Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) Meeting

August 3, 2021
Full Committee Meeting
9:00 AM
Welcome and Introductions

Staff and Council Member Introductions
Meeting Overview (1 of 3)

Main Objectives

• Welcome and Introductions
• Review and Approval of meeting minutes from April 6th, 2021
• **Presentation:** Palliative care and Hospice in the prison system
• **Discussion:** Palliative care and Home Health
Meeting Overview (2 of 3)

Main Objectives

• **Update**: Supportive palliative care and hospice-related bills passed in the 87th Texas Legislative Session

• **Update**: Senate Bill 916 Study Progress

• **Update**: Palliative Care Information and Education Program’s 2021 Continuing Education Event
Main Objectives

• **Workgroup Updates**
  • Decisions in Serious Illness Care for Guardians Workgroup Discussion - Course Walkthrough
  • Pediatric Palliative Care Subcommittee update

• **Discussion:** 2021 Timeline and Next Steps
  • Action items and topics for staff or member follow-up

• Public Comment

• Adjourn
Review and Approval of April 6th, 2021 meeting minutes
Presentation: Palliative Care and Hospice in the Prison System

Speaker:
Joelle Silva
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Discussion: Palliative Care & Home Health
Update: Supportive palliative care and hospice related bills passed

Update and discussion on recent bills passed in the 87th Texas Legislative Session
Supportive Palliative Care Bills Passed 87th Texas Legislature (1 of 3)

Telehealth & Telemedicine

• **HB 4**
  • Relating to telemedicine, telehealth, and technology-related health care services.
  • [https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB00974I.pdf#navpanes=0](https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB00974I.pdf#navpanes=0)

• **HB 5**
  • Relating to the expansion of broadband services to certain areas.
  • [https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB00005F.pdf#navpanes=0](https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB00005F.pdf#navpanes=0)
Supportive Palliative Care Bills Passed
87th Texas Legislature (2 of 4)

Rights for Patients and Caregivers

• **SB 25 by Kolkhorst**
  • Relating to the right of certain residents to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation.
  • [https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB0025F.pdf#navpanes=0](https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB0025F.pdf#navpanes=0)

• **SB 572 by Springer**
  • Relating to in-person visitation of religious counselors with certain health care facility patients and residents during a public health emergency.
  • [https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB00572F.pdf#navpanes=0](https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/SB00572F.pdf#navpanes=0)
Supportive Palliative Care Bills Passed
Texas Legislature, 2021 (3 of 4)

Medical Cannabis

• HB 1535 by Klick
  • Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis by patients with certain medical conditions and the establishment of compassionate use institutional review boards to evaluate and approve proposed research programs to study the medical use of low-THC cannabis in the treatment of certain patients.
  • https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB01535I.pdf#navpanes=0
Vaccine Administration - Home Health & Hospice Agencies

• HB 797 by Howard
  • Relating to the possession and administration of certain vaccines by a home and community support services agency or its employees.
  • https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/billtext/pdf/HB00797E.pdf#navpanes=0
Update: Senate Bill 916
Study Progress

Update on Workgroup Progress
Senate Bill 916 Study Requirements

Assess potential improvements of SPC on:

• Health quality, health outcomes, and cost savings from the availability of SPC services in Medicaid
• Must include an evaluation and comparison of other states that provide Medicaid reimbursement for SPC

Other Requirements:

• PCIAC must provide recommendations on study
• HHSC may collaborate with and solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations to fund the study
• Study findings due to Council by September 1, 2022
Senate Bill 916 Study Timeline

• 11/01/2021 - Complete all study activities and draft the study.

• 5/01/2022 - Submit the findings of the SB 916 study to internal routing/review/approval process through Medicaid and HHSC.
  • Study findings to be incorporated into the PCIAC Legislative Report.

• 10/01/2022 - The Legislative Report will be submitted to the Texas Legislature.
Next Steps identified by SB 916 study workgroup:

- Dual eligible population - ACP
- Take a closer look at preventable events, especially preventable hospital admissions and preventable ER visits
- Better ascertainment of hospice utilization data (adult and pediatric)

Results: Full findings of the study due to Legislature by 10/01/2022.
Senate Bill 916 Study
Phase 2 - Evaluation & Comparison

• Evaluation and comparison of other states that provide Medicaid reimbursement for SPC
• Eight states provide Medicaid reimbursement for palliative care services:
  - California
  - Arizona
  - Florida
  - Iowa
  - Michigan
  - New York
  - South Carolina
  - Washington
Other State’s Policies for Consideration in Texas

• Start with Advance Care Planning
• Potential for use of Existing Billing Codes
• Partner with Managed Care Organizations
• Utilization of Value-Based Strategies
Update: 2021 Continuing Education Event

Discussion of Event Topics
CE Event Topic Discussion

Event Date: Friday, November 5th from 1pm to 4pm via webinar

• **Session One** - The challenges of delivering SPC in underserved communities
• **Session Two** - Pediatric palliative care
• **Session Three** - The challenges of dementia, advance care planning, and coping skills for caregivers
Decisions in Serious Illness Care for Guardians - Online Course Demo

Online Course Walk Through
The Learning Portal has a new and updated look. Here link to a short training how to start.

https://learningportal.hhs.texas.gov/
Course categories

- Required Training for HHS Contractors (2)
- Health and Human Services Commission Courses (1)
  - Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports Training (5)
    - Monitoring and Maintaining Medicaid Eligibility (4)
- County Jail Reporting Training (1)
- Direct Service Worker Training (6)
- Disaster Behavioral Health Services (1)
- Electronic Visit Verification Training (4)
- Leadership Courses (3)
- PASRR Training (16)
- Palliative Care Training (1)

https://learningportal.hhs.texas.gov/
The courses provided are developed thanks to the extensive experience of members of the Texas Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC), peer reviewed medical evidence, and advice from recognized experts in medical ethics and law.

The learner completing the educational sessions provided will have better understanding of the multiple issues related to decision-making in serious illness, decisions potentially at or near the end of life.

- This will allow the learner to ask better questions of clinicians caring for patients the guardian or other surrogate is responsible for.
- It is hoped this will lead to more patient centered decisions while lessening stress on the guardian or other surrogate.

https://learningportal.hhs.texas.gov/
HHS Learning Portal (4 of 5)

Facing Decisions in Serious Illness Care for Guardians

Step 1: Facing Decisions in Serious Illness Care for Guardians Training

- Topic 1: Treatment Variability in Serious Illness Care and Patient Preferences at End of Life
- Topic 2: Basic Ethical Issues in Serious Illness Care
- Topic 3: Basic legal Issues in Serious Illness Care, Including Advance Directives
- Topic 4: Supportive Palliative Care and Hospice in Serious Illness Care
- Topic 5: Evidence Foundation for Withholding and Withdrawing Medical Interventions at Life's End: CPR and ICD Deactivation
- Topic 6: Clinical evidence foundation for withholding & withdrawing medical interventions at life's end: Artificial (Assisted) Nutrition and Hydration and Mechanical Ventilation
- Topic 7: Clinical evidence foundation for withholding and withdrawing medical interventions at life's end: Dialysis

https://learningportal.hhs.texas.gov/
HHS Learning Portal (5 of 5)

Assessment
- Topic 1 Quiz
- Topic 2 Quiz
- Topic 3 Quiz
- Topic 4 Quiz
- Topic 5 Quiz
- Topic 6 Quiz
- Topic 7 Quiz

Evaluation
- Evaluation Survey

Certificate
- Palliative Care Training Certificate
  - Restricted: Not available unless the activity Evaluation Survey is marked complete

Resources
- Decisions in Serious Illness Care for Guardians - Accessible PDF
Update: Pediatric Palliative Care Subcommittee

Speaker: Emily Rocha
HHSC
Inaugural Meeting

• Variety of providers from around the state
  • Physicians
  • Nurse Practitioners
  • Social workers
  • Child Life Specialists, and more...

• Discussed analytic plan needs

• Began discussion of current state of pediatric palliative care in Texas

• Next meeting in August
  • Update on analytic plan progress
  • Continue discussion of current state
  • Begin forming subcommittee goals
Analytic Plan

• Number of hospices that provide pediatric care.
• Data on the number and demographics of individuals receiving concurrent care and what type of care are these individuals receiving.
• Data on pediatric palliative care in rural areas.
• Length of time members spend in concurrent and hospice care.
• Number of times someone returned to hospital/ED visits and whether acute care visits decrease as concurrent care rates increase.
• Home care utilization with and without hospice designation.
Discussion: Timeline and Next Steps

Discussion of 2021 Timeline
Timeline

Upcoming Council Meetings:

• **11/05/2021** - PCIAC full council meeting & Continuing Education Event

Other Key Deadlines/Events:

• **11/05/2021** - Chair Election

• **9/01/2022** - HHSC provides the council the findings of SB 916 pilot study

• **10/01/2022** - Council submits the 2022 PCIAC Legislative report to the Texas Legislature which includes the findings of the SB 916 pilot study
Next Steps

• Pediatric Palliative Care & Concurrent Care
• SB 916 Study Analytics & Review of Other States
• 2021 Annual Continuing Education Event
• 2022 PCIAC Legislative Report
Staff Action Items for Follow-up

Erica Dawley will present action items for follow-up

Questions regarding agenda items, content, or meeting arrangements should be directed to Erica Dawley at Erica.Dawley@hhs.texas.gov
Public Comment Procedures

• Written comments are encouraged
• Registration and call-in process for oral public comment
• All speakers must identify themselves and the organization they are representing before speaking
• Rules of conduct apply to public comments made by teleconference

Questions regarding agenda items, content, or meeting arrangements should be directed to Erica Dawley at Erica.Dawley@hhs.texas.gov
Thank you

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Council Website:
https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/leadership/advisory-committees/palliative-care-interdisciplinary-advisory-council