

MOLST Advisory Committee

February 6, 2024 | 9:30-10:30

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Amelia Breyre, Barbara Cass, Judge Michael Darby, Rebecca Gagne Henderson, Mary Horan, Barbara Jacobs, Richard Kamin, Cathy Ludlum, Jim McGaughey, Mag Morelli, Sherry Ng, Cynthia O’Sullivan, Carl Schiessl, John Spencer, Scott Sussman, Johnathan Weber, Tracy Wodatch

Introductions

- Barbara Cass took roll call, welcomed members

MOLST Form Discussion

- Once the group finalizes the form, it will be sent to the Commissioner for review and next steps
- Discussion point – when will the group disseminate this form
- Barbara Jacobs flagged a portion of the instructions that indicated sections not completed would be marked as full treatment. This is inconsistent, and it may be worth adding “not discussed”
 - Members did not like the idea of full treatment for sections that lack information – members plan to delete
 - There were questions about completion which may pose legal problems
 - Members brought up that at times patients might defer, implying that the conversation was started but a decision was not reached
- Several members brought up that the form needs to be fully completed in order for it to be a legal order
- Amelia Breyre added to the chat: “Any incomplete section of POLST creates no presumption about patient's preferences for treatment. Provide standard of care.”
 - Several members approved of this language
- Barbara Jacobs summarized the discussion of the sentence regarding incomplete sections as a discussion between marking blanks as “deferred” versus “undecided”
- Discussion of the “goals of treatment” section
 - Intubation and mechanical ventilation should be listed next to one another
 - Cathy Ludlum offered revisions to the “selective treatments” descriptions in the yellow box
- The group discussed the inclusion of vasopressors on the form and how patients may benefit from this – discussion identified varying positions as to the value of including this option

Closing Remarks

- Barbara Cass asked the group to send final comments on the MOLST form to Barbara Jacobs to wrap up the discussion during next month’s meeting

- Barbara Jacobs will revise the form with the items that the group agreed on, and circulate this to the group
- The following meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, from 9:30-10:30
- The meeting adjourned at 10:38am