

# **Attorney General Task Force to Improve End of Life Care**

## **MINUTES**

**January 12, 2005 Meeting**

### **PRESENT:**

- 1. Susan Miller, Ph.D.**
- 2. Donna Lonschein**
- 3. Jackie Janicki**
- 4. Maura Perrin**
- 5. Aman Nanda, M.D.**
- 6. Edward Martin, M.D.**
- 7. Brenda Briden**
- 8. Tom Wachtel, M.D.**
- 9. Cheryl Dexter**
- 10. Donna Cone, Ph.D.**
- 11. Maureen Glynn**

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**The Attorney General Task Force to Improve End of Life Care (hereinafter “Task Force”) met on January 12, 2005 at 8:30 A.M. in the First Floor Conference Room in Building #73 at the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI. Maureen Glynn called the meeting to order. The Task Force members and interested persons introduced themselves. The Task Force reviewed and approved the minutes from the meeting held on December 16, 2004.**

**The Task Force discussed the “Train the Trainer” program for medical directors of nursing homes concerning hospice care. The names and addresses of medical directors can be obtained from the Department of Health so that a targeted mailing to the medical directors may occur. In addition, the Task Force discussed expanding the invitees to include the approximately 50 doctors who admit to nursing homes on a regular basis and their nurse practitioners who provide care to nursing home residents. The Task Force estimated that approximately 120 physicians would be invited to the “Train the Trainer” program.**

**The Task Force discussed the logistics of the training program. The Task Force concluded that one-hour would not be sufficient time; therefore, a two hour program would provide for a more complete explanation of hospice care. Because the program would need to exceed an hour it would be difficult for physicians to attend a two hour morning session. Thus, the Task Force decided that physicians would be more likely to attend an evening program. Prior surveys of attendees at the Task Force educational meetings indicated that Wednesday and Thursdays are the better evenings for educational programming. The Task Force concluded that either the 1st or 2nd Wednesday of April would be a good time to schedule the “Train the Trainer” program.**

**The Task Force discussed the content for the program. Dr. Ed Martin, Medical Director of Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island, a nationally recognized expert in the area of hospice care, would present an overview of hospice care including what is hospice care, the admission criteria, and the types of services that are available through hospice care specifically for residents of nursing homes. The Task Force estimated approximately 45 minutes for the hospice overview.**

**The Task Force discussed that the second section of the program should explain the financial aspects of hospice care, such as reimbursements. Dr. Susan Miller, Associate Professor, Brown**

**University Center for Gerontology would present the financial aspects of hospice care. The Task Force estimated approximately 20 minutes for financial aspects of hospice care presentation.**

**The Task Force discussed that physicians frequently learn best from case studies. The Task Force discussed presenting the next hour of “Train the Trainer” program**

**through case studies because it is more realistic and interactive. The Task Force suggested that Dr. Teno, Professor, Center for Gerontology & Health Care Research, Brown University, present the case studies for discussion. Drs. Miller, Martin, and Teno will assemble the case studies from actual Rhode Island case experiences. The Task Force discussed that the case study section may be one hour.**

**Although the Janice Miller, the Brown Medical School Continuing CME Director, was unable to attend, we will be providing her with information concerning the program in the hopes that Brown, as a co-sponsor, would be able to donate CME credit for the physicians. RISNA is willing to provide the nurse practitioners with CEU credits.**

**The Task Force discussed possible locations for the program. CCRI Auditorium in Providence has been a good forum for other educational programming and is available at no charge. If funding became available through a grant, such as the Rhode Island Foundation, another site could be located.**

**The Task Force discussed sponsorship for the educational program. The Task Force discussed offering dinner but the costs would be prohibitive.**

**The Task Force discussed involving Dr. Gifford, the nominated incoming DOH Director, in the program. If Dr. Gifford could not participate then, other Task Force member offered to assist.**

**The Task Force discussed sending save the date cards, unit the logistics of the program are finalized. The Task Force noted that letters inviting the medical directors to attend the training program should include an invitation to their physician-medical staff so that the physicians serving residents in the nursing home can attend this educational program concerning hospice care.**

**The Task Force discussed revising the “Train the Trainer” program for medical directors to provide training for directors of nursing and nursing home administrators, and offer the revised program in approximately two months after the “Train the Trainer” program for physicians.**

**The next meeting of the Task Force is tentatively scheduled for February 9, 2005 at 8:30 A.M. in First Floor Conference Room, Building #69, R.I. Department of Labor and Training, 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, R.I. The Task Force will address uniform**

**advanced directives for nursing homes and the advance care planning video.**