
IL-HPCO NEWSLETTER

November 2015

In this issue:

- Education Update
- Legislative Update Veterans' Corner

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS ! The 2016 Annual Education Conference, *Connecting the Dots...Hospice and Palliative Care in the Continuum of Care...* will be held September 21-22 at the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council in Chicago. It will begin with a reception and dinner on Wednesday evening, September 21. The following day, Keynote Speaker Laurie Guest will kick-off the meeting. Online proposals will be solicited on the IL-HPCO Website in January of 2016. Please mark your calendars for this important meeting!

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

As everyone knows, Illinois continues to limp along with no budget for the past seven months. Last month Governor Rauner stated that he believes a budget agreement can be reached in early January 2016. In the meantime we urge you to initiate or maintain a relationship with your legislator. Below are some 'tips' from IL-HPCO's lobbyist for advocating for hospice.

Become a Better Advocate for Hospice

Work to know your legislators: (<http://www.elections.state.il.us/districtlocator/selectsearchtype.aspx>)

Identify Yourself & Your Organization

Always Be Clear & Concise

Link Our Issues to a Personal Story

Do Not Make enemies (Today's city council member could be tomorrow's Governor)

Remember to listen

Never, ever LIE or Mislead

Use the Talking Points below when speaking with your Legislator

insert personal stories as they have the greatest impact

- Hospice Care provides expert medical care, pain management, and emotional support tailored to Medicaid patients and their family needs

- Most of the time, hospice care is provided in the patient's home but may also be provided in freestanding hospice centers, hospitals and nursing homes
- Hospice Care costs far fewer Medicaid dollars for the terminally ill by eliminating expensive hospital stays and emergency room visits
- Not all Hospice Care patients are elderly as terminal illnesses affect all ages, even children
- Other states that have eliminated Hospice Care have re-installed their programs within a matter of weeks
- The impact of the continued Illinois budget impasse for Hospice Care is at a critical stage
- Without Hospice Care, who will take care of the terminally ill patients

Below please find some helpful links you can use to increase your effectiveness as a vital advocate for hospice:

- [How a Bill Becomes Law in Illinois \(9/10\)](#)
- [Illinois General Assembly Home Page](#)
- [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services](#)
- [Illinois Department of Public Health Home Page](#)
- [CHAPTER 305 PUBLIC AID](#)
- [CHAPTER 410 PUBLIC HEALTH](#)
- [1970 Illinois Constitution Annotated for Legislators \(2/05\)](#)

For more tips and links, never hesitate to contact me: Betsy@cook-witter.com