



MHCC Palliative Care Services Work Group
Preliminary Work Plan

1. Background:

- HB 378: passed during 2022 legislative session
- Purpose:
 - “The Maryland Health Care Commission shall convene a workgroup of interested stakeholders to study palliative care services and make recommendations to improve palliative care services in the State.”
- Timeline:
 - Interim Report: July 1, 2023
 - Final Report: November 1, 2023

2. Membership Development Work:

- Review legislation re membership:
 - Hospice and palliative care providers
 - Health care facilities
 - Patient advocacy groups
 - Health insurers
- Solicit representatives from selected groups:
 - Hospice
 - Nursing home
 - State Advisory Council on Quality Care at End of Life
 - Nurse provider; Center for the Advancement of Palliative Care (CAPC)
 - Maryland Hospital Association
 - Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland
 - Home Health Agency/Hospice
 - Medicare
 - Maryland Department of Aging
 - Health Insurers
 - Carefirst Blue Cross of Maryland

3. Available Resources:

- Review previous MHCC study on palliative care in hospitals
- Review NHPCO study on palliative care
- Review studies in other states
- Review CAPC data for Maryland
- Collect resource materials for distribution at work group meetings

4. Tentative Meeting Schedule:

- Meeting 1:
 - Review legislation and scope of work
 - Develop consensus for operational definition of “palliative care services”
 - Develop consensus on settings of care
 - Review work plan

- Meeting 2:
 - Define approach for identifying “gaps” in palliative care services
 - Review survey instrument to be used for data collection on identified “gaps” in palliative care services in Maryland
 - Discuss requirements for contractor survey
- Meeting 3:
 - Review results of data collection
 - Recommend other sources of data to complement survey
- Meeting 4:
 - Discuss strategy for collaboration for improving and expanding palliative care services
 - Discuss strategy for expansion of financial support for palliative care
- Meeting 5:
 - Discuss strategy for ongoing data collection
 - Discuss strategy for public education about palliative care
- Meeting 6:
 - Discuss preliminary findings
 - Review Interim Report
 - Other discussion
- Meeting 7:
 - Review recommendations
 - Other discussion
 - Next Steps
- Meeting 8:
 - Develop consensus on final recommendations
 - Review final report
 - Commission review and approval of final report: October 2023