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

**SUMMARY MEEING MINUTES**

**DATE: Thursday, May 19, 2022**

**TIME: 3 p.m.**

**Meeting Locations**

This is a virtual meeting and there is no physical location to attend.

*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, Vice Council Chair  
Kim Anderson, Council Vice-Chair  
Kelly Conright, MD  
Melissa St. Jean, MSW  
Patricia Pollina, APRN. ACHPN, NP-PC  
Stephanie Schneider

**Excused:**

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

**Others Attending:**

Monika Patronik, One Care Hospice  
Eddie B. Belluomini, Registered Nurse, One Care Hospice

**Ex-officio members:**

Tom McCoy, JD

**Bureau of Health Care Quality and Compliance support staff:**

Nathan Orme, Education and Information Officer  
Nenita Wasserman, Administrative Assistant

**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.

Veneta Lepera welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted Kim Anderson, Vice Chair would be running the meeting today.

- 3.) Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from March 10, 2022 - **Action Item** - Veneta Lepera

**MELISSA ST. JEAN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2022. VENETA LEPERA SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 4.) Member updates – **Informational Item** – Veneta Lepera

Chair Veneta Lepera asked how the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Council can be present on Facebook and Twitter.

Nathan Orme said for the council to be approved to have a presence on Facebook and Twitter, you would have to do a social media plan that the page would be posted to a minimum of four times a week. He explained there should be existing social media for a good amount of time to get approval. He suggested to have good content for the next four to six months and with better effort it would likely get approved.

Veneta Lepera asked the members to submit an article every other week to Nathan Orme regarding the benefit of palliative care for the next six months.

- 5.) 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 – Kim Anderson**

Eddy Belluomini, RN, introduced himself to the committee and reviewed his curriculum vitae with the council. Council members remarked what a good member he will make with his experience and background.

Veneta Lepera said that Eddy shows that he has much experience and will be a good addition to the council.

Kim Anderson commented Eddy Belluomini had much experience with hospice and palliative care in Honolulu and would be a nice addition to the council.

Melissa St. Jean commented that she appreciates Mr. Belluomini's work in the community and the diversity of experience he has. She was of the opinion, he has abilities to communicate to patients and their families as they are not able to recover. He will have good information for the council and how we relate to the community members in the hospital and post-acute space.

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PATTY POLLINA MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT EDDY BELLUOMINI AS A MEMBER OF THE PALLIATIVE CARE AND QUALITY OF LIFE COUNCIL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MELISSA ST. JEAN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6.) Discussion and update on Palliative Care license plate. **Discussion Item – Tom McCoy**

In response to Tom McCoy's question, if the Palliative Care license plate had been approved, Veneta Lepera responded that it has not been approved at this point and they are looking for a legislator to sponsor the bill.

Mr. McCoy explained that getting a new specialized license plate is an involved process. He stated that a surety bond has to be purchased because 1000 plates have to be sold. The breast cancer plates have to be renewed with enough repetition or the plate will be dropped. Legislation is necessary and a question of how many people will show enough interest to purchase a license plate.

Kim Andersen asked how much per plate is earned. Mr. McCoy said there is a percentage of the add on cost of \$50. Only half of that, would go to the Palliative Care fund.

Mr. McCoy said anyone can go to the DMV and apply for a special plate. Legislation brings the matter forward and reduces the surety bond which actually speeds up the process.

Jeanne Hesterlee asked if it would be advisable to put the application into the DMV before the legislature convenes. Mr. McCoy said that the easiest way is legislation.

Veneta Lepera asked what is the protocol to ask a legislator to sponsor a flat budget bill for certain amount of money. Mr. McCoy it would have to be included in the state's budget line items out of DHHS funding. The best thing to do is have a program. He did not know how realistic that is because budgets are difficult.

Kim Anderson asked for a motion to move forward to getting more information regarding the Palliative Care license. Veneta Lepera said that she that was a good idea but they need to decide what they would do with these funds.

Veneta Lepera suggested that goals should be focused on what would you do with the funds. Sponsor some kind of educational activity in November and it is also Palliative Care month. Veneta noted that Nevada POLST also needs exposure and awareness. She would like the two groups come together and put on a seminar whether it be by license plate funds or line items.

Mr. McCoy commented Roberta Lang, of Senate District 7 may be helpful. She passed legislation for STEP therapy but it not peer review but it could be registered nurse, pharmacist or physician.

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Veneta Lepera said one of the things discussed quite in depth from the inception of this Council was to have an annual fair seminar. Something to that consortium to not only expose clinicians of various disciplines, but to make it accessible to the public.

Chair Lepera said one of the goals is to sponsor an activity in November which is also palliative care month. One of the other benefits would be to have Patty Pollini who is on our Council and the Chair of Nevada State POLST who also needs an increase in exposure and volume and awareness.

Kim Anderson asked if there was anyone would like to take the lead on palliative care license plates.

Jeanne Hesterlee said she could look at the specialize license application and see what DMV requires and would keep everyone up to date on it.

7. Discussion about 2023 Legislative Session that begins February 2023, relating to possible future action items regarding Council to ensure the benefits of Palliative Care are available and used by all Nevadan residents. **For Discussion – Tom McCoy/Kim Anderson**

Tom McCoy gave a brief recap of how a bill is introduced. He commented you start out with a bdr (bill draft request). You have to find a sponsor for your bdr who will submit it to the Legislature. The bill draft goes to a committee and if it passes out of the committee then it goes to the Assembly to Senate or; or Senate to Assembly. If they pass it out of both houses and the if the Governor signs it, it becomes law.

Mr. McCoy explained in Nevada there is something called the Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission which is a subgroup of the Nevada Legislature periodically looks at all committees to see if they are still serving a purpose. This committee needs to have a mission and goals, or it may be eliminated.

Tom McCoy said the federal agency Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is looking at terms of diversity, equity and inclusion. When discussing disparities, a population may have a financial situation that they are on Medicaid and do not have access. Is that something that this Council should say everybody should have access to what they are talking about.

Melissa St. Jean stated that the goal of this Council to begin with was to identify ways that they can go back to the Legislature and report saying these are the impacts that they have tried to make and these are the things government support is needed. She said that they are ready to advocate but need to know who to talk with.

Tom McCoy remarked something like this could bring attention to the whole topic of palliative care. There is a significant number of people in Nevada who do not have access

Patty Pollina said that her employer does palliative care but serve people with a particular Medicare advantage plan. Many times they cannot help a patient because they do not have the right kind of coverage which is a disparity.

Jeanne Hesterlee said she does have people she knows at Comagine and Medicaid that can be contacted.

Stephanie Schneider said that she knows someone at Medicaid as well and is this something where they could come to a meeting to help with this.

After some discussion, the members suggested that the council meet again before August.

Kim Anderson said she would like to find out for the pediatric palliative care how many children Medicaid has been carrying under that benefit.

- 7.) Discussion and possible approval of *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**

Patti Polina commented that she had not done anything further on that letter.

There was no action taken on this item.

- 8.) Dates of future meeting (dates subject to change):

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

- 9.) PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting. Public testimony under this agenda item may be online, by phone or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than three (3) minutes.

Nathan Orme said he tried to catch up on web page edits and tried to fix some links on the Palliative Care page.

- 10.) Adjournment – **Veneta Lepera – Chair**

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.