NEWS & EVENTS

Spring 2020
Issue #22

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- IL-HPCO partners with CAPC
- Social Media Outreach
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- Regional Meetings
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ATTEND

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE EVENTS

June 16
HPCO Audio Conference on Billing

June 24
Webinar Jennifer Kennedy (Virtual)

September TBA
Deprescribing and Pharmacy Update (Virtual)

October TBA
Martha Twaddle and Pandemic Lessons Learned (Virtual)

Nov 10
Audio Conference on Billing

Illinois Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

Chair Message

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

As we navigate through this difficult time, one thing has not changed-our commitment to care for those facing a serious or terminal illness. Hospices throughout the state have made necessary changes to continue to provide care to those at the end of life.

As long term care and other facilities prohibited visitors including some hospice staff, many took this opportunity to implement telehealth for visits, recertification and face-to-face visits. Not only does this minimize the risk to clinicians, patients, and their families but it keeps the human connection that is so important to our wor.

Let's face it, we are unable to practice hospice care the way we know but making the best of every opportunity that comes our way.

When I first started my work in hospice it was at the beginning of the AIDS crisis. Just like now, we did not understand the disease. Our patients were isolated, and we wore PPE that made us unseen to the patient. It was scary for us and the patients. Just like now.

I have been touched to see how people are coming together to support one another and stay positive. Music therapists are sharing songs with co-workers, singing to patients in front of windows, volunteers are making masks and donating to hospices and bereavement teams are providing grief support in other ways.

A major step for us was Legislation which included hospice and palliative care. The CARES act and PPP loans are helping hospices financially and we have received waivers including telehealth and CNA supervision.

Hospice teams know how to bring comfort at times of distress and offer grief services to our communities. During this outbreak, we're reminded what really matters: Family and friends, community and volunteering.
Remember, we are all in this together and we will get through this together.

Throughout this newsletter you will see photos of our wonderful hospice teams and how they've pivoted to the new world and the new demands. We are grateful for your innovation and caring. Thank you.