sunny Light

Introduction

- Barbara called the meeting to order at 9:34am.
- Approval of May 7 minutes
 - Carl motioned to approve the minutes; Scott seconded the motion.
 - The minutes were approved by all members without revisions.

Public Comment

- Dante introduced Sunny Light, MPH, DPH legal intern.

Policies and Procedures Revision Discussion

- The policies and procedures need to be revised to reflect the changes on the MOLST form
 - The group will discuss today, then DPH will circulate a written version for more feedback after this meeting.
- Dante mentioned that statute does require training – Sec. 19a-580h(c)(4) details what training needs to include, but we can discuss anything we want to build into the P&Ps to make the training more accessible to providers.

Discussion of an Electronic MOLST

- Cynthia expressed that the group is mostly positive about having an option for an electronic form.
 - Any time the MOLST is in any way touched, a date should be included.
- Cathy emphasized that if the MOLST is electronic, it still needs to be filled out on the computer in the doctor’s office – it has to be a conversation between patient and provider. Members agreed.
- Mag brought up that the options for an electronic form could make the MOLST to change, which could be easier, Amelia echoed the accessibility and portability of an electronic form.
- Members flagged that dates should be prominently displayed, so that the most recent version is the form that is in use.

- Carl asked about the revision process for medical orders – is a MOLST revised, or revoked and re-issued?
- Scott advocated for a “digital-first” approach to the form.
 - He referenced a personal experience he had with electronic forms that used a QR code to let users verify that their form is the most updated version, this could be potentially applied to a MOLST.
 - Several members liked the idea of the digital format with a QR code, that way individuals who wish to print and display it have that option.
 - Having a QR code would require a digital registry, which Connecticut does not currently have in place.
- There was consensus that the policies and procedures do not need to require the use of a green form posted on the refrigerator.
 - James brought up accessibility concerns for people who are not as computer literate, and members should keep this in mind – perhaps providers should be ready to print the form so these individuals can take it home to their families.
- Mary expressed that the form needs to be digital first, with a printout – this is consistent with how healthcare practitioners fill out other patient forms.
- James and Cathy brought up adding instructions for how to update/revoke a MOLST, since the form must be updated through a provider conversation.

Discussion of Telehealth and MOLST

- Rebecca brought up telehealth as a consideration.
- Scott and Amelia expressed support for a digital signature option in telehealth cases, because a lot of times these patient/provider discussions would not be able to happen without telehealth
- Tracy commented in support of a telehealth option, especially for home health and hospice patients who are homebound and have the ability to electronically sign.
- The policies and procedures do not need to describe the details of how a telehealth MOLST is signed, but this is something that could go in an FAQ, especially since MOLST is two-way: the patient needs to have the capacity to e-sign a form in order to do telehealth.
- Carl commented in support of a paper form option, as not everyone has access to electronic devices.

EMS Access

- Dante asked about EMT access to the form – with paper forms, they can see it on the fridge, but if it’s digital, they could not see it.
 - Amelia expressed that it would be really difficult for EMTs to get a physician on the line to access a digital MOLST.
 - Barbara and Dante will speak with Dr. Breyer and Dr. Kamin to get more information.

Closing

- Amelia brought up connecting with Abby Dotson on her work with state registries; Cathy flagged that if the group invites Abby to the MOLST meeting, they may want to meet later in the day due to the differing time zones.

- Barbara summarized the meeting discussion and indicated that the group will pick up with the discussion of training and a registry at the next month's meeting.
- Barbara called for a motion to close the meeting
 - Tracy motioned and Carl seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:30am.