

Long-Term Services and Supports Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2020

Participants: Gabriel Kaplan (Co-chair), Jayla Sanchez-Warren (Co-chair), Christian Itin, John Emerson, Karin Stewart, Hope Carwile, Jenn Klus, and Kari Degerness

Action Items:

- Jarett Hughes to share information provided by John Emerson pertaining to [CovidLine](#)
- Christian Itin to schedule a follow-up phone meeting with representatives working with the Washington State Long-Term Care Trust program

Key Takeaways and Notes:

- John Emerson shared a new hotline, CovidLine, launched by Clinica Colorado to provide COVID-19 screenings and telehealth services to Coloradans who do not have health insurance.
- Christian Itin had a productive phone call with Bill Moss from Washington State about the Long-Term Trust Act – after a follow-up conversation Christian and Jarett Hughes will likely invite him and/or others to join for a phone call in June or July
- Kari Degerness, Director of Healthcare Programs at the Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC), and Jenn Klus, Oncology Systems Consultant at the Department of Public Health and Environment, joined to share a bit about their work specific to advance care planning (ACP) and palliative care
- CIVHC has been convening an ACP working group to support the documentation of advance directives such as Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST), Medical Durable Power of Attorney, and living wills.
 - o The Conversation Project in Boulder is a valuable resource for these discussions
- The ACP working group has been working with first responders on how to look for documentation in homes and what to do in certain scenarios. They are also working with long-term care residences and providers around familiar with MOST forms.
- MOST forms and Physician's Order for Life-Sustaining Treatment are essentially the same document – there are various names for this document but they are standard forms that capture life sustaining wishes that can be submitted into electronic health records.
 - o Increasing the awareness of advance directives and supporting their completion is important across the life course, not only later life although this is where the general focus is placed
- Jenn Klus, with CDPHE, has been working to revise the State of Palliative Care Report along with the American Cancer Society, and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness with the goal of improving quality of life for the patient and family – palliative care is provided by an interdisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and other specialists. Palliative care is appropriate at any age, any stage of illness, and can be provided together with curative treatment.



Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging

- One of the areas for improving access to palliative care is that referrals tend to come late – earlier referrals would be more beneficial for patients and family/friends.
- The State of Palliative Care Report, which should be available in the coming months, will capture a snapshot of palliative care capacity around Colorado. Jenn noted that there has been an increase in consultations and referrals but not an overall increase in providers – this presents concerns over capacity.
- What could the state do to expand and support ACP?
 - Inclusion in state health plans and hiring/onboarding for state, county, and city employees
 - Is there a role for the Area Agencies on Aging to play?
 - Connect with those related to the State Health Insurance Assistance Program
 - Make efforts to normalize end-of-life discussions and planning
 - Ensure that providers know billing codes and engaging in these discussions and reimbursing for their time