



State of Nevada Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life

INAUGURAL MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: Palliative Care and Quality of Life Council

Date and Time of Meeting: January 11, 2018, 4:00pm-5:30pm

Locations: Nevada Early Intervention Services
2667 Enterprise Road
Reno, NV 89512

Desert Regional Center
1391 S. Jones Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Telephone Conference: Call-in Number: 1-888-363-4735
Access Number: 1672671

A meeting of the State of Nevada Advisory Council on Palliative Care and Quality of Life was held on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 4:00PM(PST) in the designated Northern and Southern Nevada locations: The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Regional Office and the Desert Regional Center.

Members present: Veneta Lepera, RN; Kim Anderson; Tom McCoy; Jill Berntson; Mary-Ann Brown, RN; Robert Pretzlaff, MD; Marilynn Jeanne Hesterlee, RN; Tom Hunt, MD; Kelly Conright, MD; Melissa St. Jean, MSW; Cheryl Spollino, APRN; Phyllis Conner, RN; Lucille Walker; and Joyce Woodhouse. Bri Santarsieri was present to take the minutes.

Member arrived late: Neville Campbell, MD

- I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks
 - a. Deputy Administrator, Jill Berntson, called meeting to order at 4:00pm
 - b. Introductions of each council member/attendee
- II. Public Comment – None
- III. Reading/Review of SB 136 Expectations – Tom McCoy, NV Gov. Relations ACS/CAN
 - a. Tom McCoy, NV Government Relations ACS/CAN: Presented an excerpt from a letter written by APRN regarding the issue of the lack of patient understanding of

palliative care. Letter concerned Kansas legislation on palliative care – attempting to emulate that of Nevada. Council can suggest public service announcements or educational services.

- b. Tom McCoy: Reviewed sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 17 of SB 136. Read aloud Senate Bill's definition of "palliative care."
- c. Iterated how beneficial this topic and council could be for cancer patients and groups with serious illness.

IV. Council Leadership Nomination/Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

- a. Motion by Jill Berntson to nominate Veneta Lepera for Chair and Kim Anderson for Vice Chair.
 - i. Tom Hunt second the motion.
- b. Unanimous vote to elect Veneta Lepera to Chair and Kim Anderson to Vice Chair.

V. Welcoming Remarks – Senator Joyce Woodhouse, District #5 Clark County

- a. Senator Woodhouse: Expressed thanks and appreciation for gathering and committing to this work. It took a couple sessions to get legislation passed, but pleased the council is now underway and going to do good for the state of Nevada.

VI. Potential Goals to Carry Out/Responsibilities of Council Pursuant to SB 136, 79th Session

- a. Veneta Lepera: Three units of action, first being Education. Bill states to "establish the consumer and professional information program." Using national and global resources, council needs to narrow down educational/training requirements for clinicians and/or facilities that employ clinicians and provide palliative care service in Nevada.
- b. Best Practice unit: What will be taught to hospitals with 100 beds? How will it be enforced, what's the compliance going to look like? What are the standards for Nevada going to look like?
- c. Web Access: Decide what should be put on the state website for general public and consumers to access.
 - i. Dr. Robert Pretzlaff: One of biggest problems in palliative care is lack of community understanding. Suggests to expand the Web Access unit into a whole marketing campaign; have speakers come out. Education unit refers to provider education, Web Access is the public.
 - ii. Kim Anderson: Expressed agreement with Dr. Pretzlaff; Education unit is for clinical members' education, whereas Web Access provides education to the public, and should be bigger than the web. Two different campaigns, may crossover.
 - iii. Veneta Lepera: Within Web Access, also need to do promotional advertising to intrigue Nevada citizens to look and learn. Perhaps television advertisements or air time for council will be possible.
 - iv. Dr. Pretzlaff: Support from the state will come from community engagement. Providers don't care until they are made to care/until patients come to them with concerns.

- v. Marie Conner: Big issue is the misuse of the words “hospice” and “palliative” by providers, which confuses and concerns patients.
- d. Dr. Pretzlaff: For Education unit, anyone who wants palliative certification must complete a certain amount of time of community outreach.
- e. Veneta Lepera: How to get doctors to understand that palliative care is partnered with them, and is not hospice? Help them with their patients and have less readmissions and more patient satisfaction.
- f. Mary-Ann Brown: Renown has myriad of ways of educating clinical team on palliative care, and have received positive responses; exponential growth of palliative care consults because palliative care has become integrated into Renown Health culture.
- g. Dr. Conright: A lot of Nevada is rural; if information on web can’t be accessed, needs to be a way for council to provide access to expertise and education to help rural providers.
 - i. Kim Anderson: In accordance with NHA, focus on 100-bed facilities now, and then focus on rural areas after.
 - ii. Jeanne Hesterlee: Important to keep the two newly licensed hospices in Elko in the loop because they can be at forefront of educating and assisting rural areas.
 - iii. Kim Anderson: Assumption is that there are not adequate or consistent services available in Reno and Las Vegas. May add additional people with helpful expertise onto Units, just not council. 2015 national state report: one-third of states received C or D rating, but Nevada received A rating because hospitals had palliative care program, brochure, and extension that palliative care inquiry went to.
- h. Unanimous council vote in support of establishing three Units of action: Education, Best Practice, Web Access.

VII. Review and Open Discussion of Current Palliative Care Services and Educational Opportunities in Nevada and Nationally

- a. Kim Anderson: Reported that nationally, there are currently 23 states with councils similar to NV council, and 4 that are pending. Many innovations in payment, which is increasing desirability in palliative care; plans that palliative care fits into are up 38% overall. CAPC and NHPCO have great programs, along with National Census Project. Information in binders.
- b. Veneta Lepera: Referred council members to and explained resources contained in binders.

VIII. Establish Priorities and Assignments for Council Members:

- a. Voluntarily assigned council members to three council Units:
 - i. Best Practice Unit: Melissa St. Jean, Mary-Ann Brown, Tom McCoy, Cheryl Spollino, Kim Anderson
 - 1. Joined Unit after meeting: Veneta Lepera, Joyce Woodhouse, Tom Hunt, Jeanne Hesterlee
 - ii. Education Unit: Tom Hunt, Veneta Lepera, Kelly Conright, Marie Conner

1. Joined Unit after meeting: Kim Anderson, Tom McCoy, Neville Campbell, Cheryl Spollino
- iii. Web Access Unit: Neville Campbell, Lucille Walker, Robert Pretzlaff, Jeanne Hesterlee
 1. Joined Unit after meeting: Veneta Lepera, Kim Anderson, Tom McCoy, Jill Berntson
- b. Announced that council members may reach out to outside experts/providers, even internationally, to join Units.

IX. Adoption of By-Laws

- a. Deputy Jill Berntson: Reported that deputy attorney general has reviewed and approved by-laws. Suggested that council members review by-laws before next meeting and council will vote on them at next council meeting.
 - i. Unanimous agreement by council.

X. Schedule Next Council Meeting

- a. Veneta Lepera: Bill outlines that council must meet at least twice a year. Second council meeting should take place in June. Asked for any objections or opinions.
 - i. Kim Anderson: Suggested that council meet in March as well as June.
 1. Unanimous vote on quarterly council meetings.
 - ii. Council agreed on March 8th for next council meeting.
 1. *Date later changed to March 14th after January meeting.
- b. Council tentatively agreed to meet March 8th, as well as in June, October (later changed to September), and December.
- c. Suggestion made to extend next council meeting to length of two hours.
- d. Kim Anderson volunteered Bri Santarsieri to handle administrative/scheduling tasks of council.
- e. Council agreed to have each Unit make contact by January 25th.
- f. Responsibility of Veneta Lepera and Bri Santarsieri to initiate email correspondence among the Units.
- g. Council members made corrections to list of council member contact information.

XI. Public Comment – None

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 5:34PM