

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
GOVERNOR

KEVIN W. CONCANNON  
COMMISSIONER

**TO:** Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

**CC:** Commissioner Kevin W. Concannon  
Edie Smith  
Terry Cronin  
Lauren Michalakes  
Kandyce Powell, Maine Hospice Council

**FROM:** Dora Anne Mills, MD, MPH

**DATE:** January 15, 2001

**RE:** Maine Center for End of Life Care

Please consider this a report to update you on the creation of the Maine Center for End of Life Care. As part of the 2001 budget, the Maine Legislature passed the following statute in PL 439, Section LL:

“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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Center shall undertake a study of end-of-life and palliative care, pain management, and barriers to the establishment of inpatient hospice programs in the State. The study must include recommendations for overcoming those barriers and a strategic plan for providing end-of-life and palliative care statewide and consider other issues as determined by the Center.”

The following activities have been initiated to comply with the statute:

- After meeting with a number of stakeholders, including some legislators, over the summer of 2001, it appeared there was broad consensus that an appropriate place for the Maine Center for End of Life Care is the Maine Hospice Council. Therefore, I sent a letter (see enclosed) establishing the Center in this way.



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(DEAF/HARD OF HEARING)

- The Maine Hospice Council and the Maine Citizens to Improve End of Life Care have worked together the past few months to further establish the Center and define its mission. A Steering Committee and Advisory Committee (see enclosed lists for membership) for the Center have been established, and meetings have taken place throughout the fall, including 9/20, 9/26, 10/4, 11/9, and 12/11. Edie Smith, Terry Cronin, and Lauren Michalakes have been designated as co-chairs of the Center.
- The Center's mission at this point in time is to bring together many energies, projects, and excellent efforts focused on end-of-life, palliative, and pain management issues within one common clearing house to improve collaboration, support, and amplification of successes, while learning from shortcomings and mistakes.
- A two day retreat for both the Steering and Advisory Committee has been scheduled for this February to further delineate the Center's goals and objectives as well as to create a plan of action for the next two years.
- Fundraising efforts have been a focus of discussions, for clearly funds are needed to carry out the Center's mission. Currently, the Center exists as a program within the Maine Hospice Council, which has tax exempt status. The Bureau of Health solicited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for funds for the Center as part of a bigger cancer prevention and control grant application. Unfortunately, this application was unsuccessful last year, though it may be re-submitted later this year. A number of other fundraising efforts are being discussed and explored by the Center's committees. The Bureau has been able to contribute \$2000 toward some of the Center's initial efforts. We are also committed to identifying possible further funding opportunities, especially from the federal government, as well as assisting the Center's efforts in supporting other grant application efforts.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.