**Colorado Crisis Standards of Care**

**Palliative Care and Hospice Workgroup**

**Hospice Leadership Meeting**

**Notes 4/28/22**

* 12 Participants (no recording today)
* All meeting materials and attachments [here](http://www.nationalhospiceanalytics.com/hospice-care-products-and-services/co-crisis-standards-of-care).

Agenda:

1. **10:00 – 10:30 – Open discussion,** [**Michelle Quinn**](mailto:michelle@fremontregionalhospice.com)
   1. COVID-19 impact on staffing, moral distress, and hopefulness. Discussion around easing mask mandates in hospice offices and generally lower COVID-19 rates as we enter Spring and Summer. Also discussion around the possibility of the national Public Health Emergency *not* being extended past mid-July – this would put volunteer, RN visit timing, and other regulations that have been eased during the PHE back into effect. There is no “ramp up” time expected – i.e., regulations will be effective immediately.
   2. Discussion of providing hospice in facilities, visitation, challenges, and successes. Generally this is less of a challenge right now. However, there was discussion around CDPHE distinguishing between “fully vaccinated” (the 1-2 shot series) vs “up to date” (which includes at least one booster), which occurred ~3 weeks ago. It appears the impact of these two “levels” is on how CDPHE ranks counties in terms of COVID rates.
   3. CDPHE Data 4/25/22, [Cordt Kassner, PhD](mailto:ckassner@hospiceanalytics.com)
      1. Case Summary: 704 Cases reported today; 88 new hospital admits; 4.88% state positivity rate; 13,169 deaths due to COVID-19.
2. **10:30 – 11:00 – Education / Discussion**
   1. Bilingual Spanish hospice professionals that could help review the Spanish version of the Colorado Palliative Care Guide? Jenn Klus and I are asking for help from anyone who can read and comment on draft versions of the Spanish Colorado Palliative Care Guide.
   2. Summary / Update on Kim Mooney’s MAID discussion. Follow up discussion from Kim’s presentation last month and updates from her meeting earlier this week. Robust Q&A and discussion. Resources discussed:
      1. American Clinicians Academy on Medical Aid in Dying – Ethics Consultation Service and white papers: <https://www.acamaid.org/ethics/>
      2. CDPHE Colorado Medical Aid in Dying information and reports: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/registries-and-vital-statistics/medical-aid-in-dying>

Articles for Discussion / Assistance:

1. New Colorado Palliative Care Guide: Available [here](http://www.centerhealthcareanalytics.org/).
2. Hospice News Today 4/5/22: [**New laws say patients can have visitors even in an outbreak**](https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/04/03/1086216581/visiting-patients-during-covid?utm_campaign=KHN%3A%20First%20Edition&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=208897019&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8DTwG-bNLc_gtHtoDXfVJmyKf4kQYyFvr6fJQgzvEJGGNOuYisWtsfeB6zl6bPR-sqF3VwV76DhAkqLnssb8xUztdUKA&utm_content=208897019&utm_source=hs_email)

*NPR,* April 3, 2022. ... On March 11, the Florida Legislature passed a bill that will make it easier for people like White to see their loved ones in health facilities. Gov. Ron DeSantis is expected to sign it in the coming weeks. At least eight states have already passed similar laws, and several others have bills under consideration. Some laws, like those passed last year in New York and Texas, are specific to long-term care facilities. They allow residents to designate essential caregivers, also known as compassionate caregivers, who are allowed to visit regardless of whether there is a health crisis. Texans also added protections in their constitution. Other states including Arkansas, North Carolina and Oklahoma passed similar “No Patient Left Alone” acts that also guarantee visitor access to patients in hospitals. Hospitals and long-term care facilities set pandemic restrictions on visitors to protect patients and staffers from infection. But supporters of these news laws say they want to ease the restrictions because the rules may have harmed patients. ... While the visitation laws open the doors, they also include provisions to protect patients and staff by directing facilities to establish infection-control measures that families must follow to enter. That could mean mask requirements or health screenings. In Florida, protocols for visitors cannot be more stringent than they are for staff, and vaccination status cannot be a factor. Also in Florida, facilities will be able to ban visitors who don’t follow the rules.

Next Call: 5/26/22 @ 10:00-11:00 AM (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7430085211>).