**Palliative Care Advisory Council**

**November 1, 2024 | 9:30-10:30am**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Barbara Cass, Karen Mulbihill, Tracy Wodatch, Mag Morelli, Melanie Cama, Joseph Sacco, Nicolel Neifeld, Teryn J Hamre, Ross Albert.

**Members Absent:** ToniAnn Marchone, Kerry M. Moss, Jennifer Kapo.

**DPH:** Melia Allan, Meghan Doyle.

**Introduction**

* Karen Mulvihill called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.
* Tracy motioned to approve the September 6 minutes, and Barbara seconded. The minutes passed without discussion.

**Presentation by DPH Legal Office: Public Meeting Requirements**

* Meghan Doyle, staff attorney at the DPH office of legal services presented on the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, and the public meeting rules that relate to the Council.

**Continued discussion: recommendations for chaplain appointment**

* Karen reached out to a potential chaplain from the Northwest, but they were not able to serve. If members have recommendations for the chaplain appointment from somewhere unrepresented in the state, reach out to Karen.

**Committee Updates**

*Open Seats*

* Natalie Shurtleff felt that in her new role, she could not continue to serve on the Council, so Karen recommended appointing Nicole Neifeld. Nicole introduced herself to the group, and shared her background and interest in public health and her work with the Cancer Action Network. The council cannot directly make appointments, but they can recommend appointees to the legislature.

*Sub-committee Pediatric palliative care*

* ToniAnn provided an update to Karen: the subgroup is working in subgroups to focus on specific challenges and barriers
* There is a lot of movement on pediatric palliative care, and the group needs to mobilize these efforts.

*Infusion services*

* The infusion services group has found the barriers to infusion services difficult, but they will meet again to discuss any potential places to fill gaps.
* Joe Sacco mentioned that his organization did infusions in the past, and now the requirements are much stricter.
  + They have a firm plan in place to resume infusion services and are currently in the bidding process to contract out for infusion services in the future.
* The group discussed using Macy Catheters as a way to help patients with managing pain with opioids.
  + This is something the group is hoping to include in their 2025 report.
* Ross Albert emphasized that highly functional people that may require IV medicines are a population that will not be served by having access to a Macy Catheter.
* Karen asked if Billy Nolan could look into the pharmacological side of a Macy Catheter, specifically if there are specific medications that may not be appropriate for that delivery method.

**General Discussion**

* Tracy flagged that there are a couple of new hospices in the state – Affinity Hospice got licensed earlier in the year, out of Hamden, and Gentiva Hospice, which is partly owned by Humana and partly private equity, opened up an office in Branford.

**Closing**

* Tracy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:20am. The next meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2024.