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

April 30, 2024
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.

nashp.org
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
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
Past Activities of Note

• Study of Health Care Services for Children with Life-Threatening Conditions (2008)
• MOLST legislation and implementing regulations (2011-2013)
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
• 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
Supportive Palliative Care in Texas
Supportive Palliative Care (SPC) Milestones
Texas, 2015-2023

2015
- 84th Leg
- HB 1874 (Zerwas)
  - Established the *PCIAC and state information and education program

2016
- SPC website
- 1st PCIAC Legislative Report

2017
- 85th Leg
- SB 919 (Rodriguez)
  - Death Certificate Signature Authority
  - 1st Annual PCIAC CE Event

2018
- NASHP Scan of Palliative Care Activity/State Leadership Council on Palliative Care
- 2nd PCIAC Legislative Report

2019
- 86th Leg
- SB 916 (Johnson)
  - SPC definition and Medicaid study
  - NASHP Palliative Care Summit

2020
- 3rd PCIAC Legislative Report

2021
- 87th Leg
- HB 4048 (Allison)
  - Death Certificate Signature Authority
  - SPC licensing guidance

2022
- SPC Awareness
- Day 10/10/23
- NASHP Serious Illness Institute

2023
- 88th Leg
- SB 739 (Johnson)
  - SPC

*Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC)
Growth by Palliative Care Profession
Texas, 2015-2022

Physicians with Palliative Specialty

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>379</td>
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Growth by Palliative Care Professions
Texas, 2015-2022

Certified APRN

- 2015: 46
- 2017: 73
- 2019: 95
- 2022: 116

Certified Hospice Medical Director

- 2015: 19
- 2017: 26
- 2019: 47
- 2022: 59
NASHP brief on lessons learned from Maryland, Maine, and Texas coming soon!
Thank you!
And thank you to The John A. Hartford Foundation for making this webinar possible!

Please fill out the webinar evaluation so we can continue to improve.