

MOLST Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 | 9:30-10:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Barbara Cass, Nick Patino, Rebecca Henderson, Carl Schiessl, John Spencer, Cathy Ludlum, Samantha Shapiro, Barbara Jacobs, Scott Sussman, Mary Horan, James McGaughey, Cynthia O'Sullivan.

Members absent: Matt Barrett, Amelia Breyre, Judge Darby, Richard Kamin, Mag Morelli, Sherry Ng, Tracy Wodatch.

Introduction

- Barbara Cass called the meeting to order at 9:35am and welcomed everyone.
- Carl motioned to approve the February 4 minutes; Scott Sussman seconded. The minutes passed without discussion.

Policy and procedure revision update

- Dante Costa updated the group on the state of the policies and procedures, letting everyone know that she made the changes discussed at last meeting, and saying that the P&P are on track for a June rollout, side by side with an updated training.

Update on training sub-committee

- Barbara Jacobs updated the members on the subcommittee's creation of a new MOLST Overview slide deck. The group will be revising the slides designed for everyone, and creating more tailored slides for other populations, including the public, eligible providers, and EMS providers.
- Barbara Jacobs brought up a point for the training subgroup about patients who may leave the hospital with both a DNR and a MOLST.
- Cathy shared the purpose of her video is to clarify the difference between living with a condition that is severe and progressive, and dying, because that is not necessarily the same thing. She also spoke about the language chronic progressive frailty, indicating that the language may sound complex for members of the public, but it was selected intentionally to keep MOLST as an option for people who are really at the end of life.

Update on revised FAQ's

- Barbara Cass suggested the group put a pin in the FAQs until the P&Ps and the training are complete. Barbara also flagged that other states have FAQs specific to different audiences, such as providers, EMTs, etc.

Discussion: Best practices on getting facilities engaged with MOLST

- Barbara Cass shared that she went to the Connecticut Medical Directors Association last fall, and they were interested in MOLST. Barbara is interested in getting SNFs more involved in MOLST and helping them better understand what it means. In the medical community, there is often confusion between MOLST and other directives. Barbara asked the group if they had seen this gap in understanding in their own experiences.
- Rebecca Henderson clarified that tonight she is providing education, not training, at a SNF. The education is intended to make people more comfortable talking about dying, and disease processes.
- Barbara Jacobs shared that there are lots of groups that MOLST can connect with, and that there is a need for more “MOLST Champions” to do the training for MOLST in the communities.
- Nick echoed that a medical directors association may be a good place to start, but there is definitely confusion among all medical professionals who may not be well versed in palliative or end of life care.
- Samantha Shapiro echoed that she has noticed a lack of knowledge of MOLST in the medical community in the state. Community outreach is really important, but clinicians also need to know what these forms are, where to find them, how to have these conversations and fill them out.
- Scott recommended a multi-pronged approach in education for MOLST. He suggested that there could be something done at the state level, perhaps around license renewal.
- Barbara Cass recommended connecting with the State Medical Society. She also brought up the idea of speaking about MOLST at the academic level, to medical residents.
- The group continued discussing end-of-life trainings among providers and students, including MOLST and advanced directives.
- Members discussed the pros and cons of educating specialist providers on end-of-life conversations that may not work with MOLST-eligible patients.

Closing

- Barbara recommended that members reach out to the professional organizations that they are connected to, to get reactions about incorporating MOLST training/becoming a MOLST certified provider into licensure requirements.
- Carl Schiessl motioned to adjourn the meeting; Scott Sussman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.