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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### *Online Call for Presentations*

The Conference Planning Committee for the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (IL-HPCO) 2015 Conference invites you to submit a proposal for a session for our annual fall symposium scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th, 2015 at Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation located on Memorial Medical Center's campus, Miller St., Springfield, IL.

The conference theme for 2015 is **The Right Care, In the Right Place, At the Right Time ..... The role of palliative and end-of-life care in the emerging healthcare landscape.**

The objectives of the conference are:

- Discuss Regulatory and industry changes that impact hospice and palliative care
- Provide tools to ensure the provision of quality, evidenced based practice for end of life care
- Improve documentation and billing strategies to meet CMS guidelines
- Network with other hospice and palliative care leaders to learn best practices

Proposals are to be submitted online this year. Please read all of the directions carefully to ensure that all submission requirements are met.

Please click on the button below to access the online submission system:

[Online Submission System](#)

**Note:** The due date for final submissions is  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2015.**

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ILLINOIS  
HOSPICE &  
PALLIATIVE CARE  
ORGANIZATION

## 2015 Annual Education Conference

The Right Care, In The Right Place, At The Right Time

*The role of palliative and end-of-life care in the emerging healthcare landscape.*

September 16, 2015 - Springfield, IL

# SAVE THE DATE!

**Tuesday, September 15, 2015**

Pre-Conference Workshop and Welcome Reception

5:00 – 9:00 pm

The Doubletree – President Abraham Lincoln Hotel – Springfield, IL

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

Conference

8:00am-4:30pm

**Memorial Medical Center Campus**

Miller Street

Springfield, Illinois

**CEs sponsored by Joliet Area Community Hospice**

*Keynote Speaker:* Gary Gardia, MEd, MSW, LCSW



*Imagine....life with passion, courage and integrity regardless of the time we have left.*

**We look forward to having Gary join us as our Keynote Speaker!**

(See more about Gary at [www.garygardia.com](http://www.garygardia.com))

Joliet Area Community Hospice (OH - 373, 1/31/2014) is an approved provider of Continuing Nursing Education by the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Joliet Area Community Hospice is recognized as an approved C.E. sponsor by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation for Professional Counselor/Clinical Counselor, Nursing Home Administrator and Social Worker.

**6.0 continuing education hours will be awarded for this activity**

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## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

**Betsy D. Mitchell, MPA**

**IL/HPCO Legislative Consultant**

*Betsy D. Mitchell, MPA, IL-HPCO's legislative consultant in Springfield, IL, offers her report on pending bills and relevant state legislation. Her column is a regular feature in the e-news.*

**Attention: Hospice Care NOT in FY16 Budget**

As time has gone by, more and more information has been released on the budget. We now know that Hospice Care is not included in the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services FY2016 budget. All Optional Services, which includes Hospice Care, have been "zeroed-out" of the Governor's proposed budget. Two things to remember:

- This is a proposed budget made by the Governor to the Illinois General Assembly. Legislators have just begun the process of holding hearings on each agency's budget.
- A few years ago, it was recommended that Hospice Care not be funded. After numerous meetings and phone calls from all of you, Hospice Care was reinstated. Once again, we need to loudly let our legislators know what this would mean to your community if you could not take care of Medicaid patients.

Watch closely for additional information on this vital issue. If you do not know who to contact, contact me [Betsy@cook-witter.com](mailto:Betsy@cook-witter.com) and I will help you find out who represents you in Springfield so you contact your legislators.

**Jim Parker, Director of Medicaid**

Jim Parker, Director of Medicaid for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services will be leaving the Department at the end of March. He has served the State of Illinois for many years. More importantly, he has been a good friend to the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. We always

appreciated his willingness to meet with us and help us. He was one of few people who understood our complex issues. We thank him and will miss him very much. There is no word on his replacement at this time. Stay tuned for more information.

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## VETERANS' CORNER

Members - here is the current Hospice-Veterans Partnership groups in Illinois. Please contact the location in your service area if you are interested in becoming involved as a member:

Marion: Andrea Parsons  
PSA for Community Health  
Marion VA Medical Center  
Phone: (618) 997-5311 Ext. 59160  
Fax: (618) 997-8229  
Email: [Andrea.Parsons@va.gov](mailto:Andrea.Parsons@va.gov)

Danville/Illiana: Melissa A. Nelson, RN, LCSW  
Palliative Care Coordinator  
Illiana Health Care System  
Phone: 217-554-5137  
Fax: 217-554-4310  
Email: [Melissa.Nelson6@va.gov](mailto:Melissa.Nelson6@va.gov)

Northern Tier: Sheila Schroedl, LCSW, SW  
Wm. S. Middleton Memorial VA Hospital  
Office: 608-280-7085  
Telephone: 608-256-1901 Extension 11579  
Email: [Sheila.Schroedl@va.gov](mailto:Sheila.Schroedl@va.gov)

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## GENERAL NEWS



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## ONGOING EVENTS