

Palliative Care Advisory Council
December 6, 2024, | 9:30-10:30am

Members present: Karen Mulvihill (Chair), Kerry Moss, Taryn Hamre, William Nolan, Jennifer Kapo, Nicole Neifeld, ToniAnne Marchione, Joseph Sacco and Tracy Wodatch.

Members absent: Jennifer Camo

Introduction

The Chair, Karen Mulvihill called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M.

Approval of November 1, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Tracy Wodatch made a motion to approve the November 1, 2024, Minutes with corrections to spelling errors in the member attendance. Dr. Sacco seconded.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Continued discussion: recommendations for chaplain appointment

Karen provided an overview of the CV's we have on file for the 2 recommendations. Both candidates have comprehensive experience and would bring value to the advisory council. Tracy Wodatch discussed Charles Williams' experience, which includes work in the northeast part of the state and his work with justice involved individuals. Tracy further described how his experience will bring perspective to the group that we currently do not have. Dr. Kapo described the work that Yale is currently doing with the Department of Corrections. She suggested we add this to future agendas for discussion and how we can address the barriers and challenges with access to care for this population.

Committee Updates

Legislative Pediatric Hospice Workgroup

Dr. Moss provided updates to the pediatric hospice workgroup which included a presentation by the MA Pediatric Palliative Care Network. Dr Moss indicated it cost 2 million dollars to initiate the program, and it is now requiring 10 million dollars to sustain the program. Dr. Moss indicated the MA Department of Public Health has a role in administering the program. Tracy Wodatch indicated she will make an email introduction for Barbara Cass for further information.

Dr. Moss further identified the workgroup is in the investigative phase and will continue to work on the issue

Karen Mulvihill introduced Eugene Rusyn to Dr. Ross and the council, who is a research data scientist from Yale and may be able to support the work the council is doing with data.

Eugene Rusyn described the work his team is doing and their ability to support the council with data. He further indicated that his team is very interested in pediatric palliative care. Dr Moss and Eugene

Rusyn will connect soon. Mr. Rusyn indicated his team is planning a conference in the Spring or Fall of 2025 and will keep the council apprised.

Infusion Services

Karen Mulvihill described the challenges with infusion services and concerns that have been raised with CAD pumps and fear of diversion. Karen suggested to the group a meeting with drug control to better understand any regulatory barriers that there may be. Barabara Cass will make an email introduction to Drug Control Director Rodrick Marriott for an invitation to speak to the group in 2025.

William Nolan spoke about Macy catheters and their utility in hospice and palliative care. Mr. Nolan indicated the Macy catheter website has a very useful resource guide that may be helpful for providers.

Discussion on Final Report

Chair Karen Mulvihill indicated the report has been formatted and the data has been updated. Ms. Mulvihill also indicated the most recent capc report/data specific to Connecticut should be added to the report. Barbara Cass indicated the report will be appended to reflect the request and it will be sent to the Commissioner for her review.

General Discussion: 2024 Report recommendation and next steps-call to action

Chair Karen Mulvihill summarized the recommendations from the report that will be submitted and suggested we focus in the new year on ways, to the extent possible in acting on them. For example, council members are associated with professional organizations and members should reach out to the associations to support future training opportunities.

Vote on 2025 meeting schedule

After discussion regarding the 2025 meeting schedule, Karen Mulvihill made a motion for the 2025 meeting schedule as follows: the first Friday of each month from 11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.. It was determined the meetings for be virtual with consideration for 2 hybrids, an in-person meeting/virtual in the spring and fall which will be determined. Tracy Wodatch indicated she could arrange for a physical space when an in-person meeting date is decided and seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken in favor of the motion with all members voting yes, no abstentions or declinations. The motion was passed affirmatively.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.