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**Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Palliative Care and Quality of Life Council**

**DRAFT SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**TIME: 3 p.m.**

**Meeting Locations**

- This was a virtual meeting.

***Note to all members: Chair Veneta Lepera will be calling on different members for updates.***

*Note:* Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion.

- 1.) Call to Order and Roll call – Chair Veneta Lepera, BA, BSN, RN

Members:

Marilyn Jeanne Hesterlee, Council Administrator

Veneta Lepera, BA, BSN, RN, Council Chair

Kim Anderson, Council Vice-Chair

Mary-Ann Brown, RN, MSN, CHPCA, GCHCE HEC-C

Kelly Conright, MD

Melissa St. Jean, MSW

Patricia Pollina, APRN, ACHPN, NP-PC

Stephanie Schneider

Excused: Lucille Walker

Ex-officio members:

Excused: Tom McCoy, JD

Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance support staff:

Nathan Orme, Education and Information Officer

Nenita Wasserman, Administrative Assistant

Public attendees:

Esther Kim, Administrator for Covenant Hospice Care

Clevis Parker MD, Hospice of Nevada

Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation

Esther Kim, Administrator for Covenant Hospice Care introduced herself. She said she just wanted to see if there was anything new in the hospice field and it was her first time attending one of these meetings.

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Clevis Parker, CEO, Hospice of Nevada, introduced himself. Veneta Lepera complimented him and said he just received a very prestigious award.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public testimony under this agenda item may be presented by computer, phone or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than **three (3)** minutes.

No one from the public wished to comment on this item.

3. Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from November 18, 2021 - **Action Item**

THERE WAS A MOTION BY PATTI POLLINA TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021. SECONDED BY MARY ANN BROWN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The following motion included some suggested edits by Jeanne Hesterlee.

THERE WAS A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES WITH THE SUGGESTED EDITS BY JEANNE HESTERLEE. PATTI POLLINA SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Overview of new items regarding Palliative Care and Quality of Life web page, including items posted on site since last meeting. **Informational – Nathan K. Orme.**

Chair Lepera and Kim Anderson reviewed the web site. Suggestions were made to help make the web site more accurate. Nathan Orme, Public Health Care Education Information, shared on the screen the website to show the where the changes were made. He was able to upload online a thank you letter to Senator Joyce Woodhouse. Veneta Lepera commented that Senator Woodhouse of instrumental in getting the Palliative Care Council established.

After some discussion, Nathan said he would change the page so the frequently asked questions could be easily accessed and printed.

5. Annual review of web page and discussion of possible action to make changes or corrections, including possible addition of a Current Happenings block, Woodhouse letter, Hospice Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and more. **Action Item – Kim Anderson, Nathan Orme.**

**The following items were reviewed for the web site to correct the links on the web page:**

**Resource for Families Links Confirmed on 1/31/22**

**New web links shown in red need to be updated**

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## Resources for Families

The links below provide information about palliative care for patients and families.

- [AARP Caregiving Resources](#)
- [Caregiver Action Network](#)
- [Center to Advance Palliative Care](#) -
- [Family Caregiver Alliance](#)
- [Hospice Foundation of America](#)
- [National Association for Home Care and Hospice](#)
- [National Cancer Institute](#)
- National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
  - [End-of-Life Care Resources](#) - <https://www.nhpco.org/>
  - [CaringInfo](#) - <https://www.caringinfo.org/>
- [Nevada POLST](#)
- [Schwartz Center for Compassionate Health Care](#)

## Resource for Health Professionals Links Confirmed on 1/31/22

New web links shown in red need to be updated

## Resources for Health Professionals

The links below provide information and education about provision of palliative care for health care providers and professionals.

- [California State University Institute for Palliative Care](#)
- [Center to Advance Palliative Care](#) - <https://www.capc.org/>
- [The Conversation Project](#)
- [Five Wishes Advance Care Planning](#)
- [Hospice & Palliative Carecenter](#) – **Delete entirely**
- **National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care** - <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/>
- [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) - <https://www.nhpco.org/hospice-and-palliative-professionals>
- [National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine](#)
- [Nevada POLST](#) - <https://www.nevadapolst.org/>
- [Schwartz Center](#)

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- [UCLA Health Resources and Educational Material for Health Professionals](#)
  - [Vermont Assembly of Home Health and Hospice Agencies](#) – **Delete entirely**

## Services & Resource Links Confirmed on 1/31/22

New web links shown in red need to be updated

### Palliative Care Services in Nevada

The facilities and organizations below have reported that they have a registered nurse with palliative care experience and an MD or advanced practice registered nurse with palliative care experience who are available to advise and work with patients and families.

- Northern Nevada
  - [Carson Tahoe Health](#)
  - [Nevada Palliative Care](#)
  - [Renown Palliative Care Support Team](#)
  - [Saint Mary's](#) - <https://www.stmaryshealthcaresystem.org/find-a-service-or-specialty/palliative-care>
  - [VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System](#)
- Southern Nevada
  - [Dignity Health](#)
  - [Nathan Adelson Hospice - Elaine Wynn Palliative Care](#)
  - [Nevada Cancer Coalition](#)
  - [Nevada Care Connect](#)
  - [Southwest Medical](#)
  - [Spring Valley Hospital](#)
  - [Summerlin Hospital](#)
  - [Sunrise Hospital](#) - <https://sunrisehealthinfo.com> > [physicians](#) > [specialty](#)
- Children's Palliative Care Services in Nevada
  - [Cure 4 The Kids](#) - <https://cure4thekids.org/>
  - [Covenant Kids Care](#) - <https://covenanthospicecare.com/>

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- [Careousel Pediatrics](https://procarehospice.com/careousel-pediatrics/) - <https://procarehospice.com/careousel-pediatrics/>

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Resources for Health Professionals

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- [The Conversation Project](#)
- [Five Wishes Advance Care Planning](#)
- [Hospice & Palliative Carecenter](#) – **Delete entirely**
- **National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care** - <https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/>
- [National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization](#) - <https://www.nhpco.org/hospice-and-palliative-professionals>
- [National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine](#)
- [Nevada POLST](#) - <https://www.nevadapolst.org/>
- [Schwartz Center](#)
- [UCLA Health Resources and Educational Material for Health Professionals](#)
- [Vermont Assembly of Home Health and Hospice Agencies](#) – **Delete entirely**

There was discussion among the members of additional links that could be added.

Veneta Lepera suggested that on the provider portion of the web site, they include a link that gives guidelines for a provider, director, etc.

Nathan Orme said if the goal is to bring more attention to the Resource for Families document, a paragraph explaining why may be helpful, which would include a link on the web page.

The Chair said she would like to see videos uploaded to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram so that they know the Palliative Care Page is there. She added whatever is going on each month

could be highlighted. She added that a rotating roster could be distributed that highlighted each member.

Kim Anderson suggested a post for National Healthcare Day would give the page more attention.

Nathan Orme suggested that current happenings should be kept to social media.

Stephanie Schneider suggested including an email where the public could send their general questions and receive an email with FAQ about Palliative Care. Regarding the FAQ, what questions should a person ask, would be most useful to the user if it was located somewhere that was easily accessed.

Mary Ann Brown said she serves on the Child Care Services Board which allows providers to do their own updates on the web page. This might make it easier for the individual programs to keep their information up to date.

Nathan Orme commented that state web sites said that they do not allow external people access to change the web sites.

Mary Ann Brown commented the web site is a state web site and she would send him more information on it.

Veneta Lepera said it is so important that everyone give their input for the web page.

Veneta Lepera commented that she and Kim will send a statement to post on the web page once a month. She emphasized the importance to be on social media so that they know the palliative care page is there.

Veneta Lepera said that they could highlight a Palliative Care Council member monthly.

Nathan Orme said if everyone provides content, he said to think of communication as a pyramid. He said have a topic, now where are we going to disseminate this information. The goal is driving people back to the web page. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram are the social media that is available. He suggested using social media for events.

6. Membership updates, changes to personal information items to be posted to the website (including add Stephanie Schneider). Informational – Veneta Lepera

The roster was updated with changes submitted by Kim Anderson.

## Changes to the Roster & Website:

Patricia Pollina RN, APRN, ACHPN, NP-C.

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Las Vegas, NV 89102

7. Open discussion about open seat on the council and possible action to recommend to the Department of Health and Human Services Director the appointment of members. One opening for a board-certified hospice and palliative care physician or nurse. Action Item – Veneta Lepera

Veneta Lepera commented there is one open seat on the council. She encouraged everyone to spread the word and maybe by the next meeting there would be some candidates. If anyone is interested in an ex-officio position we are not limited to the number of members. If a person is passionate and has expertise with palliative care that is important regardless of where they work.

There was a discussion regarding how to recruit new members to replace the open slot on the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council. Nathan Orme shared the By-Laws which said that new members can be nominated by the council but the final decision is made by the Director's office.

8. Discussion and possible approval of *partially completed* letters of support to Medical Schools and Nursing Schools outlining the value of implementing enhanced training on Palliative Care and quality of life. **Action Item - Patti Pollina/Kelly Conright**

Chair Lepera asked everyone to review the letters and suggest some additional language. The letter is on the TEAMS web site. She can send the letter to all the council members again and see if there was something you want to add. This letter would be sent out to nursing schools, medical schools, encouraging them palliative care in their curriculum.

Mary Ann Brown suggested starting the letter with a story.

Melissa St. Jean commented that if they do a story, pick a patient that would use the services for 18 months instead of someone that would just use it for six weeks. She said she tries to educate the providers on this.

Stephanie Schneider said that this reminds me of opportunities to make presentations at schools and in person.

Veneta Lepera said she was asked by the School of Medicine at UNLV to speak to the geriatric physicians. She said she was honored and excited to talk to these new physicians.

Nathan Orme said when you sign up for the engagements or events, ask if they are recording video or audio and get a copy to post on the web page. He added when you were talking about highlighting each council member, we could use little sound bites or videos on social media.

9. Future meetings were scheduled as listed (subject to change):

- Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, at 3 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022, at 3 p.m.



10. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public made a comment.

11. Adjournment **Veneta Lepera – Chair**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

DRAFT