

Palliative Care Advisory Council

November 16, 2023

Palliative Care Advisory Council Agenda

Agenda Items	
Topic	Speaker
Review of previous work	Dr. Nelson
Pediatric update	Dr. Morrison
JEDI initiatives	Dr. Mahlotra
Legislative updates	Dr. Nelson
CMS initiatives regarding ACP and readmission reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GUIDE model• VBID carve in for hospice in Medicare Advantage	Dr. Nelson
LaPOST registry network	Dr. Nelson

► Members present:

1. Susan Nelson, MD
2. Deborah Bourgeois, RN-CNS, APRN
3. Christine Guidry, RN
4. Karen Lyon, FNP
5. Dr. Trey Gibson
6. Melinda Richard

► Future Agenda Items

- Health Disparities in Rural Areas Task Force/ Sickle Cell project – Karen Wyble, DNP

Appointing Entities Specified in Act 659	Profession	Additional Credentials Required	Appointee
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in hospice and palliative medicine	Mary Raven, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in hospice and palliative medicine	Sonia Malhotra, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in pain management	Mordecai Potash, MD
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Physician	Board Certified in pediatric palliative medicine	Cori Morrison, MD
LA State Board of Nursing	Registered nurse	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Christine Guidry, RN
LA State Board of Nursing	Advanced practice RN	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Deborah Bourgeois, APRN
LA State Board of Nursing	Advanced practice RN	Board Certified in hospice and palliative care	Karen Lyon, APRN
LA Board of Pharmacy	Pharmacist	Experience providing palliative care	Richard Mannino
LA State Board of Social Work Examiners	Social Worker	Experience providing palliative care	Edgar Guedry, MSW
LDH Medicaid		Non-voting	Justin Owens
LDH Designee		Non-voting	Elizabeth Adkins
Governor	Palliative Care Provider Administrator or Director	Current operational experience managing a palliative care program	Susan Nelson, MD
Governor	Spiritual care professional	Experience with providing palliative care	Moved out of state
Governor	Insurance plan administrator	Experience in reimbursement coverage and claims processing for palliative care	Dr. Deidre Barfield
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Janet Pugh Foret (pending official re-appointment)
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Trey Gibson
Governor	Patient/family advocate	Must be independent of a hospital or other healthcare facility	Debra Merritt (pending official appointment)

Definition of Palliative CARE

<http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1144294>

- ▶ "Palliative care" means an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problems associated with life threatening illnesses, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial, and spiritual.

- ▶ "Palliative care" services:
 - a. Provide relief from pain and other distressing symptoms.
 - b. Affirm life and regards dying as a normal process.
 - c. Intend neither to hasten or postpone death.
 - d. Integrate the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of patient care.
 - e. Offer a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death.
 - f. Offer a support system to help the family cope during the patient's illness and in their own bereavement.
 - g. Use a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counseling, if indicated.
 - h. Will enhance quality of life and may also positively influence the course of illness.
 - i. Are applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

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- ▶ Include "palliative care for children", which means the care appropriate for children and their families that begins at diagnosis and continues regardless of whether or not the treatment is directed at the disease.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" requires health providers to evaluate and alleviate a child's physical, psychological, and social distress through a multi-disciplinary approach that includes the family and makes use of available community resources which can be successfully implemented even if resources are limited.
- ▶ "Palliative care for children" includes active total care of the child's body, mind, and spirit and the support given to the family. "Palliative care for children" can be provided in tertiary care facilities, in community health centers, and in children's homes.

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- ▶ Serious Illness Coalition
 - ▶ Coordinate PCAC meetings with SIC
 - ▶ Assistance from C-TAC
 - ▶ Legislative agenda
 - ▶ ACP without copayment to be reintroduced
 - ▶ ACP audio only ok until end of 2024

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▶ Payor update

- ▶ Medicaid and all payors covers 99497 and 99498 **except commercial BCBSLA**
- ▶ Medicaid inpatient hospice benefit now mirrors Medicare (removed 5 day stay maximum)
- ▶ https://ldh.la.gov/assets/docs/BayouHealth/Informational_Bulletins/2022/IB22-30.pdf
- ▶ Will need to check the prolonged service codes that changed for 2024 with CPT to make sure all are paying for those.
- ▶ Plan to continue discussion with BCBSLA about payment for ACP

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Pediatric Updates

- ▶ Pediatric issues - Susan Nelson MD reviewed below information.
 - ▶ Dr. Morvant left the state for STANFORD!
 - ▶ Dr. Autrey at Childrens
 - ▶ Dr. Michele Jones at Ochsner
 - ▶ PT doc at OLOL Childrens
- ▶ February 18th - [Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day](#)
 - ▶ To raise awareness of the prevalence of childhood cancer, celebrate kids who are currently fighting cancer and honor those who have died.
- ▶ Palliative Care legislation Illinois for kids
 - ▶ [Bill Text: IL SB2384 | 2021-2022 | 102nd General Assembly | Enrolled | LegiScan](#)
- ▶ Are we there yet? Need to update the Children's code
 - ▶ Dr. Trey Gibson updated his legislative efforts regarding PCHETA at the federal level. This would increase awareness and funding for palliative education programs across the state.
- ▶ [PEDIATRIC HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE RESOURCE GUIDE](#)
 - ▶ Will need updating as much as possible.
- ▶ Pelican Krewe and St. Judes monthly education
 - ▶ completes in December. Access is available on LMHPCO website but unable to give CE if not taken "live".

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- ▶ JEDI- briefly discussed without Dr. Malhotra being present.
 - ▶ Justice
 - ▶ Equity
 - ▶ Diversity
 - ▶ Inclusion
- ▶ LMHPCO has a DEI taskforce led by Ann Walker
Ann@lmhpc.org
- ▶ Ochsner sponsored “African Americans Speak” a program developed at UAB for all the palliative care teams and DEI team members.
<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/palliativecare/training/specialized-education/african-american-communities-speak>

CMS initiatives regarding ACP and readmission reduction

- ▶ <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-23-16-hospitals.pdf>
- ▶ CMS has identified areas of concern related to missing or inaccurate patient information when a patient is discharged from a hospital. These areas of concerns include missing or inaccurate information related to:
 - ▶ A patient's preferences and goals for care, such as their choices for treatment or their advance directives for end-of-life care;
 - ▶ Discussion: PAC providers are not properly prepared to care for new admissions, and caregivers are not properly prepared to care for their loved ones at home. Also, PAC providers may not be equipped or trained to care for certain conditions that apply to patients whose information they were not previously informed of by the hospital and have accepted for transfer and admission. Not only can this place the patient's health at risk, it can also put the health and safety of other residents (in the patient's home or in a SNF), as well as provider staff, at risk. These situations can cause avoidable readmissions, complications, and other adverse events. Finally, when an individual's preferences for end-of-life care are not known, they may receive treatments that are unnecessary or inconsistent with their wishes.
 - ▶ SIC discussion included making sure that LaPOST is completed on appropriate patients. Reminding that it should not be used as a "code status" document especially for LTC patients. Without a thorough discussion of treatment choices, the default is "full code/full treatment" anyway so would not need a LaPOST document to get that level of treatment.

VANTAGE

- Is currently the only CMS approved Medicare Advantage program to “carve-in” hospice services in Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Jamey Boudreaux reported he has a meeting with LMHPCO board next week with someone from Vantage. He will report back information.
- Questions that we would like discussion regarding....
 - What is a Vantage Dual Plus Plan? (i.e., what does the “Dual Plus” part refer to?)
 - How many Vantage Dual Plus members do you currently have in LA?
 - How many Vantage Dual Plus members do they currently have in MS?
 - Which hospice agencies are included to service your plan in LA?
 - Which hospices are included to services your plan in MS?
 - How do hospice agencies become preferred providers for your plan?
 - How many Vantage Dual Plus members utilized hospice in 2023?
 - How may Vantage Dual Plus members do they anticipate will utilize hospice in 2024?

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- ▶ Legislative update

- ▶ Appointments have been completed. Spiritual care needs new appointment
- ▶ Many members appointed by Governor need to be confirmed by Senate.
- ▶ Palliative care language in legislation-ACT 351 attached

Legislative updates

- ▶ **HB 291, Owen, C.**
 - ▶ Provides for visitation policies at certain healthcare facilities and requires that such policies allow for in-person visitation
 - ▶ **Comments:** Needs amendment stating this applies to in-patient
- ▶ **HB 319, Stagni**
 - ▶ Repeals licensure by endorsement for registered nurses
 - ▶ **Comments:** eliminating the requirement that international nurses seeking licensure by endorsement to hold a current license issued from the jurisdiction of his last employment.
 - ▶ 5/23/2023 Becomes Act 4; Effective May 23, 2023
- ▶ **HB 320, Turner**
 - ▶ Provides relative to nursing education
 - ▶ **Comments:** -permits a student to register as an LPN if he completes two years of clinical courses in a registered nursing program -permits a nursing student who completes a course in the fundamentals of nursing offered by a practical or registered nursing program shall not be required to complete a certified nursing training or competency evaluation program and may register as a certified nurse aide (CNA) in this state
 - ▶ 6/6/2023 Becomes Act 80; Effective August 1, 2023

Legislative update

- ▶ **HB 652, Miller, D.**
 - ▶ Authorizes certain healthcare professionals to certify the existence of an illness
 - ▶ 6/12/2023 Becomes Act 296; Effective August 1, 2023
- ▶ **HR 152, Deshotel**
 - ▶ Directs the Louisiana Department of Health to amend its administrative rule relative to the geographic location of a hospice provider
 - ▶ 5/30/2023 Enrolled in the House, sent to Secretary of State
- ▶ **SB 14, Bernard**
 - ▶ Provides relative to schedules of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law
 - ▶ **Comments:** -adds 16 additional substances to Schedule I -adds Daridorexant to Schedule IV and removes Fenfluramine -adds Ganaxolone to Schedule V
 - ▶ 6/8/2023 Becomes Act 201; Effective August 1, 2023
- ▶ **SB 66, Mills, F.**
 - ▶ Provides relative to telehealth services
 - ▶ **Comments:** Combines and simplifies the definitions of Telehealth and telemedicine.
 - ▶ 6/12/2023 Becomes Act 322; Effective January 1, 2024

LaPOST Registry-discussion

- Discussed the electronic registry which has safeguards in place for completing the document correctly. (Will not allow incongruent choices)
- Majority of documents are uploaded on paper eliminating the safeguard step.
- Encourage use of electronic registry. Monique Tyler is program administrator and can get registry access to appropriate health care professions.
- Consideration of best long-term solution.

Count of LaPOST documents added to the Registry
From August 2019 to October 2023
(Excluding LaPOST Documents contributed by Ochsner Health System)

Document Type	Document Count	Percentage of Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> electronic	660	18%
2019	16	0.4%
2020	158	4.3%
2021	290	7.8%
2022	165	4.5%
2023	31	0.8%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> handwriting	3,044	82%
2019	173	4.7%
2020	910	24.6%
2021	879	23.7%
2022	683	18.4%
2023	399	10.8%
Grand Total	3704	100.00%

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OLD BUSINESS

- ▶ Louisiana was awarded [NASHP State Policy Institute to Improve Care for People with Serious Illness](#)
 - ▶ Mendy Richard updated this.
 - ▶ Valuable lessons learned have been discussed with other state departments of health through this process.
- ▶ Medicaid palliative care benefit design
 - ▶ C-TAC / AHA/ Ochsner/ Human to develop recommendations for palliative care for patients with heart failure and to work on benefit design for Medicaid through managed care benefit.
 - ▶ Project ongoing

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NEW BUSINESS

- ▶ Payment for DME in nursing homes
 - ▶ Discussion with LDH/Medicaid in progress
- ▶ Learnings from the NASHP meetings (Mendy Richard)
 - ▶ See previous slide
- ▶ Updating Children's code-is there support for this?
 - ▶ Need to think through this
- ▶ Uniform Advance Directive Commission results complete with recommendations.
 - ▶ At this time will be aware of the new recommendations to include issues related to mental and behavioral illness as well as for those with intellectual disability.
 - ▶ Do not want to open the AD statute that is working to replace with something less inclusive.
 - ▶ Politics will be in play here.
 - ▶ Scope of practice issues