

Palliative Care & Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2024

Present: Pam Brown, Beth Collins, Amy Angelo, Greg Burns, Terry Lecasse, Jane Conrad, Kandyce Powell, Lissa Rockwood

Guests: Becky Pearce, Professor Alicia Murray, Heather Pelletier DHHS, Husson student Thomas Johns, Julie MacDonald, Kathryn Randall

Time	Topic	Discussion	Action Items/Outcome
9:30-9:45AM	Welcome & Introductions	Members and guests introduced themselves.	
9:45-10:00AM	Membership Updates / Board Positions	Since Lauren Michalakes stepped down as Chair, we are seeking a new Chairperson. One impediment is that there are several nominees whose nominations/appointments by the Governor are pending.	Julie MacDonald will continue to advocate for action on our pending nominations.
10:00-10:45AM	Maine Care Palliative Care State Contract & NASHP	<p>Kandyce provided an overview of the passage of the MaineCare Palliative Care Benefit, LD1064, and the fact that Maine was chosen to work with the National Academy of State Health Policy (NASHP) on implementation of this benefit.</p> <p>She also reported that the State of Maine has contracted with this Council (through the Hospice Council) to disseminate the messaging and public education regarding this new benefit.</p>	

		<p>Dr. Beth Collins and Prof. Alicia Murray will serve as Program Managers for the palliative care messaging and education contract.</p>	
		<p>Heather Pelletier of the Office of Aging and Disability Services MaineCare office presented about the palliative care benefit, currently in development. [insert link to her power point slides here or say that they are attached]</p> <p>Maine’s palliative care benefit model will be a bundled model in which the care management team applies for reimbursement as a team. MaineCare members will still be able to receive all other healthcare services they need as an add on service.</p> <p>The model in development is team-based and person-centered, to support those with serious illnesses who are eligible.</p> <p>The education and messaging program will have a broad scope – educational materials, presentations, and discussion at the March 2025 conference. The goal is for providers and the public to understand the benefits of palliative care, provide support to those who need it, and avoid crises.</p>	<p>Council members indicated an interest to set as an advocacy goal to promote legislation requiring insurance providers to reimburse for team-based palliative care (not only physicians and advanced care providers).</p> <p>It was also noted that Torrie Fields could address this issue of payors and coverage for palliative care at the upcoming conference</p> <p>We should consider how we might use the VA’s program as a successful example of the team-based palliative care model in Maine.</p>

		<p>The MaineCare benefit is one step toward reforming reimbursement for palliative care.</p> <p>The group noted that some private insurers and Medicare do not reimburse for care by all palliative care team members.</p> <p>Pam Brown noted that the Veteran’s Administration, where she works has an effective team-based model that has grown from 90 patients to 300. Her experience with the VA program demonstrates how effective team-based care is, how much anguish it saves the patient & family, and likely saves money since patients are tailoring their care to their preferences. Amy Angelo noted that PACE programs also provide examples of successful team-based models.</p> <p>It was noted that palliative care programs are not uniform in the state, creating comparison challenges.</p>	
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10:45-11:00AM	Break and Networking		
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11:00-11:30AM	Maine Cancer Plan Discussion	Becky Pearce presented the draft Cancer Action Plan. [link or attach here] This is being expanded from a 5 year plan to a 10 year plan. Some members present recalled when this group provided input on the last plan. Kandyce Powell has been a member of the team developing this plan.	The group would like to hold a special Zoom meeting to discuss the Cancer Action Plan.
11:30-11:45AM	Palliative Care Conference Update	The group reviewed the draft agenda for the conference and indicated approval	Further details and titles for break-out sessions will be discussed at the next conference planning session.
11:45AM-12:00PM	Closing Comments and Adjourn		Next Meeting December 13th