



ILLINOIS  
HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
ORGANIZATION

## IL HPCO NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2015**

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**EDUCATION UPDATE-** Ronda Dudley, RN, BC, BS, MBA-Memorial Home Services, Home Health & Hospice Director

Register now for IL HPCO's Annual Conference, Sept 15-16 in Springfield. 6 CEs with speakers Gardia Gardia-Keynoter, Jennifer Kennedy-NHPCO, Charles Cannan and Mary Lynn Stillinger-Palmetto. [www.rsvpbook.com/ILHPCO2015](http://www.rsvpbook.com/ILHPCO2015)

Registration is now open for the Annual IL HPCO Conference How to: The Right Care, In the Right Place, At the Right Time, to be held in the Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation in Springfield Sept 15-16. We will start this conference on Tuesday evening with our Keynoter Gary Gardia presenting an interactive and fun presentation, the conference will continue all day Wednesday with exceptional speakers and topics as outlined at [www.rsvpbook.com/ILHPCO2015](http://www.rsvpbook.com/ILHPCO2015)

Please make sure to register ... the hospice and palliative care landscape is changing and you will come away with many new ideas for survival and enhancement!

**ASSOCIATION NEWS-**Rick Kasper, Heritage Healthcare; Pam Cramer, IL HPCO Exec Director

### **Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Advisory Board Meeting**

The Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Advisory Board met with IDPH on August 13. Karen Senger, IDPH, will be sending a reminder letter about unlicensed caregivers in the home and hospice being trained to provide medications. Karen is asking hospices not to train anyone but family members on how to give medications to keep them in the home. It seems that hospices are training unlicensed caregivers on how to give medications. This is not allowed. A similar communication was sent two years ago.

The Advisory Board needs a person to fill a community member spot of the Board? Please let Pam Cramer ([pcramer@thepmcgroup.com](mailto:pcramer@thepmcgroup.com)) or Rick Kasper ([rkasper@heritagehc.org](mailto:rkasper@heritagehc.org)) know if you have suggestions.

**GIPCC EVENT** Second Annual Butterfly Walk/Run/Flutter: August 30, 2015

Join the Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition (GIPCC), and other regional programs that serve children with life-limiting illnesses and their families in the second annual Butterfly Walk/Run/Flutter 5K and 1K event! This event celebrates the memory of children lost and honors those who served and loved these children. It is also a place for families who have lost children to be together in a positive and meaningful way.

This celebratory walk will take place at Busse Woods/Ned Brown Meadow, Groves 5-16 at Arlington Heights Rd. & Higgins Road in Elk Grove Village on August 30! You can register online at [www.childrenshospiceofamerica.org](http://www.childrenshospiceofamerica.org), or at Busse Woods on the morning of the event, starting at 9am. The Butterfly Release begins at 10:30am, and the run and walk begin shortly thereafter.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**-Mary Runge, Horizon and IL HPCO Director Betsy Mitchell, IL HPCO Lobbyist

**Palmetto GBA Hospice Coalition---Request for Questions**

**ATTENTION!** The Hospice Palmetto Coalition will be meeting in Columbia, S.C. on Thursday, October 8, 2015. Please route this to the individuals in your agencies that deal with Palmetto routinely to see if they have any questions they would like us to raise during our meeting.

**Please submit questions by COB Friday, September 4, 2015 (Labor-Day Weekend).**

**CMS Final Rule on New Payment Updates - -**

Click on Federal Register Link for complete rule:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-19033.pdf>

Betsy Mitchell, IL HPCO Lobbyist, says “Despite all of this, summer is always a good time to meet with your legislators, especially if you do not know the legislators whom represent where you live and where you work. If you would like assistance with this, please contact me at [Betsy@cook-witter.com](mailto:Betsy@cook-witter.com). I am more than happy to help you connect with your legislators. Please know this is a very important function you can and should do as a hospice provider. It is important to continue to educate legislators about what your do for your communities.

**VETERANS' CORNER** – Nancy Sehy, RN, Hospice Manager, Lincolnland Hospice

***Get Involved! Learn and share ideas, inspiration, and Best Practices with VA employees, agencies, and care providers in your area!***

**Marion HVP:** Next meeting is Tuesday, October 13th, 2015, 9:30am-11:30am

If interested or questions- please contact: Michelle Drone Community Health MSA 618-997-5311 ext 55051 [Michelle.Done@va.gov](mailto:Michelle.Done@va.gov)

If interested or questions- please contact: Andy Balafas, Veterans Liaison, Vitas Innovative Hospice 630-818-0885 [Andrew.Balafas@vitas.com](mailto:Andrew.Balafas@vitas.com)

**Chicago Area HVP:** Next meeting is Friday, September 25, 2015, 9:00am-12:00pm

If interested or questions- please contact: Jolene Renda, VISN 12 Palliative Care Program Manager  
Phone: 608-372-1217 [Jolene.Renda@va.gov](mailto:Jolene.Renda@va.gov)

**Danville/Illiana HVP:** Annual meetings- next date pending, anticipated in June 2016.

If interested or questions- please contact: Melissa A. Nelson, RN, LCSW Palliative Care Coordinator 217-554-5137 [Melissa.Nelson6@va.gov](mailto:Melissa.Nelson6@va.gov)