

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Center for End-of-Life Care

Report to the Committee on Health and Human Services 121st Legislature

Mandated by Public Law 439 (adopted July 2001)

**A program of the Maine Hospice Council
Overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health**

Legislative Mandate:

“The Department of Human Services Bureau of Health may establish, through contract or otherwise, the Maine Center for End-of-Life Care. The purpose of the Center is to educate health care providers and the public regarding pain management and palliative and end-of-life care. The Center must maintain a registry of health professionals trained in pain management and palliative and end-of-life care. The Bureau shall solicit and accept outside funding through grants and other sources to establish and operate the Center, which must be hosted by an educational institution, professional association or other entity interested in the care of the terminally ill. By January 15th of each year the Bureau shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding the operation of the Center and its funding.”

Mission Statements:

A Planning Retreat for the Center for End-of-Life Care was held February 8, 2002. Five mission statements were adopted:

1. The Center is to be a leader in the end-of-life care movement which creates the best possible dying process for everyone in Maine by creating a culture that accepts dying as a part of living.
2. The Center is to promote knowledge, acceptance, access and excellence of end-of-life care for all people in Maine. The Center will serve as a clearinghouse and resource center for providers and the public for: education, data collection and research, advocacy, best practices and standards.
3. The Center will ensure excellence in end-of-life care for all Maine citizens through dynamic leadership in advocacy, education and collaborative efforts.
4. The Center will effect positive change in the end-of-life care experience in Maine through the removal of barriers to best practices and the integration of health care services.
5. The Center will achieve excellence in end-of-life care in Maine by: education, research, resource management, coordination of services and support, logistical support, advocacy and public policy and in the future, by providing direct service.

Joint Mission Statement of Maine Hospice Council and the Center for End-of-Life Care:

“The Maine Hospice Council and the Maine Center for End-of-Life Care exist to ensure the continued development of Hospice and Palliative Care in Maine. The Council and Center provide education and technical assistance regarding end-of-life care, as well as advocacy for terminally ill and bereaved persons regarding quality of life issues throughout the state of Maine.”

Structural Oversight of the Center:

As directed by the Bureau of Health, the Center has become a project of the Maine Hospice Council. A Steering Committee has been formed under the direction of two volunteer Co-Chairs and the Executive Director of the Maine Hospice Council, Kandyce Powell.

Working Committees have been established:

- Advocacy
- Marketing and Public Affairs
- Finance
- Education
- Community Engagement
- Research and Data Collection

These Committees joined existing Committees of the Maine Hospice Council:

- Clinical/Regulatory
- Provider Advisory
- Membership
- Hospice Volunteer Retreat
- Maine Cancer Pain Initiative
- Policies and Procedures
- Nominating

Challenge to Moving the Center Forward:

The Bureau of Health, the Maine Hospice Council and the Committees of the Center for End-of-Life Care strive to move the work of the Center forward with no funding assistance from the state of Maine. There was no funding linked to the originating legislation, therefore the Center faces the challenges of an unfunded mandate.

In order to meet the intent of the public law, funding is obviously necessary. Until that time that sustainable funding can be ensured, the Center continues to do its best with a volunteer Steering Committee and working Committees.

The Steering Committee meets the first Wednesday of every other month at 8:30 AM at the offices of the Maine Hospice Council in Manchester, Maine. The meetings are open to all Maine Hospice Council members and the general public. The working Committees meet in between the Steering Committee meetings.

Attachments:

****2002 Annual Report of the Maine Hospice Council to the Committee on Health and Human Services**

****Maine Hospice Council and Center for End-of-Life Care Organizational Diagram**

****Maine Hospice Council Brochure**

****Maine Cancer Pain Initiative Information**

****Informational Hospice Bookmark**