

Webinar: How State Palliative Care Advisory Councils Are Advancing Serious Illness Policy

April 30, 2024

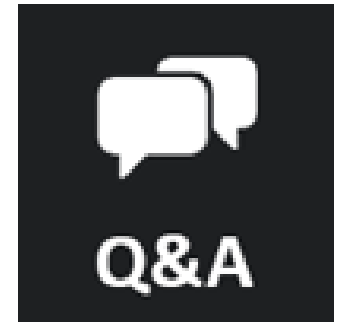


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Webinar Logistics

- Use the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen to enter your questions and comments throughout the presentations
- We will address questions and comments at the end of the webinar after the presentations
- The slides and webinar recording will be posted after the webinar on the NASHP website





Agenda

- **Welcome**
Scott Bane, Senior Program Officer, The John A. Hartford Foundation
- **NASHP Resources and Palliative Care Advisory Councils Background**
Ella Taggart, Senior Research Analyst, NASHP
- **Maryland State Advisory Council on Serious Illness Care**
Paul Ballard, Maryland Assistant Attorney General and Christopher Kearney, Council Chair
- **Maine Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council**
Lauren Michalakes, Maine Office of Aging and Disability
- **Texas Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council**
Jimmy Blanton, Texas Health and Human Services Commission and Erin Perez, Council Chair
- **Q&A**

Welcome

Scott Bane

Senior Program Officer

The John A. Hartford Foundation



About NASHP

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is a nonpartisan organization committed to developing and advancing state health policy innovations and solutions.

NASHP provides a unique forum for the productive exchange of strategies across state government, including the executive and legislative branches.



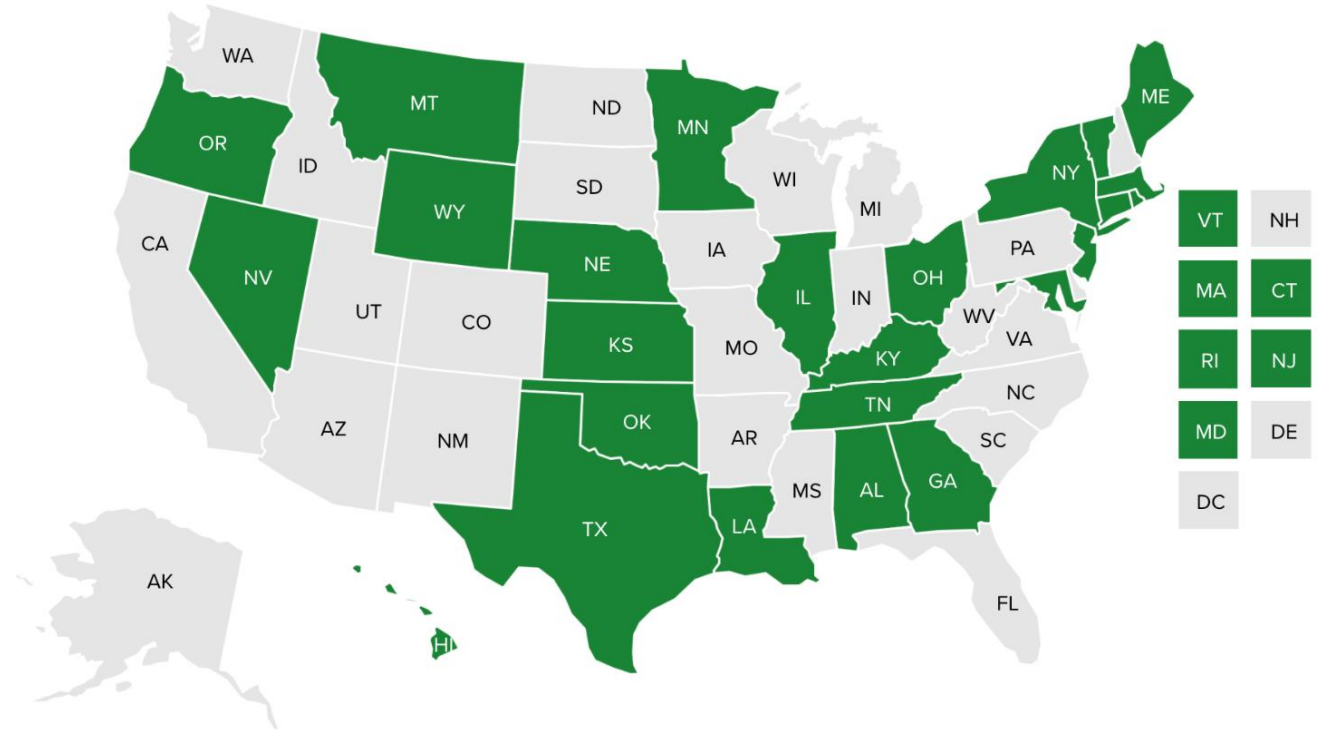
NASHP Palliative Care Resources

available at nashp.org/palliative-care

- [50-state trackers](#) on palliative care advisory councils, information/education programs, and legislation/budgetary action
- [State Resource Guide](#) on connecting patients to palliative care, supporting a palliative care workforce, and paying for palliative care
- Currently underway: [2023-2025 Serious Illness Institute](#) (participating states: Colorado, Maryland, Maine, Ohio, Texas, Washington)
- [Additional resources](#) on educating the public about palliative care, building a palliative care benefit, and state palliative care policies and programs
- Subscribe to NASHP's [palliative care newsletter](#) to stay up to date!

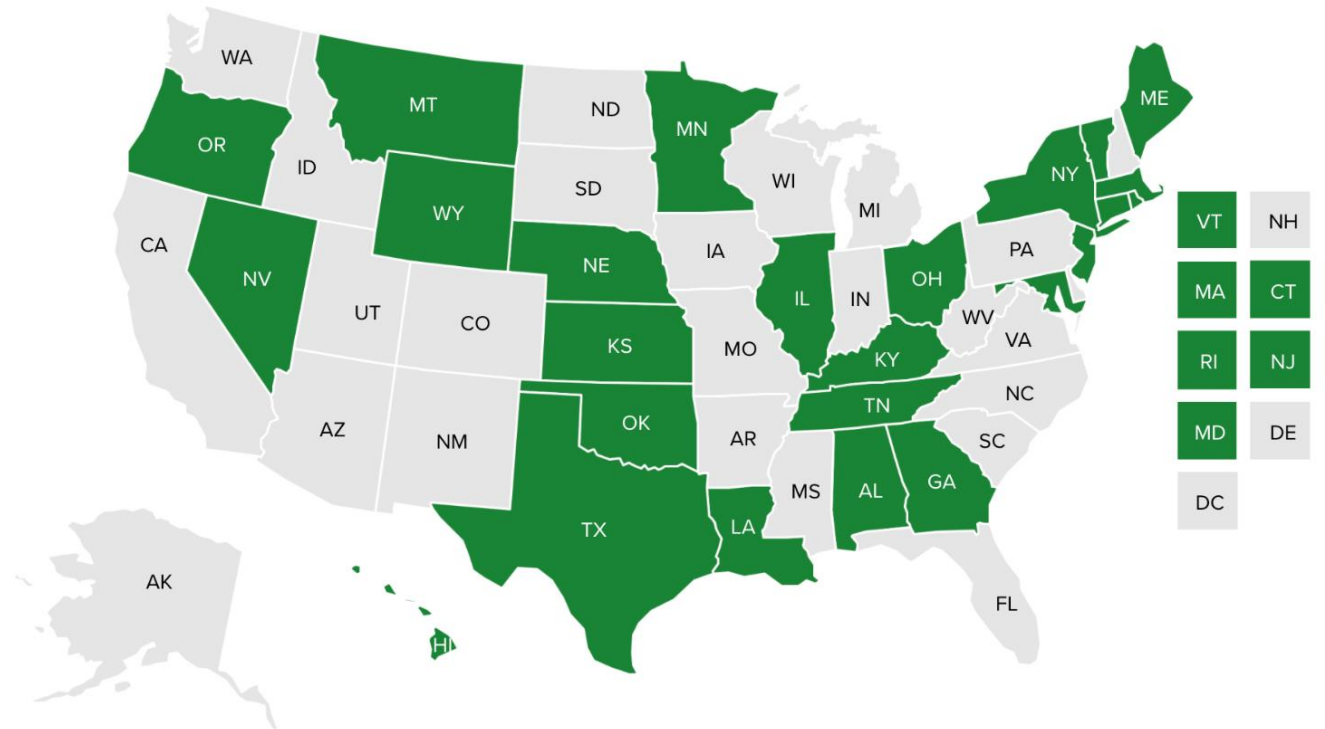
State Palliative Care Advisory Councils

- 24 states have legislation around a palliative care task force as of March 2024
- Councils vary greatly in their names, age, membership, and activity level
- General purpose is to expand awareness of and access to serious illness care in states



State Palliative Care Advisory Councils

- Many of the councils engage in activities such as:
 - Advancing palliative care legislation
 - Creating reports on the status of palliative care in the state
 - Helping to bring awareness and education to the public on palliative care
 - Providing recommendations to the state



Maryland's State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life: A Brief History

Christopher D. Kearney, MD, Chairperson

Paul J. Ballard, JD, Assistant Attorney General



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Founding and Purpose

- Established in statute as a permanent council in 2002
- Diverse group of experts, consumers, advocates, legislators, and key agency designees, jointly staffed by the Office of the Attorney General and the Maryland Department of Aging
- Legislatively mandated to advise legislators and key agencies.
- Monitors care for life-limiting illnesses
- Participates in and promotes educational efforts
- Council website: [Maryland Attorney General - State Advisory Council](#)
- Journal of Palliative Medicine article about Council (2011): “A Legislatively Mandated Council: A Model for Palliative Care Policy” (Vol. 14, No. 11) <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/jpm.2011.0003>

Past Activities of Note

- Study of Health Care Services for Children with Life-Threatening Conditions (2008)
- MOLST legislation and implementing regulations (2011-2013)
- Report: “State Policy Recommendations to Increase Electronic Advance Directive Registrations” (2020)

Current Activities

- Participated in Maryland’s Palliative Care Services Workgroup (2023) and supports implementing the Workgroup’s recommendations
- Endorsed bill passed by Maryland legislature changing the name of the Council to “The State Advisory Council on Serious Illness Care” (2024) [2024 Regular Session - House Bill 461 Third Reader \(maryland.gov\)](#)
- Monitors and participates in efforts to promote advance care planning
- Advocates for access to palliative care services in prisons
- Participates in the NASHP Serious Illness Institute to expand palliative care services in Maryland

Maine's Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council

Lauren Michalakes, MD, MPH

Program Consultant, The Office of Aging and Disability Services, Maine DHHS

LD 782: An Act to Improve the Quality of Life of Persons with Serious Illness; 2015

- Established the Creation of the **Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council**
- 13 individuals appointed by members of Maine State Government and the Maine Hospice Council, representing multiple disciplines involved in the delivery of palliative care services and those vulnerable populations who would benefit from those services
- Convened by the Maine Hospice Council, with its executive director named as a non-voting member
- In 2023: Amendment to add additional member representing consumer and patient/family voice

Duties:

- Consult with Maine CDC on matters related to the status of palliative care in the state
- Analyze palliative care in the state
- Make recommendations to improve palliative care and the quality of life of persons with serious illness
- Submit a report to the various Legislative Committees by January 1 each year providing findings and recommendations
- Palliative care initiatives... “to the extent allowed by available resources”

Funding provided.....

Key Accomplishments

- Prevalence of Palliative Care Surveys among Maine hospitals and health care organizations in 2016, repeated in 2022
- In 2018, provided clinical leadership in collaboration with health system leaders to create statewide Palliative Care Project ECHO®
- In 2021, worked with legislative champions to pass LD 1064, An Act to Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State
 - Created Medicaid (MaineCare) reimbursement for community based palliative care that is interdisciplinary, high quality and standardized in delivery
 - Requires DHHS to consult with the Maine Hospice Council, the Palliative Care Advisory Council when developing educational documents and rules related to palliative care



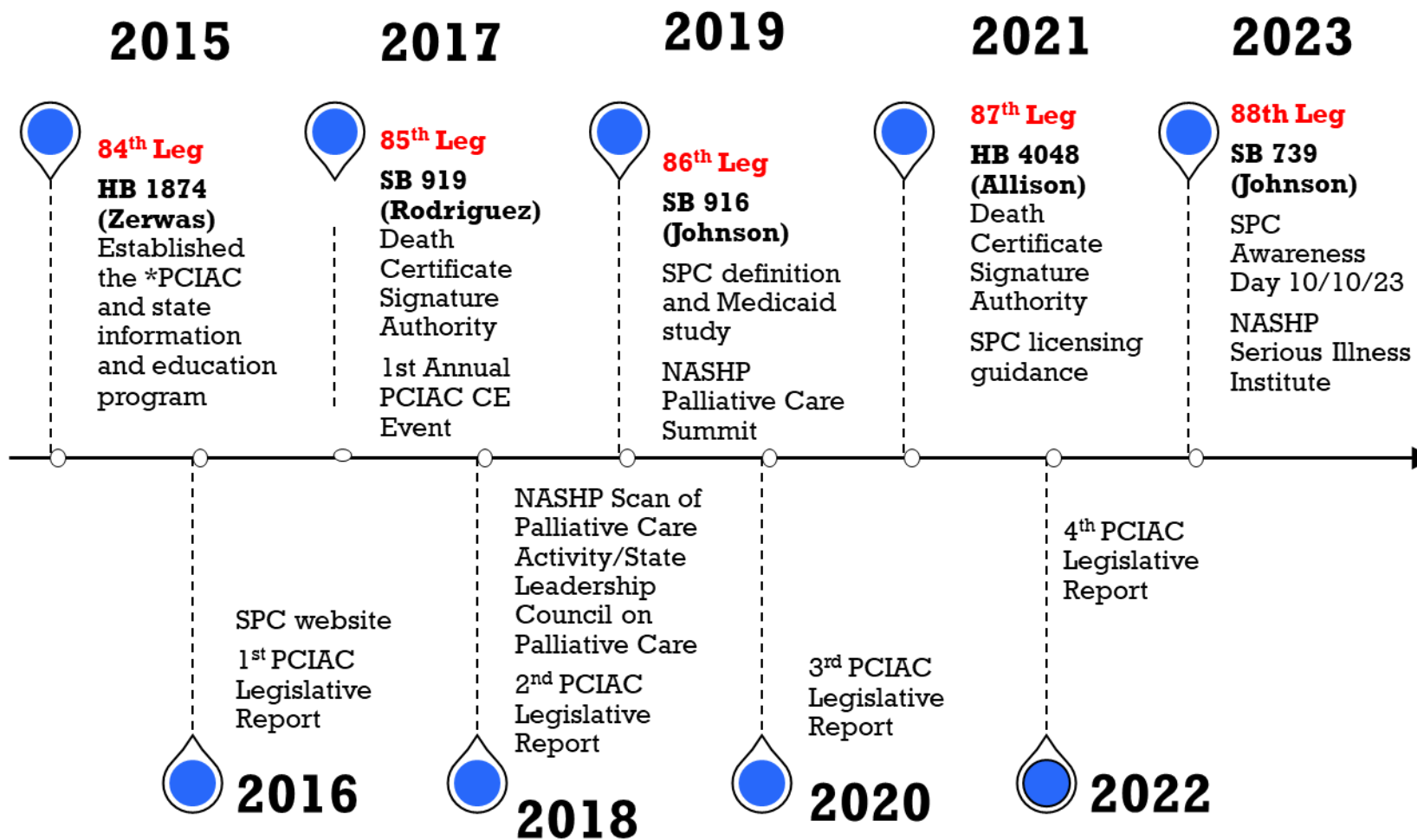
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Supportive Palliative Care in Texas

Supportive Palliative Care (SPC) Milestones Texas, 2015-2023



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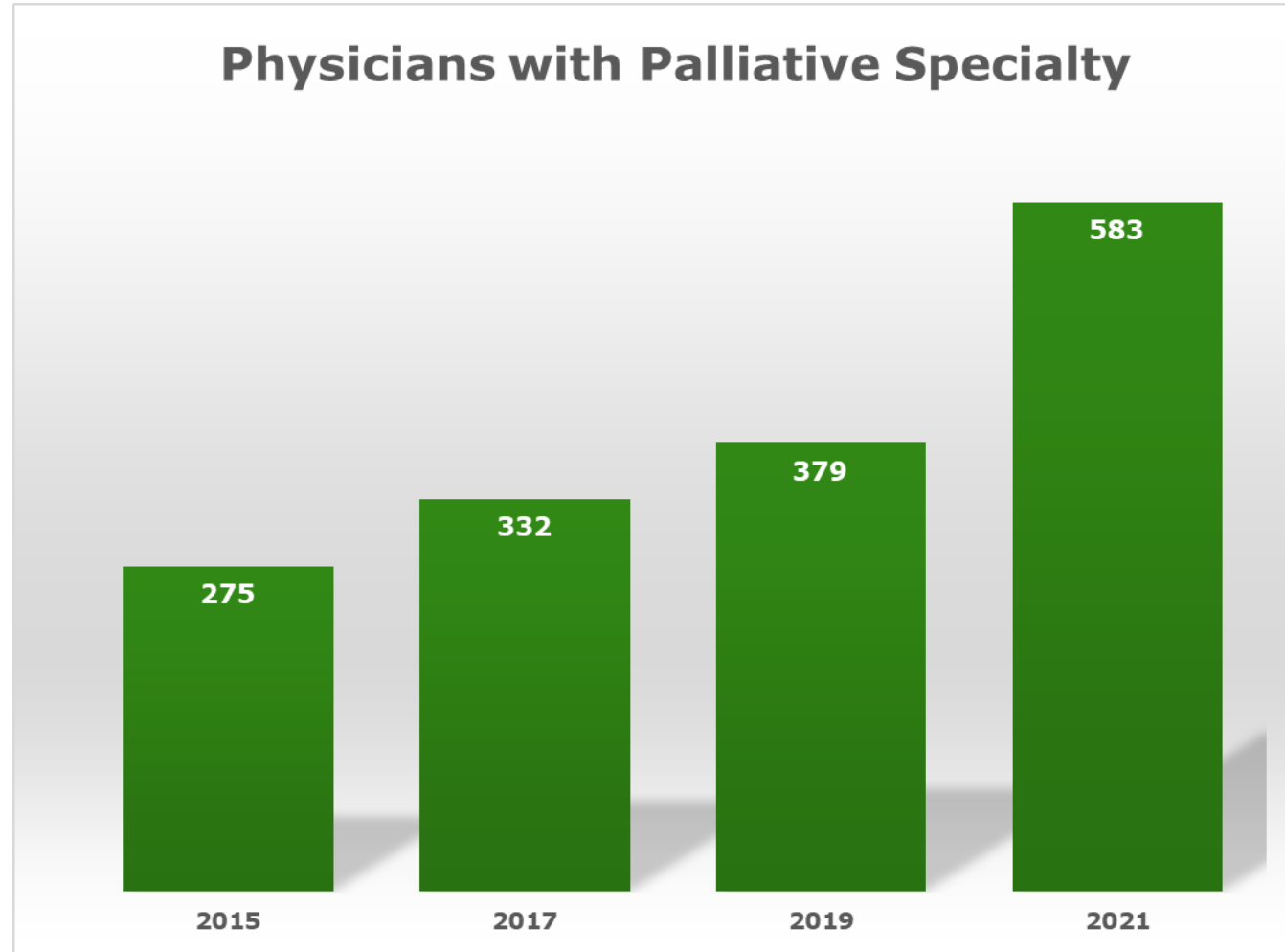


*Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC)

Growth by Palliative Care Profession Texas, 2015- 2022



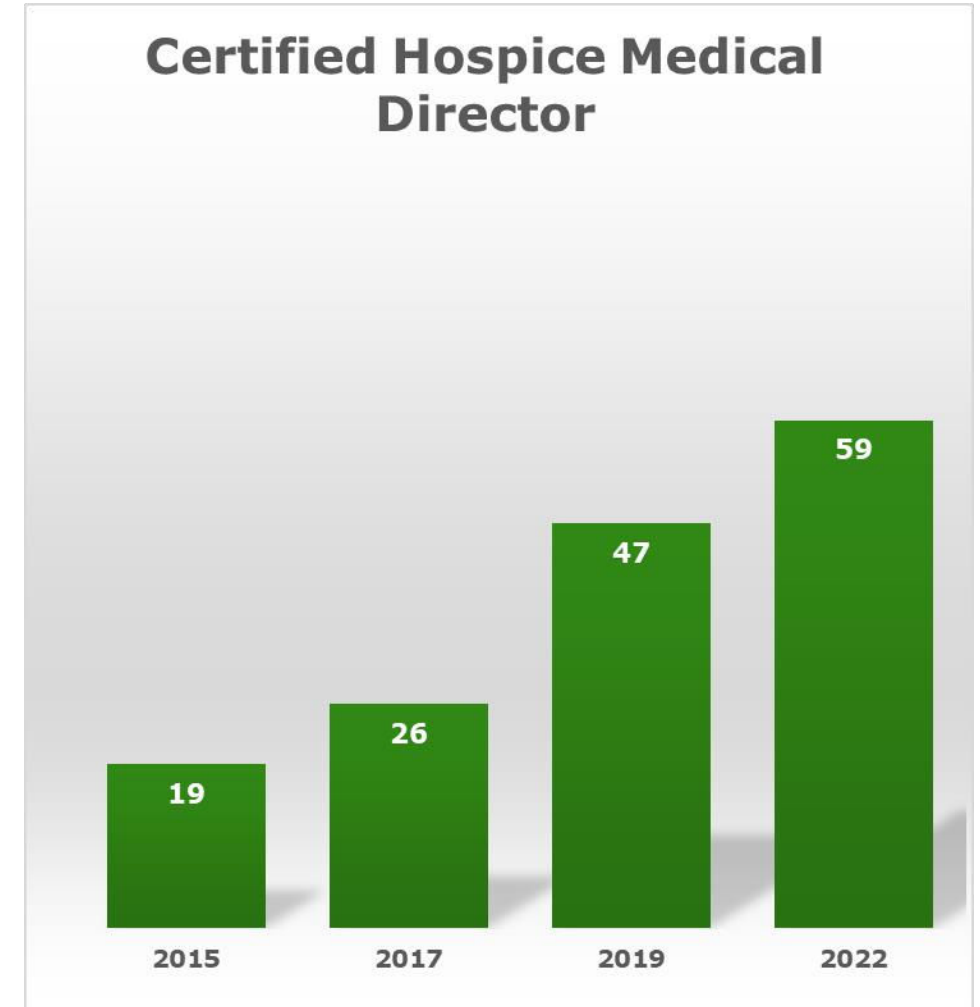
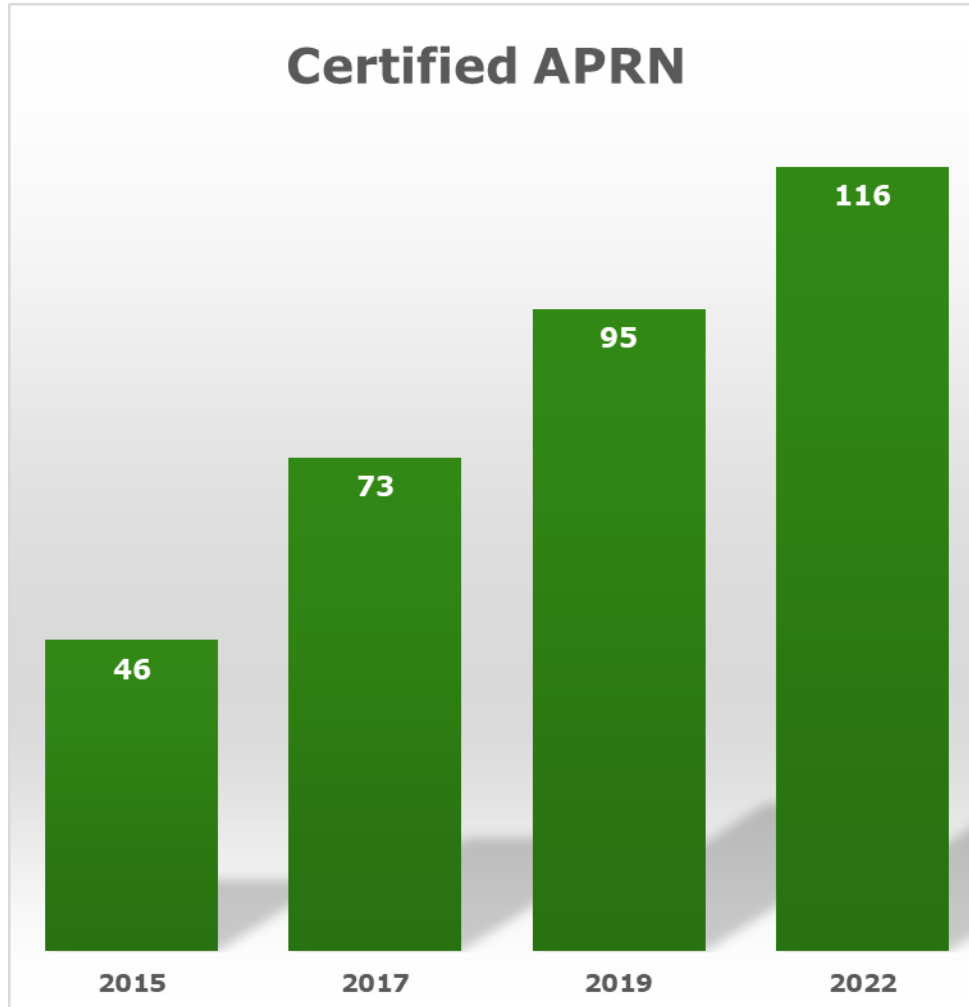
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Growth by Palliative Care Professions Texas, 2015- 2022



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NASHP brief on lessons learned from Maryland, Maine, and Texas coming soon!



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Q&A



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Thank you!

And thank you to The John A. Hartford Foundation for making this webinar possible!

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