



The Bridge

Fall 2010, Conference Edition

... *improving access to quality care for New Hampshire residents with life-threatening conditions*

2010/2011 NHHPCO Board of Directors

President

Andrés R Huertas RN, BSN
Hospice Administrator
Community Health & Hospice, Inc.
andreaivicki@gmail.com

Vice-President

Bruce Mast, MA
Bruce Mast & Associates, Inc.
bmast@bmaleadership.com

Treasurer

Barbara LaFrance, RN, BSN, MSN
Director of Hospice & Compliance
Home Health & Hospice Care
barbara.lafrance@nhhpc.org

Executive Secretary

Tanya Prather
Volunteer Manager
Home Health & Hospice Care
tanya.prather@nhhpc.org

Executive Director (ex-officio)

Janice McDermott
NHHPCO
603-225-0900
jmcdermott@nhhpc.org

Linda Burroughs

Rockingham VNA & Hospice
lindaburroughs@yahoo.com

Yvonne Corbell

Director for Network & Program
Development for Palliative Care
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Ctr
ycorbell@nhhpc.org

Kelly Doherty, RN-C, MSN, CRNH, ARNP-C

Pain Specialist/Hospice RN
KEDA994@aol.com

Madeline Gerken, MD

Hospice Staff Physician
meggerken@gmail.com

Bridgette Martel

Beacon Hospice
bnurse75@yahoo.com

Festus Kavale, Th.M., Dmin.

Spiritual Care Coordinator
LRG Healthcare
Fkavale@lrgh.org

Eileen M. Keefe, MS, RN, CNL

VP Quality/Risk Management,
Parkland Medical Center
Eileen.keefe1@hcahealthcare.com

Phil Lawson, MD

Director, Littleton Regional Hospital
Palliative Care Team
plawson@roadrunner.com

Michael Lehrman, MS

V.P. Health Care Services
N.H. Catholic Charities
mlehrman@nh-cc.org

Dan Perkins

Comfort Care HME
Dan@TalkingAboutHealth.org

Martha Tecca, MBA

Founder & Principal Consultant
M&M Strategies
martha.tecca@gmail.com

Susan Young, Exec. Director

Homecare Association of NH

Keynote Speaker Addresses the Possibility of “Hopeful Communities” to Attend to the Spiritual Needs of the Dying

It has been said that “Dying is a spiritual event with medical implications”. While such a statement turns on its head more conventional notions in America’s health care system, it’s hard to ignore the deeply profound spiritual dimension of the dying process.

As a society we talk about whole person care – body, mind and spirit – but in practice we tend to place priority on the *body* part of that triad, often overlooking the spirit. The reasons are many. We live in a medicalized society, not a ‘spiritualized’ one; we find it hard to account for the inherent mysteries of the spirit required in evidence-based health care; and, there is confusion over whose role it is to address spiritual needs of patients and their families. At the core, we lack a societal vision of what it might look like to rigorously attend to spiritual dimensions of caring, in an integrated approach, whether care is provided in inpatient, outpatient or community settings.

As individuals, we know what we want. In numerous studies that assess how Americans define quality care at the end of life, the answer is the same. In equal measure, we want freedom from pain and to be at peace.

How, then, might we begin to create “Hopeful Communities” where patients and their families

facing advanced illness, dying and grieving are assured of equal attention to body, mind and spirit provided seamlessly by qualified practitioners throughout the continuum of care?

There have been advances in the past half-dozen years, starting in 2004 when the National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care established ‘spiritual, religious and existential aspects of care’ as one of the eight domains of palliative care. In 2006 the National Quality Forum (NQF) articulated ‘preferred practices’ for providing spiritual aspects of palliative care. And, in 2009, stakeholders involved in a national consensus conference on “Improving the Quality of Spiritual Care as a Dimension of Palliative Care” provided recommendations for how to weave NQF’s preferred practices into health care delivery.

Promising practices are emerging. New approaches are transforming training; new insights are shaping spiritual care screening and assessment; and, new conceptual frameworks are enriching our ability to put spiritual presence into practice.

With these strides of the last six years, we have unprecedented opportunity to reshape our concept of caring. Can we together envision creating Hopeful Communities – places where “Are you at peace?” is asked as frequently as “Are you in pain?”



Jeanne S. Twohig, Senior Advisor, Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life

Jeanne S. Twohig is Senior Advisor at Duke Institute on Care at the End of Life

Visit www.nhhpc.org/events.htm to connect to your peer networking group.

From the President...

It's been an exciting year for NHHPCO as we grow and move forward. NHHPCO's Board of Directors is working hard to fulfill our mission of

providing improved access to excellent hospice and palliative care to those with life threatening illnesses. Over the past year we've had several new hospice providers come to New

Hampshire. I'm proud to say that currently we have 18 certified Medicare hospice provider members and three palliative care provider members.

Also, NHHPCO has grown through our collaboration with the Home Care Association of NH, New Hampshire Health Care Association, and the Foundation for Healthy Communities. We are pleased to be able to partner with these respected organizations to improve the health and care of the residents of NH.

As you know, hospice & palliative care provides patients and their families with compassionate end-of-life care. The focus is on care, not cure, and on quality and value of life, not the length. In most cases, care is provided in hos-

pitals, in the patient's own home, or in skilled nursing facilities across the State. Hospice uses palliative care to control pain and lessen the

symptoms of disease so that patients can live as comfortably as possible. Equally important is the support we provide to the patient's family, caregivers and loved ones.

Recently New Hampshire became the 49th state to offer a Medicaid hospice benefit. This was a long and sometimes difficult legislative process. But the mission was accomplished on July 1, 2010 thanks to the efforts and support of Senator Peg Gilmour, Valerie Brown of DHHS, and the membership of the NHHPCO.

I want to thank you for your commitment and the support you provide in delivering high quality end-of-life and palliative care to the people of NH.

Warm regards,



Andreea Huertas,
President, NHHPCO Board

From the Executive Director...

Welcome to the 15th Annual NHHPCO Fall Conference. We have changed our name from the "Pain and Beyond" conference to a venue that can focus on a relevant theme each year. Our Conference Committee remains strong and stable under leadership from Laurie Farmer, MSW, CRVNA

and Lisa Rocheford, Research & Educ. Coord., Concord Hospital. Paula Caron, RN, DHMC, Patrick Clary, MD, Rockingham VNA/Hospice, Andrea Huertas, BSN, MBA, CH&H, and Cindi Bush, NHHPCO remain integral participants on the planning committee. I also thank our newest members Dan Perkins, Comfort Care, and Janet Prescott, SolAmor Hospice for their contribution of time and expertise. We would welcome your ideas for future themes or speakers.

NHHPCO continues to expand activities and strengthen partnerships across the state. With five new board members we have added a Chaplain, a community business partner and a North Country representative. In addition,

we strengthened our physician, palliative care and hospice volunteer representation. These particular individuals also bring expertise in media relations allowing us to begin to explore some opportunities to create public education to further our mission of expanding

awareness and access to care for New Hampshire residents.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure quality end of life care in our state and for helping sustain the work of NHHPCO. Look for new and continuing education opportunities in the new year to address billing for the new Medicaid Hospice Benefit, Hospice/LTC partnerships, Hospice/VA partnerships and strengthening efforts to expand palliative care.

It is my pleasure to work with you and for you!



Janice McDermott
Executive Director, NHHPCO



125 Airport Road Concord NH 03301

Phone: 603-415-4298 Fax: 603-672-4409
info@nhhpco.org

Our Vision...

All people in New Hampshire will have access to excellent care that is valuable and meaningful to them when facing life-threatening conditions.

And Our Mission...

NHHPCO exists to benefit the people of New Hampshire. In collaboration with others, NHHPCO advocates for improved access to excellent hospice and palliative care and for related services to meet health needs of people facing life-threatening conditions and provide support to their families.

NHHPCO works to foster a climate in New Hampshire that facilitates the work of provider members to further their own vision and mission in their local communities, and contributes to their capacity building and development.