



## Connecticut Advisory Council on Palliative Care

### Minutes

January 13, 2017

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

American Cancer Society, Rocky Hill CT

**Attendees:** Colleen Mulkerin, Hartford Hospital; Wendy Furniss, DPH; Lori Griffin, DPH; Kim Hriceniak, DPH; Barbara Morrison, Patricia Trotta, Taryn Hamre, CCMC and Yale University; Cynthia Roy, Regional Hospice; James Prota, CT Hospice.

**Absent:** Karen Mulvihill, Danbury Hospital; Diana Cameron, VNA Community Healthcare, Inc., Dr. Kerry Moss, CCMC, Regional Hospice; Dr. Jennifer Kapo

**Public:** Bryte Johnson, American Cancer Society, Lucinda Hogarty, Connecticut Cancer Partnership and Tracy Wodatch; Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Colleen Mulkerin.
- II. A motion was made by Wendy Furniss to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2016 meeting. The motion was seconded by Taryn Hamre. The vote was unanimous.
- III. Patricia Trotta reviewed the updated Palliative Care and Hospice Benchmark Data which will be included in the 2016 report to the Commissioner. The data identified that CT nurses certified in Hospice and Palliative Care has dropped from 226 to 221 in the past two years. The reason for the decrease in nurse certification was discussed and reimbursement issues maybe a contributing factor. It was also identified that Connecticut has the lowest median length of stay in the nation for patients receiving the Medicare hospice benefit.
- IV. Tracy Wodatch presented an overview of current Medicare Hospice Data. It was identified that Middlesex County has the highest use of the Hospice benefit and Windham County has the least with 20-29% utilization. Medicare-benefit Hospice deaths in Connecticut were 44.7% compared to 46.6% nationally. The council members discussed the difficulty in obtaining accurate Hospice data (i.e.: Medicaid data and pediatric data). DPH working with DSS and Medicaid data for adults was obtained.
- V. A discussion was held about the development of workgroups and a timeline was established for 2017 to ensure adequate preparation of information for the 2018 legislative session.
- VI. Upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed and discussion held regarding securing a location.

**Reminder:** The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the American Cancer Society in Rocky Hill.

A motion was made by Barbara Morrison to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. The motion was seconded by Colleen Mulkerin