

Maine State Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Council

Minutes – April 30, 2021

9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Attendance:

Council members: Elizabeth Keene, Lauren Michalakes, Greg Burns, Pam Brown, Kevin Lewis, Terri Baker, Steve D’Amato, Kirsten Skorpen, Suzanne Carmichael, Vanessa Little

Convening Member: Kandyce Powell

Absent: Myra Ross, Sarah Morrill

Community Members: Melanie Feinberg, Becca Hutchinson, Maura Goss, Stacey Grass, Amy Litterini, Al May

Time	Topic	Discussion	Action Items/Outcome
9:00-9:30	Welcome and Membership review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome guests</li><li>• Welcome new council members<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Suzanne Carmichael will be representing those over the age of 55, is a volunteer with AARP</li><li>○ Becca Hutchinson is candidate to replace Jim VanKirk. Kandyce will follow up.</li></ul></li><li>• Leadership for the council – Both Lauren and Elizabeth will be transitioning out of their leadership roles. There is not formal organizational succession plan. It was discussed that it might be helpful for a one-time leadership committee meet to create a process for ongoing leadership and transitions as needed and</li></ul>	We will organize a small committee to talk about leadership succession

		necessary for continued growth and sustainable energy. Vanessa volunteered to serve on this committee. A huge barrier for sustainable leadership is lack of administrative support. Elizabeth provides much of organization and communication support. Lauren also provides support of minutes. Kandyce reports that she will seek Grant funding for administrative support soon.	
9:30-10:30	Letter to HHS: Legislative Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legislative bill : status of bill reviewed. Following several discussions with HHS Committee and at Work session, LD 1064 was voted unanimously to pass, now will go to Senate. Margaret was unable to be present today, but we are extremely grateful for her support and leadership</li> </ul>	Kandyce and Margaret will keep us updated as to next steps and how we can be helpful
10:30-10:45	Break		
10:45-11:45	Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal legislation and policy updates: PCHETA will need to be reintroduced. Hopefully with awareness and support from previous session, this will be picked up and passed this time.</li> <li>Serious Illness Conversation webinar: Jane Conrad, in new role as Ambassador to SICP, moderated a national Webinar regarding advocacy for palliative care. Jane was not present today, but Lauren participated in the webinar, and gave an overview. Great job, Jane!</li> <li>Grant opportunities: Kandyce submitted formal application to MeHAF SIIRG. This is a planning grant that will organize thoughts and efforts for formal grant to support a rural initiative to improve awareness and</li> </ul>	<p>Information shared with conversation.</p> <p>Kandyce will organize a conference call for those interested in conference planning.</p>

		<p>access to palliative care. This is a fabulous effort. Thank you, Kandyce. We hope to hear in June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Palliative Care Market Survey; Kandyce and others have been in contact with Cordt Kassner of Hospice Analytics. This is who completed our initial survey in 2016. Cordt shared the report that he has completed on his home-state of California, and we are reviewing the particular questions to see if there is anything different that we think would be appropriate for Maine. We discussed programmatic issues such as billing for ACP, use of ACP codes. Lauren shared article from current Health Affairs regarding low rates of these codes nationally</li> <li>• State palliative care conference: Kandyce is in ongoing discussions with funders and partners for a possible event in Fall 2022 with focus on Oncology. She has speakers lined up, and it is time to reorganize a work group to assist in planning.</li> <li>• Council goals: Reviewed council goals for education and rural access. Suzanne and Melanie offered to serve on a subcommittee for education.</li> </ul>	
11:45	Other Business Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Al May mentioned that the state plan for dementia is being updated and palliative care will certainly be included in the new version.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Next meeting: July 23, 2021</p>	