

Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council

April 17, 2020

10:00 AM -12:00 PM

Conference Call

Members in Attendance: Elizabeth Keene, Lauren Michalakes, Greg Burns, Terry Baker, Kirsten Skorpen, Kevin Lewis, Pam Brown, Vanessa Little, Steve D’Amato, Sara Morrill,

Convening member: Kandyce Powell

Guests: Melanie Feinberg, Hilary Schneider

Community and Provider Members: Brianne Genschel, Dr. Julian Kuffler

Time	Topic	Discussion	Action Items/Outcome
10:00-10:05	Welcome and Introductions		Roll call, check in recorded
10:05-10:30	COVID-19 reflections from participants	Participants shared work within their organizations and communities to prepare for surge in cases. There has rapid implementation of telehealth, including virtual visits across the state. There were concerns voiced about impact of stress on caregivers and clinicians. Isolation imparted by sheltering in place	Information shared and provided

		<p>likely to have negative impact on mental health.</p> <p>Melanie provided an update regarding the Comprehensive Cancer Plan being created by the Maine Impact Cancer Network, as contracted and overseen by the CDC. COVID has had an impact on scheduled meetings and progress.</p> <p>Public and internal reviews will take place. Overall timeline has been pushed out 6 months. Final plan to be released July 1, 2021. Melanie will keep us informed and reach out to us with questions and further updates.</p>	
10:30-10:35	<p>1. Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Confirmed 2019 Appointments b. Resignations c. Nominations 	<p>Hilary reported that although all members have been recruited and are now participants, there are still steps that needed to formalize appointments and reappointments</p>	<p>Information shared</p>
10:35-11:10	<p>Statewide Palliative Care Conference Update</p>	<p>Lauren and Kandyce reported on results of conversations with MDI, who have expressed interest in both hosting the event and providing significant co-sponsorship support. Tentative date discussed with possible vendor April 17, 2021.</p>	<p>Information was shared, and discussion followed.</p> <p>Planning committee meeting to convene next week. Lauren will coordinate MDI meeting with Advisory Council with</p>

		<p>COVID pandemic has had significant impact on overall planning. It is unclear whether planning for an on-site event, including both community and provider/clinician audiences, will be realistic. Email exchanges with the Maine Cancer Foundation, have suggested that they are in the process of re-evaluating their priorities for funding, given the significant burdens imposed on cancer patients and their families by COVID-19.</p> <p>The options for moving forward were discussed. Perhaps the face-to-face event in April 2021 is not practical at this time. Technology-based options were discussed. The challenges are not wanting to lose ground and miss an opportunity to educate and promote palliative care, versus ensuring that a technology-based or streaming event could realistically convey both essence and elements of palliative care.</p> <p>To maximize efficiencies communication of planning process, it was decided to plan for a planning meeting next week, comprised of all Advisory Council members who would like to be involved, as well as members from MDI.</p>	<p>Kandyce to coordinate conference call.</p>
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		Kandyce will continue to work on preparing grant application to the Maine Cancer Foundation, as well as await feedback and further conversation with Aysha Sheikh of MCF.	
11:10-11:25	Maine Rural Based Palliative Care Initiative	<p>Kandyce submitted LOI to MEHAF regarding a planning grant, on behalf of the Advisory Council to undertake Rural Palliative Care Initiative. She was happy to report that we have been invited to submit a formal application. However, due to COVID-19 overall timeline has been delayed. Right now there is no definite deadline for application submission.</p> <p>This is exciting news. Hopefully this will be something the entire Advisory Council can contribute to. We have identified that Maine is most rural state in the country, and suffers from widespread lack of access to palliative care, outside of more populated and urbanized areas</p>	Information shared. Kandyce will keep us updated regarding next steps.
11:25-11:40	LD 1950: Outcome of work session	Lauren, Jim and Kandyce attended the work session with HHS Committee in Augusta on March 3. Jim and Lauren provided information and testimony regarding the barriers to reimbursement for palliative care services, not just in Maine, but throughout the country. Although some states have certainly	<p>Information shared. More to follow over next couple months</p> <p>Hilary will track down notes from work session if available.</p>

		<p>taken some steps forward. The issues explored include that palliative care needs to be reimbursed in the way it should be optimally delivered, which is within a community-based interdisciplinary team, and the fact that compensation needs to be attached to all disciplines, not just MD/NP. A “bundled” payment model, similar to the Hospice Benefit might be ideal. Certainly a barrier to that is the fact that palliative care is not delivered that way today in Maine. However, if adequate reimbursement is created, more appropriate models would certainly follow.</p> <p>The HHS committee suggested that perhaps a work group be formed, to work with HHS and the CDC to explore and research what this might look like in Maine. After more discussion it was suggested that the Advisory Council could certainly fill this role.</p> <p>It was decided that HHS Committee would compose “a letter” stating that they would like the Advisory Council to explore the concept of reimbursement for palliative care, drawing on their expertise and the experience of other states, and report back to HHS by January</p>	<p>Lauren offered to follow up with committee chairs to thank them for this opportunity and plan next steps.</p>
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11:40-11:45	Other items, next meeting	<p>No new topics for discussion</p> <p>Next meeting is July 24, 2020 at the Authors’ Room at the Maine State Library from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Will plan on in-person meeting, although this may not be feasible. We will continue to assess. Zoom might be more acceptable than just phone</p>	Next meeting