

Palliative Care Advisory Council

September 6, 2024 | 9:30am-10:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Barbara Cass, Virginia Day, Taryn J Hamre, Jennifer Kapo, ToniAnn Marchone, Karen Mulvihill, Tracy Wodatch.

Others present: Mary Kate Eaniello, Joe Mooney.

DPH: Melia Allan.

Introduction

- Karen called the meeting to order at 9:33am.
- Tracy motioned to approve the minutes from August; the minutes passed without discussion.

Chaplain Appointment Discussion

- Tracy did not have a current recommendation for a chaplain from the northeast of the state; Karen will reach out to her contact to find a member representing the northwest of the state.
- Group members would like to have the chaplain represent an area of the state that is not currently represented.
- Karen will reach out to members who spoke about having additional contacts if she is not able to secure a chaplain appointment through her contact.

General Discussion

- Karen asked for an update on the appointment letters for members appointed by the Governor and legislature; Barbara communicated that DPH will be doing additional outreach to get these appointment letters completed, especially since legislators will be gearing up for the 2025 session after the elections.

Committee Updates

Pediatric Palliative Care

- The pediatric coalition is still working on their National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) needs assessment survey.
- The coalition is also working on creating a strategic plan which is going to look at workforce development, raising awareness, and advocacy.
- The members of the coalition will update the Palliative Care Advisory Council whenever they meet, so the whole community can be aware of current issues and progress.

Infusion Services

- Karen did not have any updates on infusion services.

- Tracy shared that some appointment letters went out for the pediatric hospice and palliative care legislative task force, pursuant to PA 24-19 (Formerly SB 1).
- One of the providers in the CT Association for Healthcare at Home is going to be able to offer CAD pumps through their pharmacy.
- Connecticut Hospice will not be doing infusions for children, due to a bad experience with litigation. They are planning a sizable expansion in their pharmacy and the ability to offer infusion services at an inpatient facility in Branford, as well as for adult home care populations.

General Discussion

- Karen asked the group if there were other discussion points to bring up related to legislative issues to watch in the coming session.
- Tracy shared that death with dignity will likely be a discussion during session.
 - The group will likely remain neutral, as it is a polarizing issue; it is important for the group to stay focused on their charge. Individuals can still submit testimony on their own behalf, separately from the council on this issue.

Closing

- The next meeting is scheduled for October 4, but Karen is away – the group agreed to cancel their October meeting and meet on November 1.
- Taryn motioned to end the meeting and Tracy seconded; the meeting adjourned at 10:00.