



Legislative Update — Betsy D. Mitchell, IL -HPCO Legislative Consultant

The 100th General Assembly is well underway. Just over 6000 bills have been introduced. In mid-February, Governor Rauner presented his budget to the Illinois General Assembly. From the Republican side of the aisle it was welcomed with applause. From the Democratic side, there were some sneers and laughter. From this description you can see that the legislature continues to work in a very partisan mode as we have moved into this state's 20th month without a budget. Although it should be pointed out (as this is being written) that the Senate has been attempting to pass their Grand Bargain which is their revenue solution to the budget impasse. Perhaps by the time you read this, the Grand Bargain will be in the House for consideration.

As mentioned above, over 6000 bills have introduced in 2017. To date, none of these bills appear to be detrimental to hospice providers which is good news. Many of you may recall that in the past, there are have been numerous bills introduced which would have caused all kinds of problems for hospice patients, families and providers. **Some of the "good" bills to be introduced this year include:**

House Bill 3259-Wallace, D/Rockford--Would appropriate funds for the emptied Burial and Funeral Fund for Medicaid recipients. This fund has been depleted since December 31, 2016. IL-HPCO is working with Rep. Wallace to increase public awareness of this horrible situation. Make sure your local media outlets are aware that due to the budget impasse, there is no money available for Medicaid burials.

Senate Bill 677-Althoff, R/Crystal Lake--Creates a nurse compact with surround states. IL-HPCO has been along supporter of this legislation and hopes that 2017 is the year for its passage.

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Attend

MEETINGS

Marion VA Healthcare System
Hospice Veteran Partnership

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, April 11, 2017
9:30am-11:30am
Rural King Annex, Marion, IL

VA Contact Information:

Norma Mandrell, RN,
Hospice & Palliative Care Coordinator
(618) 997-5311 Ext 54601
Norma.Mandrell@va.gov

Michelle Drone

Community Health PSA
(618) 997-5311 Ext 55051
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IL-HPCO continues to work with HFS on MCOs

In my last update, I reported that IL-HPCO had met with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) regarding working with the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). This is an on-going process, but all believe head way is being made. We are finding that some of the MCOs have internal system issues that do not work with hospice care so hopefully this is getting resolved. If you have specific questions to be addressed contact IL-HPCO so we can help. We are

Governor Rauner's Overhaul of Medicaid Programs

As reported in the news at the end of February, Governor Rauner is working to overhaul Medicaid by narrowing the number of insurance carriers that now participate in managed care from 12 to 7. By doing this, he hopes to save the state millions of dollars.

In addition, the Governor plans to extend the managed care program to all 102 counties in the state and to include children in foster care as well. Since its inception, Managed Care has just been serving five regions in the state. The is also looking to streamline the MCO process for both patients and providers and to focus on quality measures such as better patient outcomes.

Providers have struggled with having to contract with so many insurers. Each MCO has their own set of rules, creating a heavy administrative burden, and the providers are often paid late. Most providers have had to increase their staff just to handle this burden.

IL-HPCO Advocacy Day and Reception

Sign-up for the IL-HPCO Advocacy Day and Reception, April 4 and 5. More details on back page. The event ncludes guest speakers, legislative meetings, networking, and much more.



Workshops with Deborah Grassman

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Concord Place Retirement Community

401 W Lake Street, Northlake, IL

Join us for a full day of workshops with compelling and inspirational teacher Deborah Grassman. She is author of two books, *Peace at Last* and *The Hero Within*, and the teaching video, *Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle*. Deborah Grassman is a mental health Nurse Practitioner whose career at the Department of Veterans Affairs spanned nearly 30 years. Deborah Grassman is now CEO and co-founder of Opus Peace, an organization whose mission is to provide programs that respond to the soul injury that occurs during trauma, abuse, self-neglect, and serious illness. This is a unique Chicagoland opportunity to grow in understanding Veteran issues and obtain best practices of care for Veterans.

2 CEU workshops for professionals (attend one or both):

7:30am-8:30am Registration/check-in with a continental breakfast

8:30am - 12:30pm PTSD, Secondary Traumatic Stress Disorder from Chronic Caregiving and Caregiving Ceremony

(4 CE's at \$28 for attending the entire 4 hours)*

12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch provided with advance request at registration

1:30pm - 4:30pm Wounded Warriors and Fallen Comrade Ceremony (3 CE's at \$21 for attending the entire 3 hours)*

Evening Session for Veterans

6:30pm - 7:45pm Fallen Comrade Ceremony

Note: Veterans are also warmly invited to attend the 1:30pm - 4:40pm session above for a duplicate presentation of the Fallen Comrade Ceremony.

RSVP required by phoning Linda Rockwell at 847-556-1778 or email lrockwell@carecenter.org

*CE's provided by the Hospice Foundation of America and approved for Nurses, Social Workers, Clergy, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, Addiction Professionals, Marriage & Family Therapists, Mental Health Counseling, Death Education and Counseling, Nursing Home Administrators, Psychologists.

Workshops are sponsored by Dignity Memorial in collaboration with the Northern Illinois Tier Hospice-Veteran Partnership, a We Honor Veteran's organization. Concord Place is generously providing the meeting space, continental breakfast and lunch. Participating hospices include Vitas Hospice, JourneyCare Hospice, Seasons Hospice, and Heartland Hospice. www.opuspeace

HOSPICE TIPS from PALMETTO

Assessments

Providers must make sure that the comprehensive assessment is outlined in the hospice patient's medical record prior to submitting to the CERT contractor. Please share with appropriate staff.

Applies to: JM Home Health and Hospice//Hospice

Signatures for Face-to-Face Encounters

The practitioner who performed the encounter must sign the attestation for face-to-face encounters. If a practitioner other than the recertifying physician (such as a nurse practitioner (NP)) performed the encounter, a separate encounter attestation signature is required. Please share with appropriate staff.

Applies to: JM Home Health and Hospice//Hospice

Self-Determined Hospice Cap for 2016

This is a reminder that the Self-Determined Hospice Cap (SDHC) form for 2016 is due Thursday, March 31, 2017. The 2016 aggregate cap period began November 1, 2015 and ended October 31, 2016. The aggregate cap amount for the 2016 cap year is \$27,820.75. Please review this article and instructions for completing the form and share this information with your staff.

2017 Jurisdiction M (JM) Hospice Medicare Workshop Series - Getting it Right the First Time

The 2017 Hospice Medicare Workshop Series, "Getting it Right the First Time!", is well underway. Please review this article for more information about this workshop series and registration instructions to attend a workshop session. Don't forget to share this information with your staff.

Applies to:

JM Home Health and Hospice//Hospice JM Home Health and Hospice//General

Election Information

A hospice provider needs to be sure the Hospice election information is submitted in the record for review by the CERT contractor. When submitting hospice election information, identify the particular hospice that will provide care to the individual.

Applies to:

JM Home Health and Hospice//Hospice

What documentation is needed to support terminal illness?

Terminal illness documentation may include the following: the history, progression of illness/disease, recent changes, exacerbation of symptoms, comorbidities, secondary conditions, variables that are measurable, labs, PPS/Karnofsky scale, FAST scale for Alzheimer's patients, weight loss, BMI, percentage of meals eaten, vital signs, IDG meeting notes. Please share with appropriate staff.

HFS Unveils New Web Portal for Agency Complaints Against Medicaid MCOs

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has announced the launch of a new web-based portal that allows providers to report issues with Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) that could not be resolved through existing procedures.

In order to submit a dispute or complaint through the portal, the agency is required to have already gone through the submission and review process offered by the MCO in question.

The web portal is secure, and HFS staff will follow HIPAA privacy procedures.
Tips from HFS for using the portal:

- If the complaint pertains to a specific claim or group of claims, the provider must share the member name(s), Recipient Identification Number(s) and date(s) of service through the secure portal.
- Each complaint must include a single topic and deal with a single MCO
- Complaints involving more than one topic or more than one MCO must be submitted separately.
- HFS staff will expedite the investigation and resolution of claims that affect immediate access to care.
- Fee-for-Service Medicaid complaints or questions should be directed to HFS at (877) 782-5565; the portal is only for MCO-related issues.
- HFS will close out any complaints received through the portal that were not first submitted to the MCO in question or if HFS finds the provider did not work with the MCO towards a resolution of the dispute.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2017 Annual Educational Conference



Participants listen to the keynote speaker at last year's conference.

The education committee, Krista Volatolina, Ronda Dudley, and Pam Tabler.



The Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (IL-HPCO) invites prospective speakers to submit an online proposal for our Annual Fall Education Conference scheduled for Thursday, October 12 at Northern Illinois University (NIU) Naperville, IL. *Deadline for submission is April 1, 2017*



SAVE THE DATE!

Advocacy Day April 4 & 5, 2017 Springfield, IL

Tuesday, April 4
3-5 p.m.

IL-HPCO Board Meeting (Board Only)
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Legislative Reception

Wednesday, April 5
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Legislative Engagement

Help make our voices heard by the
Illinois General Assembly about the vital
role of hospice and palliative care in our
communities!

MORE TO COME!

