

MEETING MINUTES

Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council

December 6, 2021

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

Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Marcia Cederdahl (via Zoom)
 Brenda Kastens (Office Bldg.)
 Andrew Macfadyen (via Zoom)
 Julie Masters (via Zoom)
 Angela Mortensen (via Zoom)
 Todd Sauer (via Zoom)
 Stacie Sinclair (via Zoom)
 Sabrina Schalley (via Zoom)

Staff:

Christine Esch (Office Bldg.)
 Shirley Pickens-White (Office Bldg.)

Guests:

Gary George (Hospice House)
 Mandy Kirkpatrick (Creighton University)
 Kelly Mand (A Time to Heal)
 Meghan Potthoff (Creighton University)
 Mel Teply (UNMC, Guest Presentation)

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)
Call to Order, Introduction, Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Todd Sauer called the Nebraska (NE) Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (“Council”) meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Stacie Sinclair 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 [online].</i> • At the end of the meeting, Sabrina Schalley called the motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 16th, 2021; Marcia Cederdahl seconded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Council Member Check-Ins (Part I and II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members provided 2-3 minute updates regarding COVID-19’s impact over the last several months, palliative care “wins,” and personal highlights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Intro to UNMC Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Melissa Teply provided an update on palliative care education efforts at UNMC. The primary goals of the fellowship program are to: 1) expand the palliative medicine physician workforce; 2) increase primary palliative care educators; 3) train palliative medicine physicians in leadership skills to advocate at higher levels of health systems; and 4) develop research. (See Appendix A in meeting minutes for more detail.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members and stakeholders to let Mel know if they are willing to speak to the fellows

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is significant demand to participate in this fellowship; slots are filled with little-to-no formal marketing. UNMC will expand its reach by collaborating with Creighton University and CHI and sharing its curriculum; in the long term, there is a need for more funding to support additional fellowship slots. • Future long-term goals (NB: some of which the Council may be able to support): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Standardizing training of palliative medicine workforce in Nebraska ○ More robust primary palliative education in the undergraduate medical education setting ○ More robust rotation experiences for learners, particularly residents and fellows ○ CME courses on communication skills for providers currently in practice, e.g., Vital Talk workshops offered locally in Omaha • Questions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whether there would be an opportunity to expand the fellowship to include more community-based training (yes, with the Hillcrest partnership). ○ Whether UNMC could place fellows in other locations such as Hospice House or Monarch (yes, but there is a balance since this requires establishing partnerships and the fact that there is a different set of expectations fellows must negotiate with every new site). During public comments, Gary George noted that Hospice House is involved in the fellowship program being developed by CHI. 	
Council Workgroup – Website <i>(Andrew Macfadyen)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no new updates to the website beyond minor technical fixes and a broken link. Any changes should be emailed to Shirley Pickens-White. • Ongoing request that all Council members (particularly those who are new) review the website to see if the information is clear, anything should be added or changed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members to periodically review website, submit any changes to Shirley Pickens-White
Council Workgroup – Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Julie Masters brought the group’s attention to Dr. Andrew Macfadyen’s (and Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association’s Executive Director, Marilee Malcom’s) appearance on “Consider This” in which they discussed hospice and palliative care. • The Public Awareness subgroup (Marcia, Julie, and Sabrina) have been meeting on a regular basis and developed a robust proposed calendar of events for 2022. Activities include short monthly articles, establishing a social media presence, creating a YouTube channel to share Nebraska-specific palliative care stories, creating a newsletter, and distributing other palliative care-related “giveaways.” (See Appendix B in meeting minutes for more detail.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Sinclair to distribute proposed list of public awareness activities to broader NE Council stakeholder group to see if they want to join the subgroup and/or contribute to proposed activities

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie supported all proposed activities, but pointed out that monthly articles might be a significant lift. Sabrina clarified that these are intended to be “bite-sized” (no more than a few paragraphs), and that others beyond the Council may wish to contribute. The Public Awareness team also acknowledged that some of the activities may require fundraising, since there is not currently a budget for the Council. Beyond that, Council members and guests were enthusiastic about the proposed activities and suggested sharing broadly to see if other palliative care champions outside of the Council. For instance, Meghan Potthoff shared that Creighton University has an awareness group with students and staff that might be willing to write pieces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Awareness subgroup to schedule next meeting for January 2022
Council Workgroup – Regulatory <i>(Marcia Cederdahl)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations to State Licensure Boards. Marcia continues to coordinate with the Boards to get on their agenda. Andrew presented to the Board of Medicine and Surgery on December 3, 2021 and was very well received. As meetings for 2022 are scheduled, Marcia will circulate to Council members to see who is willing to join Palliative Care Definition. The Council continues to think it is worthwhile to pursue slight changes to the palliative care definition to ensure that it can be available across settings, and that the expectation is that it will be a complete service (i.e., a desire to ensure that people who say they are delivering palliative care are doing everything they should be). It has been difficult to reach the contact at the state; Marcia will continue to pursue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcia Cederdahl to continue scheduling Board presentations for 2022 and circulate dates to Council members Marcia Cederdahl to reach out to Becky Wisell; Stacie Sinclair to provide support as needed
Council Report to the Governor and Legislature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stacie walked through revisions to the draft report. Council members agreed to review and provide feedback by December 13, 2021. Following this, the Council will share the draft report with key stakeholders to get feedback by January 10, 2022, particularly on the recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcia to share with the Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association during its Board meeting on December 13 Stacie to share with the NE Chapter of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and the NE Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council stakeholder list Council members should share with any other key stakeholders that might need to provide buy-in Once the comment period is over, Stacie will share a revised draft with the Council for final sign-off and design. Then the Council will develop a dissemination plan to begin socializing the report and recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members to review and provide any additional feedback by December 13 Council members to share with targeted stakeholders, collect feedback and send to Stacie by January 10 Stacie Sinclair to revise and get final sign-off from Council in early 2022
Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There continues to be one vacancy on the Council. Shirley will look back to see if there are any applicants who applied in the original call who might still want to be put forth for consideration; she 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirley Pickens-White to post vacancy on Council

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	<p>will also post the vacancy on the Council website. In the meantime, Stacie will share the vacancy with the broader NE Council stakeholder list, along with the application link for those who are interested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcia shared that Creighton University recently sought letters of support for a project that may have been of interest to the Council. Mandy Kirkpatrick provided a few additional details on the project; although the deadline has passed, there will be future opportunities (she will circulate with advanced notice). This opened up a discussion for how the Council might want to approach lending its support to palliative care-related endeavors in the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stacie thought that this could be a rich area for the Council to support expanding palliative care access through special initiatives, but raised concerns about the woodwork effect and avoiding conflicts of interest/favoritism/unintended consequences/etc. She suggested potentially developing clear criteria to support any sign-ons. ○ Marcia reminded the Council that it developed Guidelines when it was initially formed; these might provide some guidance on how to proceed. Shirley added that the Guidelines could also be amended/expanded if that guidance was not already included. 	<p>website, and also review historical applications to see if there are any additional candidates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stacie Sinclair to share vacancy with NE Council listserv • Council members to review Council guidelines; consider whether to amend at the next meeting
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary George shared that Hospice House is involved in the fellowship program being developed by CHI; he and Kelly Rand expressed appreciation for the Council's work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Planning for the Next Palliative Care Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council meeting is on March 7, 2021 from 1:00-3:00pm CT. Stacie Sinclair already sent calendar appointments with a Zoom link; as the date nears, Council members will discuss whether it makes sense to meet in person. Subsequent Council meetings are set for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 6, 2022 ○ September 5, 2022 • Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council workgroup report outs ○ Council Report to the Governor and Legislature ○ Council Guidelines and Vacancy ○ (TBC) Guest presentation from Creighton University ○ <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 Christine Esch • Council members to submit additional agenda items

Meeting Adjourned at 2:27 p.m.
Meeting Minutes: Stacie Sinclair