

**Advisory Council on Palliative Care
MINUTES**

Friday, February 13, 2015

10-11 AM

CHA

110 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT

Present: Wendy Furniss, DPH; Colleen Mulkerin, Hartford Hospital; Patricia Trotta, VNAHC; Joseph Andrews, CT Hospice; James Prota, CT Hospice; Karen Mulvihill, Danbury Hospice; Diana Cameron, VNAHC; Victoria Odesina, UCONN HC; Barbara Morrison, Yale Hospital;

Conference Call: N/A

Public: Tracy Wodatch, Care at Home; Lucinda Hogarty, CT Cancer Partnership; Michael Culhane, CT Catholic Conf.; Susan Crawford, Yale Hospital; Bryte Johnson, American Cancer Society; John King, Updike, Kelly & Spellacy

I. Minutes Approved

- Colleen Mulkerin motioned to approve; Wendy Furniss seconded the motion.

II. Topics of Discussion

- Testimony

- 1) Susan Crawford, Yale Palliative Care Program

- Interdisciplinary Team & 2 fellows (also at Branford)
- 588 up to 1400 inpatient consultations (only at Yale, not HSR yet).
- Don't cover pediatrics now- being considered.
- Primarily an oncology service.
- Also has outpatient clinic- 10-15 new patients/month.
- Challenges: getting referrals early enough
 - The outpatient clinic- few pain specialists to refer to & often don't take T19.
 - Misunderstanding among professionals about what palliative care is/can do.
 - Cancer, heart failure and COPD, liver failure.
 - Lack of education and understanding of dementia and it's progression.
 - Recommends education for professionals and the public as a first step.
 - Slowness of Probate Court process.
 - Payment/reimbursement- need formal "for palliative services".
 - Fellows- go to Yale, Branford, Vitas, Virginie Grimes- want to add home visits.
 - How to see patients in nursing homes more? Educate SNF staff.

- Funding for palliative care in nursing homes and home care
 - Want to expand into ED more.
 - May add a prompt to the EHR to “get a palliative consult”.
 - Need MD order for a consult currently.
- 2) Bryte Johson, American Cancer Society
- 15 years on pain management
 - Focus on palliative care and education; data collection
 - ACS has federal proposals- raised each year since 2012, hoping for passage this year
 - See handout
- 3) Lucinda Hogarty, MPH, Director of Connecticut Cancer Partnership
- Reviewed the CT Cancer Plan and talked about evolution of differentiating the definition palliative care and hospice care consistent with national movement in understanding the differentiation.
 - High-quality Palliative Care is available and accessible to all people living in CT
 - Objectives-to promote and support a systematic approach to monitor, disseminate AND UTILIZE DATA TRENDS TO ADVOCATE FOR HIGH-QUALITY PALLIATIVE CARE, INCLUDING TRENDS RELEVANT TO DISPARITIES
 - Promote and support systems changes that strengthen the quality of palliative care through partnerships with providers and community members from across the state.

V. Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm by Chair Mulkerin.