

# Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2019, Room 125, Georgia Capital

### I. **Call to order:** Tammie Quest MD (Chairman)

### II. **Roll call**

Secretary Name call was conducted including: Sen. Renee Unterman, Rep Sharon Cooper, Khaliah Johnson, MD, Tammy Quest MD, Jamie Cramer, Aliesha Edwards, Carol Babcock MFT.

### III. **Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Secretary Name

### IV. **Open issues**

- a) Brandy sylvan, Department of Community Health, read the requirement for officers. There was discussion among the council members. A motion was made and approved; Dr. Tammy Quest will serve as Chairman and Jamie Cramer as Vice Chairman.
- b) New member, Carol Babcock MFT, was voted in, Carol has 17 years of experience and has been an advocate for change in Palliative Care and Quality of life issues in South Georgia.
- c) National Academy for State Health Policy, "Advancing Palliative Care for Adults with Serious Illness: A National Review of State Palliative Care Policies and Programs Report" was reviewed and discussed. Senator Unterman stated that this report is pivotal to what is going on with palliative care and CMS regulations. Appendix B of the report states that using Medicaid as a fund source for palliative care in Georgia is not currently allowed.
- d) **Action Item:** Jamie Cramer agreed to schedule a stakeholders meeting (requested by Senator Unterman) to take place to seek community discussion and input about Palliative Care and Quality of Life and report back to the committee.

- e) State of Georgia Legal Authorized Surrogate for Consent for DNR and All other Medical Decisions was discussed. Concerns that individuals are suffering needlessly because of medical professionals and hospitals fear of litigation. Currently State Guardian Care will not sign off on a DNR in any case because of the way the current law reads. Rep Cooper asked the group what happens to these individuals, Wards of the State? Carol discussed the battle with explaining that you are causing suffering. Palliative Care teams needs to make the judgement for those individuals who have no representative.
- f) Senator Unterman and Representative Cooper made the recommendation to do a survey.

**Action Item:** Carol will reach out to Kathy Kinlaw to do a survey for Nursing Homes, Hospitals, Hospice and possibly other stake holder groups by the end of the month.

**Action Item:** Carol will reach out to Georgia Health Care Ethics Consortium.

The Committee recommended that (O.C.G.A. § 31-9-2) be changed to mirror (O.C.G.A. § 31-39-4) during the current State Legislative Session if possible.

- g) Progress on consumer and provider education: Khaliah Johnson, MD gave a report. Next steps need to include improving web site for providers that have an interest. We need information about what is permissible with DCH. Outcome needs to focus on drill down to state resources on the web site. Do we want to link to other sites? National Palliative preliminary state resources? Carol will work with Khaliah on this issue. Ga POLST, advanced directive, hospice are key areas for focus. Expertise of council members and groups interest will be needed. We need to ensure that we are not indorsing or promoting any one entity, paying attention as it relates to transparency. We want to reference certain laws that are relevant to palliative care. **Action item:** Khaliah will provide progress on commission and provider: Khaliah will send out for first of week of February and send recommendations on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

## V. New business

- a) Our next meeting will be in May and will be set by Chairman Quest.

b) New business/summary of discussion

c) New business/summary of discussion

**VI. Adjournment**

Facilitator Name adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jamie Cramer

Minutes approved by: Council Members