

## MEETING MINUTES

Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council

August 16, 2021

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Zoom

**Members in Attendance:**

Marcia Cederdahl (via Zoom)  
 Brenda Kastens (Office Bldg.)  
 Andrew Macfadyen (via Zoom)  
 Julie Masters (via Zoom)  
 Angela Mortensen (via Zoom)  
 Stacie Sinclair (via Zoom)  
 Sabrina Schalley (via Zoom)

**Staff:**

Christine Esch (Office Bldg.)

**Guests:**

Tamara Robinson  
 Steve Ziegler

*In accordance with Section 84-1411 of the [Open Meetings Act](#), advanced publicized notice of the time and place of this meeting was posted on the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#).*

Agenda Topic	Key Points	Action Items (if any)
<b>Call to Order, Introduction, Meeting Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacie Sinclair called the Nebraska (NE) Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (“Council”) meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. She referenced the NE Open Meetings Act, which was posted in the chat:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Open Meeting Act Location Announcement: In accordance with Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is located [online].</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stacie</b> to ask Shirley about statutory requirements for the Council to meet in-person</li> </ul>
<b>Council Member Check-Ins</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council members provided 2-3 minute updates regarding COVID-19’s impact over the last several months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>N/A</b></li> </ul>
<b>Council Workgroup – Website</b> <i>(Andrew Macfadyen)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no new updates to the <a href="#">website</a>. Any changes should be emailed to <a href="#">Shirley Pickens-White</a></li> <li>• Request that all Council members (particularly those who are new) review the website to see if the information is clear, anything should be added or changed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Council members</b> to periodically review website, submit any changes to <b>Shirley Pickens-White</b></li> </ul>
<b>Council Report to the Governor and Legislature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stacie Sinclair walked through the draft report sections and collected feedback from the Council members; key discussion items:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stacie Sinclair</b> to resend draft with assignments, and any completed sections filled in</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Julie Masters suggested incorporating more language on hospice, since it is a critical part of the continuum; Council members agreed</li> <li>○ Review alternative definitions on palliative care for consideration</li> <li>○ Remove the images that overstate palliative care availability; consider an approach to validate rural palliative care (one suggestion: visiting hospital websites)</li> <li>○ Add a testimonial on the benefit of telehealth in the context of palliative care</li> <li>○ Add suggested stakeholders to potential Summit list</li> <li>○ There is no target length to the report, although all agreed that brevity should be a goal</li> <li>● Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council members should provide additional text for their sections (aim for two weeks after meeting)</li> <li>○ Stacie to incorporate feedback and draft Executive Summary and Conclusion sections</li> <li>○ Council to use the December meeting to finalize the report</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Council members</b> to submit drafted sections by <b>September 6</b></li> <li>● <b>Stacie Sinclair</b> to ask Shirley if there is any budget for report design/publication</li> </ul>
<b>Council Workgroup – Regulatory</b> <i>(Marcia Cederdahl, Stacie Sinclair)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Presentations to <a href="#">State Licensure Boards</a></b>. Marcia has the updated list for upcoming meetings and will circulate to Council members to see who is willing to join</li> <li>● <b>Palliative Care Definition</b>. The Council continues to think it is worthwhile to pursue slight changes to the palliative care definition to ensure that it can be available across settings, and that the expectation is that it will be a complete service (i.e., a desire to ensure that people who say they are delivering palliative care are doing everything they should be). Marcia Cederdahl will follow-up with Becky Wisell at DHHS; Brenda Kastens offered to assist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Marcia Cederdahl</b> to coordinate with Becky Wisell re: timing of BOH presentations, progress on palliative care definition</li> </ul>
<b>Council Workgroup Structure – Open Discussion</b> <i>(Sabrina Schalley)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Council members discussed whether the current workgroup structure (intended to create a space for work to happen outside of official Council meetings) still served its purpose, particularly given the proposed recommendations and activities in the draft Council Report. Ultimately, all agreed that the current workgroups (Website, Regulatory, and Public Awareness) were the right buckets for now</li> <li>● Julie Masters and Marcia Cederdahl volunteered to join Sabrina Schalley (and Brenda Kastens to provide support) in the Public Awareness group to better define the scope of work and begin identifying activities. They discussed setting up a separate meeting. Stacie Sinclair will share the Council stakeholder list for potential partners. Activities could include (see past minute minutes for additional suggestions): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proclamation for November Hospice and Palliative Care Month</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Julie Masters, Marcia Cederdahl, and Sabrina Schalley</b> to schedule Public Awareness Workgroup meeting</li> <li>● <b>Stacie Sinclair</b> to share Council stakeholder list with workgroup</li> </ul>

Agenda Topic	Key Points	Action Items (if any)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speaker’s bureau and bring in guest presentations to the Council</li> <li>○ Leverage the Council website for awareness</li> </ul>	
Open Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No live discussion; FYI, there is still one slot on the Council to be filled. Those who are interested should complete the <a href="#">application</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N/A</li> </ul>
Public Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Steve Ziegler provided several comments in the chat box re: palliative care access in rural areas, the definition of palliative care, the report goals, and telehealth vs. telemedicine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● N/A</li> </ul>
Planning for the Next Palliative Care Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The next Nebraska Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2021 from 1:00-3:00pm CT. Stacie Sinclair proactively set up a Zoom link; as the date nears, Council members will discuss whether it makes sense to meet in person. Additionally, the Council set meetings for the next year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ December 6, 2021</li> <li>○ March 7, 2022</li> <li>○ June 6, 2022</li> <li>○ September 5, 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Council Report to the Governor and Legislature</li> <li>○ Council workgroups report outs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Website</li> <li>▪ Regulatory</li> <li>▪ Public Awareness and Education</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <i>Please submit additional agenda items to Todd Sauer and Stacie Sinclair</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Council members</b> to submit requests for reimbursement to Christine Esch</li> <li>● <b>Council members</b> to submit additional agenda items</li> <li>● <b>Stacie Sinclair</b> to send out meeting appointment</li> </ul>

Meeting Adjourned at 2:56 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes: Stacie Sinclair