

---

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

**DATE: Thursday, November 19, 2020 TIME: 3:00 P.M.**

Meeting Locations:

*\*• This meeting will be held via teleconference only. Pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s March 22, 2020, Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, all members of the public must participate by using the following:*

Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**Or call in (audio only)**

+1 702-329-3435,,690371975# United States, Las Vegas

Phone Conference ID: 690 371 975#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

Thank you for planning to attend this Teams meeting.

- [Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

A note to all members- Chair Veneta Lepera will be calling on different members for updates.

Note: Some board members may attend in Las Vegas. 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, MSN, RN, CHPCA, GCHCE HEC-C

Melissa St. Jean, MSW

Dr. Terri Hanlon

Patricia Pollina, APRN. ACHPN, NP-PC

Robin M. Tejada

Marie Conner, BSN, RN CHPN

Dr. Kelly Conright – Excused

**Ex-officio Members:**

Joyce Woodhouse Senator NV

Tom McCoy, JD  
Lucille Walker  
Nathan Orme

**Other attendees**

Kim Crocker, Quality Manager at Valley Hospital  
Celeste, Liberty Creek Hospice  
Ky Sisson, Aging and Awesome, Weekly show in Reno and Las Vegas –  
Stephanie Schneider for Robyn  
Angela Collins  
Tenaya Fennell  
Betsy Serrao, Valley Hospital

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Because there is no physical location for this meeting, 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** minutes.

There was no public comment under this item.

3) Discussion of possible PCQLC goals for the 2021-2023 term: for vote.

- a. Council Recommendations to Nevada citizens on selecting a quality Palliative Care program or provider. Written Document to be posted on council web site.

**There was a unanimous vote for the first goal of council recommendations to Nevada citizens on selecting a quality Palliative Care program or provider and a written document to be posted on the PCQLC web site. A list of questions for the public consumer would be developed that the public consumer could refer to when searching for a home or assisted living type facility and looking for a palliative care provider in Nevada.**

Jeanne Hesterlee said that HCQC can provide a list of those type of providers with phone numbers.

Dr. Hanlon suggested that they develop a list of certified palliative care providers.

Kim Anderson commented that they have a palliative care services in Nevada list may just needs to be updated.

There was discussion among the members on the development of several questions for the questionnaire.

Veneta Lepera said that the goal is to try and capture all the palliative care resources in the state.

---

Nathan said he has access to a survey platform and would need a list of questions the group wants to ask and care hospitals need to be included.

Melissa St. Jean asked when the email survey is conducted, how will it be more effective. Nathan said that the emails he has access to relates to facility licensing and could ask recipients to forward the email to people interested.

Dr. Hanlon noted that mapping out community palliative care has been done on a national basis.

**b. Council Recommendations to Nevada schools of Medicine and Nursing to adopt Palliative Care curriculum as well as residencies and clinical rotations. Written letter to be mailed with DHHS support as well as posted on the council web site.**

Melissa St. Jean asked if they were sure they were not doing this already.

Patti Pollina said that in the past at UMC, residents would do a couple weeks or a month with her and some providers and she would actually work with them and supervise their care at UNR.

Veneta Lepera said there are rotations but it is very infrequent and usually just a few. She would like to enhance palliative care understanding. This would enhance the social and cultural recommendation. A recommendation letter to enhance palliative care understanding. She asked what about a recommendation to go out to the schools. There was some discussion regarding contacts that would be helpful to do this.

There was no public comment on this item.

There was a vote for this to be another goal. **Everyone voted yes unanimously for the Council Recommendations to Nevada schools of Medicine and Nursing to adopt Palliative Care curriculum as well as residencies and clinical rotations. Written letter to be mailed with DHHS support as well as posted on the council web site letter. Motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Formulate proposal for next legislation that provides estimate of funding needed to establish a biannual Palliative Care Consortium hosted by the PCQLC for NV in the month of November to coincide with National Palliative Care Month.

Items c and d are combined as funding would be needed to do item d. An idea was license plate to raise some funding.

Veneta Lepera asked if anyone was knowledgeable on the legislative process and how this work. Jeanne Hesterlee that the state offices are being asked to make cuts currently. The bylaws said there was some reference to fund raising. There might be much cooperation from the legislature at this point due to the pandemic.

Kim Anderson asked if there restrictions on types of events that they can hold. Kim Anderson said that she could put together some estimated costs to put this seminar together.

Veneta Lepera said legislation will probably not fly in 2021 so item c can be revisited in 2022. So section C was postponed.

There was no public comment on this item.

There was a unanimous vote to postpone any action until 2022 for legislation.

- d. Establish the biannual *Palliative Care and Quality of Life Consortium* in Nevada alternating between Northern and Southern Nevada as hosts. The inaugural 2-day event to be held November 2022 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Veneta Lepera said that she was being optimistic that in 2022 life may be more normal. This could be a goal for the council to work towards for the next two years.

Patti Pollina said there are speakers that would be interested in giving a presentation.

Nathan Orme said that the Teams platform has been successful. He said that doing these type platforms and discussing topics on a regular basis is doable.

Veneta Lepera said they could consider of doing a WebX type of presentation from council members and have it open to the public. She could put that on the March agenda for consideration. They could use the event to raise money for future events. Kim Anderson said that she would volunteer to work on a budget and charge a nominal fee for participants. There may be a couple of vendors who may be interested as well.

- e. Establish a minimum of an annual review of the information on the PCQLC web site within DHHS for accuracy/updates/changes by the PCQLC members during open meeting.

Jeanne Hesterlee noted that they are asking the state to make cuts in the budget so this route may not be beneficial to us. There was some reference to fund raising so that may be something the group may want to talk about because of the pandemic and the lack of revenue.

Veneta Lepera commented legislation for this will probably not going pass.

Jeanne Hesterlee said that she did not want the council to be too disappointed.

Veneta Lepera said that this item will be postponed.

- f. Council Recommendations to Nevada Palliative Care clinicians encouraging enhanced educational emphasis on ethnic, cultural, and psychological aspects of Palliative Care. Written letter to be mailed to licensed clinicians practicing in PC and Hospice.

- Legislative horizon for Palliative Care **Tom McCoy / M.J. Hesterlee**
- Funding and Networking with other NV councils **Patti Pollina / Kim Anderson**

**Veneta Lepera this item was tabled.**

**Any legislative proposals will be rescheduled.**

**There was a unanimous vote to postpone this item.**

Patti Pollina said the boards would be interested. They are in the same boat in terms of funding. They have speakers that would be interested in giving a presentation.

Nathan Orme said that the state now uses the Teams platform. Given Jeanne's comment about funding, these meetings are scheduled for business. Doing the Teams meetings on a regular topic would be feasible.

Veneta Lepera said this meeting is for official business. ECCO does different presentations to consider of doing a webX presentation from council members and advertise for the public. The asked if they want to move forward with a long vision goal and do an in person and getting the attention of the medical community.

Kim Anderson said that she would put the numbers for a budget and to charge a nominal fee for CEUs.

Consortium in 2022 – Summary and presentation. Veneta asked the other members to consider to be a sponsor. **All members voted in favor of the Consortium in 2022.**

e. Annual review of information on the web site.

This could be done the first meeting of the year to do an annual review on the web site.

Jeanne Hesterlee said that a subcommittee could be appointed to review the web site and bring back their recommendations to the next full PCQLC meeting.

Nathan Orme said that at the subcommittee process the content of the web site would be easy to present.

**The members voted to establish a year meeting for accuracy and changes. There will be a subcommittee to annually review the web site for PCQL at the first meeting of the year. Motion passed unanimously.**

Tom Hanlon commented that Senator Joyce Woodhouse has termed out and recommended a thank you letter be sent to her for all her efforts.

4. Psychological and Social Impact of COVID-19 on Palliative Care Patients **Melissa St. Jean / Marie Conner / Mary-Ann Brown**

Jeanne Hesterlee commented that there was legislation just passed on cultural sensitivity. It is very detailed and effective. It is not a requirement; not a recommendation.

Nathan Orme said that he will interject in the chat of this meeting on teams the link which is about LGBTQ Health. It does have within the requirements other cultural ethic education. This training they are working on trainings already approved. The onus largely on facilities to develop training. Something to consider is to schedule Brooke Maylath to discuss this a little bit more.

Veneta Lepera said that if in that letter that Dr. Hanlon will be working on, to mention that Nevada has this legislation for awareness purposes.

Patti Pollina said that NHPCO had some broad guidelines specific to ethnic culture awareness that could be fit in as well.

Dr. Hanlon said that the regulation increases the motivation to become aware of that legislation.

Veneta Lepera said that item f. could be a separate item.

There was no other public comment.

There was a unanimous vote to make item F separate goal and this would be part of B.

Tom McCoy said the next session of the legislature will convene in 2021. This might be an item for a future discussion is palliative care telehealth. In the 2021 legislation, telehealth will be discussed and some of the executive orders need to be addressed in terms of the future. He suggested that palliative care be discussed in that environment.

Dr. Hanlon said that she is working with hospices that enable her to do telehealth. A special program that patients can dial into would be a good step.

Jeanne Hesterlee said the telehealth has been done over the years. The VA has been the lead in using telehealth. She thought this topic was a great idea.

Kim Anderson said that she has a hard time that Medicaid does not reimburse for telehealth. Medicaid also does not pay for chronic care. They will not pay for the advance care plan.

Meeting dates for the third Thursday of March, July and November at 3 pm were approved unanimously. (March 18, July 15, and November 18, 2021).

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

(Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting) Because there is no physical location for this meeting, public testimony under this agenda item may be presented by phone or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than three minutes.

No one made a comment under this item.

An attendee said that ECCO education on palliative care is looking for some new members for their Hub Team.

Veneta Lepera said she sits on the board for PULSED which also has an opening on the board. If you have a CV or interested please send it to her or Patti Pollina.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

DRAFT