



IL-HPCO NEWSLETTER

September 2015

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ASSOCIATION NEWS-*Sarah Bealles, Chair, JourneyCare –Moving Forward Together*

IL-HPCO members assembled in Springfield mid- September at the Annual Educational Conference, which was stimulating and inspiring. Thank you to all speakers and sponsors for making this a productive event. We were fortunate to meet in the new MCLI (The Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation)—a new center with a focus on learner-center environments. *“Memorial Health System was ranked the highest ranked healthcare system to receive a national award for its commitment to learning and innovation. This new center showcases Memorial’s commitment to education collaboration, innovation and continuous improvement.”*

The IL-HPCO members finalized the Nominating Committee slate of new Directors and Officers, and the new Board was installed. In my absence, Mary Runge presented Rick Kasper with a recognition award for his term of IL-HPCO Chair from 2013-2015.

I look forward to serving as IL-HPCO’s chair and we work together to understand the driving factors behind healthcare reform and the transition to value-based care, and the potential roles for hospice and palliative care providers in Illinois.

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

IL-HPCO held a successful conference on September 15-16, 2015 in Springfield, with more than 80 attendees. Gary Gardia opened the meeting with a fun and inspirational presentation on Tuesday evening at the Dignity Memorial-sponsored Reception and Dinner. “What I Learned While Dancing in Las Vegas.” The following day were CE presentations with notable speakers such as Jennifer Kennedy-NHPCO, and Charles Cannan and Mary Lynn Stillinger from Palmetto GBA. The Education Committee is reviewing evaluations and comments to help with planning for IL-HPCO Education Conference 2016.

The conference was generously supported by **Dignity Memorial; OnePoint Patient Care; AdvaCare Systems; Hospice on Call; Frost Healthcare; Doug's Company Pharmacy; Journey Care-Moving Forward Together; McKendree University; Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care; Elements the Cremation Company and IL POLST.** The Officers and Board of Directors thank these sponsors for continued support of IL-HPCO's educational activities.

SAVE THE DATE --- IL-HPCO Education Conference, September 21-22, Chicago area

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

On September 29, 2015, members of IL-HPCO's Legislative/Regulatory Committee traveled to Springfield to meet with Medicaid Director Teresa Hersey, and Billing Directors Aimee Ishman and Mashelle Rose. IL-HPCO members included Board Chair Sarah Bealles, Committee Chair Rick Kasper, Diane Bergan, Cherry Meier, Jeri Conboy, Matt Brauss, Jennifer Misasi, and Consultant Betsy Mitchell. The meeting took place at 11a.m. at the offices of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

The meeting began with a brief discussion of Illinois' budget impasse and possible implications of a federal shutdown. Director Hersey informed everyone that despite Illinois' no-budget situation, her office continues to process all provider claims for Medicaid and forward them to the Comptroller so that once a budget is in place, checks can be processed as quickly as possible.

Cherry Meier updated HFS on IL-HPCO's working relationship with MCO's (Managed Care Organizations). Both Cherry and Mary Runge have been working directly with the CEO of Atnea and many issues have been resolved. Mary and Cherry will continue to work with IlliniCare. Please notify either Mary or Cherry of any concerns you have with IlliniCare.

Director Hersey reported HFS has set upcoming dates for ACE's (Accountable Care Entities) to begin contracting as MCO's. Dates will soon be posted on the HFS website.

A year ago, IL/HPCO requested a meeting with the OIG (Office of Inspector General) following their ruling regarding notification and the requirement to have certificate of death signed by physicians and send to HFS within 8 days. IL-HPCO, NHPCO, Consultant Betsy Mitchell, Medicaid Director Jim Parker had a conference call meeting with the OIG to discuss this ruling. Today Director Hersey reported that it is the OIG's decision to let their original decision stand. Director Hersey made clear that providers seeking reimbursement for Medicaid claims must follow every rule to the letter of the law. In addition, as you know, Hospice agencies are being audited at this time. IL-HPCO plans to continue to discuss this issue.

Director Hersey indicated that Illinois Medicaid has been discussing Illinois' implementation in Illinois of the federal Medicaid's Two Tier-Reimbursement System scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2016. Currently, HFS is undergoing numerous system and software changes for the entire agency and doubt they be able to fully implement the fed's system on January 1. Because no other state is prepared for this January implementation, HFS expects (and hopes) CMS will delay the deadline.

Jennifer Misasi discussed the need for additional guidance on providing pediatric concurrent care. Sarah Bealles indicated that the current case by case review situation is not working for providers. A special committee or task force was discussed as possibility. In the end, it was decided that HFS (Aimee Isham, Billing Director) will update the Illinois Medicaid Manual and seek input from IL-HPCO.

Pediatric Palliative Care Legislation was not discussed at this meeting. At our previous meeting in May, HFS had given us their "blessing" to move forward with legislation. Kim Downing has been working with Senator Dale Righter (R, Mattoon) and his staff on developing a bill to be introduced in the 2016 Session.

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

Here's what's happening in the VA world:

Rockford Hospice-Veteran Partnership Meeting-October 8

The next Rockford Hospice-Veteran Partnership meeting will be at noon on October 8 at Heartland Hospice in Rockford, 363 Financial Ct., Rockford, IL. ---for more information, please contact Andy Balafas at 630-818-0885

Marion Hospice-Veterans Partnership Meeting-October 13

The next Marion Hospice-Veterans Partnership meeting will be on October 13th, 9:30-11:30 AM at the Rural King Annex in Marion, IL, 1301 Enterprise Way. Registration begins at 9:30 and the meeting will adjourn at 11:30. The topic will be "Where Have we Been and Where are We Going?" RSVP to Michelle Drone, MSA for Community Health Dept, Marion VA Medical Center, 2401 West Main Street, Marion, 618-997-5311 ext 55051.

Save the Date-November 18

What: Northern Tier Hospice-Veteran Partnership meeting on Hospice-Applicable Veterans Benefits, CE available for nurses and social workers

When: November 18, 9:00 AM-Noon

Where: Chapel Hill Gardens, in Oakbrook Terrace