

MEETING MINUTES

Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council

March 28, 2023

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In-Person and Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Marcia Cederdahl
 Theresa Jizba (via Zoom)
 Brenda Kastens
 Andrew Macfadyen
 Julie Masters (via Zoom)
 Angela Mortenson (via Zoom)
 Todd Sauer
 Sabrina Schalley
 Stacie Sinclair (via Zoom)

Staff:

Shirley Pickens-White
 Leah Snyder

Guests:

Abby Chase (Methodist Hospital)
 Jenna Eich (Methodist Hospital)
 Marilee Malcom (Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association)
 Lou Lukas (UMNC)
 Matt Prokop (ACS CAN NE)
 Megan Word (ACS CAN NE)

In accordance with Section 84-1411 of the [Open Meetings Act](#), advanced publicized notice of the time and place of this meeting was posted on the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#).

Agenda Topic	Key Points	Action Items (if any)
<p>Call to Order, Introduction, Meeting Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd Sauer called the Nebraska (NE) Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (“Council”) meeting to order at 3:08 pm CT and read the NE Open Meetings Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Open Meeting Act Location Announcement: In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located on the table.</i> • No corrections. A guest called the motion* to approve the meeting minutes from December 5, 2022; Andrew seconded the motion; all in favor. (*Guests cannot call or vote on motions; will need to re-vote on the minutes at the next Council meeting) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Members to re-vote to approve December meeting minutes at the next Council meeting
<p>Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association Update <i>(Marilee Malcom, Julie Masters)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHPCA "Living a Good Life...Through Every Chapter" annual conference went very well. • Julie Masters presented Key Findings of the 2022 Nebraska End-of-Life Survey, with a focus on the palliative care-relevant items. The NHPCA conference handout and report will be posted on the NE Council website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirley Pickens-White to post reports on the website

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Psychedelics and the Future of Palliative Care <i>(Lou Lukas)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lou Lukas presented a policy-focused version of “Suffering, Psychedelics, and the Future of Palliative Medicine.” Highlights included: 1. Why psychedelic assisted treatment is relevant, and possibly central, to hospice and palliative medicine; 2. Summary of psychedelic substances that are expected to become available soon; and 3. Considerations for policy, leadership, workforce, and clinical practice For those interested in a deeper dive, Lou will be delivering a 4-part series for the Grace Abbott School of Social Work, beginning in August 2023. More details and registration information can be found here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirley Pickens-White to post presentation on the website
Guest Presentation/ Serious Illness Definition <i>(Megan Word, Marcia Cederdahl, Stacie Sinclair)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Armendariz introduced LB345, which creates a clear and simple definition that: 1) establishes a statewide foundation for what palliative care is, distinct from hospice; and 2) clarifies that it should be team-based, available across care settings and patient populations, and delivered alongside curative treatment. This bill was voted out of the HHS committee on February 15. This is a significant success, and reflects the hard work of the Council, NHPCA, and ACS CAN to build a broad network of support. ACS CAN held its Cancer Action Day on March 2; and the Alzheimer’s Association included the bill in its Advocacy Day on March 8. While LB 345 continues to have strong bipartisan support, there are other competing priorities at the Unicameral, and this bill has not yet advanced any further. ACS CAN continues to look for procedural opportunities to advance the bill; and will notify the Council and broader stakeholder group of engagement opportunities as appropriate. There is a repository to house all definition effort materials including meeting recordings, leave behinds, FAQs, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie Sinclair to promote engagement opportunities as they become available
Additional Legislation <i>(Stacie Sinclair, Marcia Cederdahl)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LB810, named “Medical Ethics and Diversity Act,” was prioritized by Senator Murman, although this bill has not yet been taken up on the floor. NHPCA’s objections to the bill include that the “freedom of conscience” style of the bill may allow licensed health care professionals to refuse to provide cares/treatments with which they disagree, which – at its most extreme – could include situations like a facility nurse refusing to administer pain medications because the nurse believes the medication has the potential to diminish respirations or in some way hasten a person's death. There are further implications for instances in which the provider’s personal beliefs may not align with the patient’s sexual orientation, vaccination status, religious convictions, etc. The Council will not weigh in on this bill, but will continue to monitor and share if it advances in the Unicameral. (Post meeting: Sabrina Schalley volunteered to monitor this bill and share updates with the Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sabrina Schalley to notify Council if LB810 advances

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Council Workgroup – Public Awareness <i>(Marcia Cederdahl, Julie Masters, Sabrina Schalley)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Awareness Workgroup continues to meet regularly, with the goal of continuing to populate the NE Palliative Care Council website with content. The Workgroup is also set to establish a Speakers Bureau this Spring/Summer, and volunteers are welcome. Marcia Cederdahl and Sabrina Schalley will be cycling off the Workgroup once they have completed their Council terms. They are taking succession planning seriously, and have recruited several people to apply to the Council. In the meantime, more volunteers (not limited to Council members) are welcome. The Workgroup currently meets monthly via Zoom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Members to let the Public Awareness Workgroup know if they want to volunteer, or write a brief piece (~250 words) for the website
End of Life Treatment Orders (POLST/NETO) and EMTs <i>(Theresa Jizba)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theresa Jizba provided an update on her work to standardize EOL Treatment Orders in Nebraska. Over the last three months, much of this has included meeting with key partners, including NHPCA, NE POLST, and other leaders who attended the Shiley Haynes National Symposium on Palliative Care Education to level set. She has also reached out to health care institutions across the state to learn more about what they are currently using and if there are any opportunities to create more standardization. Once information gathering is complete, next steps will include developing an education plan to increase EMT knowledge and skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theresa Jizba will continue to conduct reconnaissance
Council Workgroup – Website <i>(Andrew Macfadyen)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrew Macfadyen reported that the website seems to be running smoothly; no broken links. At the December meeting, Stacie Sinclair had observed that the website needs cleaning (there might have been a department-wide website update that moved things around), will follow up. Sabrina Schalley provided the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can we move the COVID-19 to be less visible? Should our definition of Palliative Care match LB345 now? Can we add the “leave behind” flyer to the website? Andrew will work with Shirley to get another update on website metrics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie Sinclair to review website and make proposals for cleaning Andrew Macfadyen and Shirley Pickens-White to obtain an update on website metrics from DHHS Council members to review website and send any updates to Shirley Pickens-White
Mission, Vision, Strategic Planning <i>(Stacie Sinclair)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie Sinclair met with a strategic planning consultant to get a quote for a formal strategic planning process that can guide the Council’s future work. The proposal quote was \$7,500; the Council decided not to proceed with that. The group discussed options for doing the work internally or finding in-kind support. Julie Masters suggested that the Community Engagement Center at UNO might have resources, including a facilitator trained in this topic and/or a space to hold this meeting. Council members discussed that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Masters to follow-up with the Community Engagement Center about potential resources Stacie Sinclair to send out Doodle to reschedule the June meeting

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	<p>this should be the main focus of the June meeting, and that this meeting should be rescheduled for a date after Stacie Sinclair returns from leave.</p>	
<p>Open Discussion and Public Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
<p>Planning for the Next Palliative Care Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2023 from 1:00-3:00pm CT in Lincoln, NE; however, this will be rescheduled to later. Stacie Sinclair will update the calendar appointments with a Zoom link and location once the meeting is confirmed. Subsequent Council meetings are set for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 11, 2023 ○ December 4, 2023 • Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council Mission, Vision, Strategic Planning ○ NHPCA update ○ Palliative care definition campaign ○ Council workgroup report outs ○ <i>Please submit additional agenda items to Todd Sauer and Stacie Sinclair</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members to submit requests for reimbursement to Shirley Pickens-White • Council members to submit additional agenda items

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00pm CT
Meeting Minutes: Stacie Sinclair