

Palliative Care Advisory Council

March 7, 2025 | 9:30-1:30am

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Karen Mulvihill, Barbara Cass, Virginia Day, Taryn J Hamre, Chuck Williams, Nikki Neifeld, Tracy Wodatch.

Members absent: Jennifer Kapo, Kerry Moss, ToniAnn Marchone.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34AM by the Chair, Karen Mulvahill.

Karen Mulvahill introduced Charles Williams as a new member to the Council. Mr. Williams described his experiences working with individuals who are at the end of their life in both the correctional setting and the community setting and how important the work is.

Karen Mulvahill asked for a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Tracy Wodatch made a motion and Barbara Cass seconded. The minutes were approved without any corrections.

Wendy Jiang from the Yale School of Law discussed the white paper regarding access to pediatric hospice and palliative care services and the report should be ready for public release in the next few weeks. Discussion included mechanisms to expand the scope of messaging and sharing the report which included posting on the applicable websites, Facility Licensing and Investigation Section (FLSI) blast fax to all home health/community providers and potential discussions with DPH to share in the social media sites. Wendy will send the draft report to Melia Allen to share with the Council for their review. Council members can share with other subject matters experts as well. Tracy Wodatch suggested a webinar as well to share the results of the report. Dr. Moss indicated she would be very interested in a webinar as well to share the report with Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Barbara Cass provided an updated on outstanding appointments and while work continues, the legislative session has been very busy which has delayed the process.

Barbara Cass provided an update on the Medical Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) which included a revision of the current form to a "Digital First" approach, revised training and revising the policy and procedures. All revisions will be reviewed by the Commissioner's Office prior to approval. It is anticipated that the changes will be ready for public posting early to mid-summer.

Tracy Wodatch and Dr. Kerry Moss provided an update on the Pediatric Hospice Workgroup which included that status of the pending report, legislative placeholders, and the recommendation to continue the workgroup into 2025.

Tracy Wodatch provided an update on the Healthcare Work Force Safety Workgroup which included the inclusion of Hospice in onboarding and annual workforce safety training requirements currently applicable to home health care agencies.

Dr. Moss discussed gaps in pediatric MOLST and indicated she would be interested in reviewing the MOLST slides that are currently in revision.

Karen Mulvahill updated the Council on work that is being developed to enhance/increase education to long term care providers regarding palliative care. Karen indicated she would be participating in Residential Care Home training that is being sponsored by the CT Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. Karen further identified she will be reaching out to the long term care associations for expanding this work.

Tracy Wodatch updated the group on work that is being done by the UCONN Center on Aging. The focus of the work is to evaluate on a small scale the relationships between hospice providers and nursing homes and the intersection between dually eligible (Medicare/Medicaid) and Medicaid only beneficiaries. Tracy will provide Karen with a point of contact for a potential presentation to the Council.

Karen Mulvahill provided an update on the Infusion Work Group and Barbara Cass will be providing a contact to Karen for a potential presentation from Department of Consumer Protection-Drug Control on this issue.

A motion for adjournment was made by Karen Mulvahill and seconded by Nikki Neifeld at 10:15 AM.