



## Chair Message

Mary Sheehan, IL-HPCO Chair,  
CEO Joliet Area Community Hospice

We hear you! The biggest challenges for hospices in Illinois include working with managed care, Medicaid and the room and board pass through. Our Board and committees continue to make this our number one priority. We are happy to report the following updates:

- Quarterly meetings with DHFS on payment issues brought to the state by IL HPCO members.
- Quarterly meetings with MCO leaders, coordinated through Carrie Bill, Chair of Reimbursement Workgroup and Sara Dado, Legislative Committee. These meetings are open to IL-HPCO payment and billing staff members and are led by Carrie Bill and the Executive Director of the IL Association of Managed Health Plans.
- IL-HPCO is offering Audio Conferences four times a year on Reimbursement. The next one is August 22 at 8:30 AM. RSVP to [pcramer@il-hpco.com](mailto:pcramer@il-hpco.com)
- We met with NHPCO President and CEO Edo Banach and he agreed to prioritize elimination of the room and board pass through as a way for NHPCO support states.

## In this Issue

- Chair Message
- 2018 Events
- Legislative Update
- New Board Members

- Northern Tier HVP Meeting
- Annual Educational Conference
- Edo Banach Summer Tour
- MCO Meeting

## Attend

**August 22** Audio Conference on Reimbursement

**August 29** Regional Meeting-Marion

**September 17-18** Weatherbee

IL-HPCO Hospice Boot Camp-Chicago

**October 10-11** IL-HPCO Annual Education Conference-Naperville

**November 7** Regional Meeting-Grays Lake/Hainesville

**November 13** ADVOCACY DAY Springfield  
For more information, contact IL-HPCO office at [pcramer@il-hpco.org](mailto:pcramer@il-hpco.org) or 947-441-7200.

### IL-HPCO Regional Meeting-Marion

Rural King Annex, 1301 Enterprise Way,

VA Conf. Room-Upstairs

*Regulatory and Compliance Update*

*Hospice Billing and Illinois MCOs*

Wednesday, August 29, 11:30-1:30

### Presentations:

#### Regulatory & Compliance Update

Kate Proctor, JD, Senior Vice President and Chief Counsel – Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care

#### Hospice Billing and Illinois MCOs

Carrie Bill, MBA, Vice President of Finance—Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care

Jim Dale, Chief Financial Officer-Transitions Hospice  
Second meeting with MCOs and one-on-one with DFHS's Aimee Isham.

Complementary lunch and refreshments included  
*Who should attend?* —Hospice leaders, marketing, regulatory, finance, quality & compliance  
Members No Charge; Non-Members \$20

RSVP to Pam Cramer at IL-HPCO, [pcramer@il-hpco.org](mailto:pcramer@il-hpco.org), or call 847 441 7200

- Regional Meeting Peoria
- Beckers Hospital Review Article
- Disposal of Medication

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



### ***IL-HPCO End of Session Report***

This year, the Illinois legislature ended its spring session on time and with a budget that was soon signed into law by Governor Rauner. Clearly, this year was different from the previous two years.

This year, a bi-partisan budget was agreed upon in both the House and the Senate and it appears to be a good budget for our state. It was exciting to

see Illinois legislators from both sides work together again. The state budget has a combined total of \$80.26 billion in expenditures. This represents an increase of \$1.1 billion over last year, paid for with a mix of increasing tax collections resulting from growth in the economy, changes in human service program payments to federal Medicaid, and some program reductions. Of the total budget, \$38.5 billion is from General Revenue Funds, made up of tax collections from the state's tax base, including the state income tax, state sales taxes, and other taxes. The remainder of the total appropriations are from other state funds and federal funds. The budget also included \$5000 to be appropriated to IL-HPCO from our Hospice License Plate sales through the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

Substantive legislation that was monitored by the IL-HPCO: **HB 1447 – HOSPICE RESIDENCES MAY HAVE 20 BEDS –** (Manley, D/Joliet and Bertino-Tarrant, D/Plainfield) – The bill amends the Hospice Program Licensing Act to allow hospice residences to have up to 20 beds per location rather than 16. This important change was requested by the Joliet Area Community Hospice and supported by the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. This bill passed both houses and was sent to the Governor on June 20, 2018 for his consideration. The Governor has 60 days from the date it was sent to him to take action. We are hopeful the Governor will sign this legislation into law by mid-August. There was no opposition to this bill.

**HB 1338 – DISPOSAL OF LIQUIDS** (Carrol, D/Buffalo Grove and Morrison, D/Deerfield) – NOW Public Act 100-0612. Introduced at the suggestion of Presence Health Hospice and supported by the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the new law amends the Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal Act to provide for unused liquid medication, not just solid medications. The law will now include any unopened, expired, or excess medication that has been dispensed for

patient or resident care and that is in a liquid or solid form. Prior to the passage of this law, only medications in solid form were regulated under this act. This legislation passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor on July 20, 2018.

**SB 2296 – ADVANCE DIRECTIVES REGISTRY –** (Morrison, D/Deerfield) – The bill as currently written requires the Department of Public Health to establish a registry, to be known as the Advance Directives Registry, under which residents of the State may submit specified Advance Directive forms to the Department. The information in the Registry is to be made available to Illinois hospitals. This legislation was introduced at the suggestion of the Illinois State Bar Association. Several organizations, including IL-HPCO had many concerns with this bill as written, although there is support, the overall concept of an Advance Directive. Following several meetings, this bill was held and not moved in the legislative process. The sponsor pledged to hold additional meetings. It is expected that this issue will re-appear in the 2019

legislative session beginning this January.

**SB 2603 – MUSIC THERAPY LICENSING –** (Murphy, D/Des Plaines) – The bill creates the Music Therapy Licensing and Practice Act. It would provide for licensure of music therapists by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. IL-HPCO monitored this legislation, which was held in committee and received no further consideration during this past session.

**Election Update**—IL-HPCO is monitoring all contested races. Nearly all of the focus this summer and fall is centered on the 2018 Illinois General Election on November 6, 2018. In the Senate, one-third of the Senate Seats is on the ballot and, in the House, all seats are up for re-election. Due to retirements and resignations to date, we know we will see at least 35 to 40 new members of Illinois General Assembly in January 2019. The race for Governor includes four candidates, two of whom are spending millions of dollars vying for your vote. There is also a race for Attorney General (AG) and we know we will see a new face in this office because the current AG announced last year that she would not run again.

Please get to know the political candidates in your area. Reach out to them to let them know what you do and how important it is to your region. Seek information from candidates on how they intend to vote on hospice issues. Do not underestimate the importance of this election.

## Meet New Board Members



Margi Carlson, CHPCA, RN...Margi is currently an independent Consultant in Geriatric Health and End of Life. She retired from Compassus in 2016 as the Executive Director for Galesburg, Peoria, Bloomington and Moline. Prior to Compassus, she has worked at

Odyssey Healthcare, Vitas, and Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.



Mary Mihalyo, B.S., PharmD, CGP, BCPS....Dr. Mihalyo has been a faculty member of the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy for 18 years. She also serves as the CEO of Delta Care Rx. She pioneered medication-therapy-management services for

hospice organizations in 2001 and since then has provided this service to more than 200 hospices nationwide since then.

## IL HPCO Supports Northern Tier HVP Meeting



IL-HPCO supported and leaders attended the July Northern Tier Hospice Veterans partnership meeting. Diane Novak, IL-HPCO Director coordinated and led this meeting, and Jolene Renda, CNP, APN spoke on Hospice and Veteran care.

## Annual Educational Conference coming in October!

**CREATING CONNECTIONS**  
*building for the future*  
IL-HPCO ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 10-11  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, NAPERVILLE

**2018 FEATURED SPEAKERS**

- Tom Cornwell, MD**  
CEO-Home Centered Care Institute, Founder, HomeCare Physicians, Northwestern Medicine
- Dale Righter**  
Illinois State Senator-55th District
- Edo Banach**  
CEO-NHPCO
- Jennifer Kennedy**  
Sr. Director Regulatory and Quality-NHPCO

Wednesday, October 10  
Pre-Conference Events

Future Forum on Palliative Care Initiatives;  
Payment Issues  
Followed by Reception and Dinner.  
The following day will be CE courses.  
All activities will be held at Northern Illinois University in Naperville.  
Registration will begin in August.

## *Edo Banach Summer Midwestern Tour*

Edo Banach, JD, CEO of NHPCO visited JourneyCare, Seasons, and Harbor Light Hospice in Illinois on his July Midwestern Tour. IL-HPCO leaders enjoyed dinner and conversation with him during this tour. He will offer the Keynote Address to kick-off the IL-HPCO Educational Conference on Thursday, October 11.



*Sara Dado-Transitions, Mary Sheehan-Joliet Area Community Hospice, Edo Banach-NHPCO, Pam Cramer IL-HPCO*

## *Payment Update-MCO Meeting*

IL-HPCO held its second meeting with MCO leaders in early June. This meeting was open exclusively to IL-HPCO members and was coordinated and led by Carrie Bill, Seasons Hospice. She worked with Samantha Olds, Executive Director of Illinois Association of Managed Health Plans. Leaders from MCOs Blue Cross/Blue Shield, IlliniCare Health, Molina Healthcare, Next Level Health, WellCare Harmony, County Care and Humana were in attendance. Subjects discussed were:

payments/recoupments/billing; MCO authorizations; Hospice Coverage; MCO/Hospice Special Projects; Pediatric Hospice and Palliative Care. The next meeting will be held in September. An Audio conference was held with Aimee Isham, Illinois Department of Health and Family Services (IDPH) in late July. This meeting was coordinated and led by Carrie Bill, and open exclusively to IL-HPCO payment and billing members. Aimee Isham and her staff have been invited to be at the IL-HPCO Annual Education Conference on Wednesday, October 10th from 2:30-4:30 to answer questions. The Pass-Through Task Force is meeting regularly and now working with the homecare leaders on this issue.



*Carrie Bill and Sam Olds*



*Carrie Bill and Jim Dale at Regional Meeting in Peoria*

## *Regional Meeting -Peoria*

This May, a Regional Meeting was held Peoria and well attended. Kate Proctor from Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care presented a Regulatory Update and Jim Dale, Transitions and Carrie Bill discussed payment issues. IL-HPCO was hosted by Transitions in Peoria.

## *Fewer Medicare patients are dying in hospitals*

*Becker's Hospital Review 06.27.2018*

Medicare patients who died in 2015 were more likely to die in their home and less likely to die in a hospital than those who died in 2000, a study published in Journal of American Medical Association found.

The researchers analyzed records from more than 1.3 million Medicare fee-for-service enrollees and more than 870,000 Medicare Advantage enrollees who died between 2000 and 2015. On average, patients in the study died at age 82. Four study findings:

1. Nearly 20 percent of Medicare-insured patients who died in 2015 did so in an acute care hospital, down from about 32 percent who did so in 2000. About 40 percent of these patients died in a home, hospice, assisted living facility or other community setting in 2015 – an increase from about 31 percent in 2000.
2. The number of patients in the study admitted to the intensive care unit during their last month of life increased from about 24 percent in 2000 and then stabilized between 2009 and 2015 at 29 percent.
3. The study found hospice service use jumped from about 21 percent in 2000 to over 50 percent in 2015. The percentage of patients who died after receiving brief hospice services (three days or fewer) decreased from 9.8 percent in 2009 to 7.7 percent in 2015.
4. Patients who had three or more hospitalizations in their last 90 days of life declined from about 11 percent in 2009 to about 7 percent in 2015.

### SAFE DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICATION - - PASSED IN US HOUSE



The Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act (H.R. 5041) has passed unanimously (389-0) in the House. This is “commonsense, bipartisan legislation” and is “GREAT NEWS,” the NHPCO NewsBriefs reports. Hospice personnel will now be able to assist in the disposal of unused medication following a patient’s death. This will help decrease the opportunity for diversion, addiction, and unintentional misuse of prescription drugs. “NHPCO strongly supported this important legislation and applauds the bill’s sponsors Congressman Tim Walberg (MI-07), Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-02), and Congressman Richard Hudson (NC-08) for their leadership in fighting America’s opioid crisis.” The bill is one of over two dozen bills that seek to limit the negative impacts of opioid, synthetic drugs, and other pain medications. Those bills will likely be merged into a single bill sent to the Senate for consideration. (NHPCO NewsBriefs, 6/14)



SEPTEMBER 17-18, Optional  
SEPTEMBER 19-W HOTEL, CHICAGO

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeid-k=a07eez85mqc3f6c2d5b&llr=lmeko5bab>

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