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Update: Pediatric Palliative Care Subcommittee

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Subcommittee Mission Statement

To improve pediatric supportive palliative care (SPC) and hospice care for children and their families in Texas through policy change recommendations, workforce education, and population outreach.

The subcommittee will do this by examining pediatric supportive palliative care and hospice care services statewide via data analysis, stakeholder discussions, and institutional surveys in order to create roadmaps and goals for continued improvement.



Past Activities

- Developed mission statement
- Conducted a survey of SPC clinical operations in Texas
- Completed a data analysis project
- Provided input on SPC-related policies to the PCIAC
- Revised membership of pediatric subcommittee to include more interdisciplinary representation



Current Activities

- Collaborating on data analysis
 - Looked at Medicaid decedents from SFY 2018-19 and their diagnostic categories, healthcare utilization and costs, interaction with SPC
 - Currently trying to get a broader look
 - And to analyze hospice and concurrent care utilization
- Develop updated content for the pediatric palliative care HHSC website

<https://www.hhs.texas.gov/providers/health-services-providers/palliative-care-providers/pediatric-palliative-care>



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Current Legislative Recommendations

- Aided the PCIAC in the development of the "Child Life Specialists as essential members of the SPC Team" recommendation
- Support PCIAC recommendations for:
 - Medicaid reimbursement for advance care planning codes
 - Supportive Palliative Care Awareness Day
 - Expanding Texas Medicaid hospice benefit to improve perinatal palliative care



Proposed Next Steps

- Continue to work with PCIAC toward a comprehensive Medicaid benefit for supportive pediatric AND adult palliative care
 - Continued discussions with community partners regarding current state of pediatric SPC
- Continue to work on data analytic plan
- Continue work on the pediatric palliative care HHSC website
- Consider SPC-specific educational event



Input from PCIAC

- Feedback regarding current or proposed activities
- Website feedback
- Other



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Thank you

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