State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life
Minutes from the January 26, 2018 Meeting

Meeting time and place: January 26, 2018, 10:00 a.m., Office of Health Care Quality, 55 Wade Avenue, Spring Grove Hospital Center, Bland Bryant Building, Catonsville, Maryland.

Council members present: Alan Eason, Chair; Paul Ballard (Attorney General's designee); Sister Lawrence Mary Pocock; Stevanne Ellis (Department of Aging's designee); M. Jane Markley; Hank Willner; Rabbi Steve Glazer; Elena S. Boisvert; Christopher D. Kearney; Marian Grant; Lya Karm; Tiffany Callender; Tricia Nay (Department of Health's designee); Carol Eckerl; Jocelyn El-Sayed. **On speakerphone:** Michele Williams; Donald F. D'Aquila.

Others present: Jennifer Briemann; Rebecca Daley; Paddy Cook; Lana Woodey; Carol Cronin; Susan Wynne

Chairman Alan Eason convened the meeting at 10 am.

Alan Eason urged the Council to think of initiatives that the Council could pursue and mentioned that Speak(easy) Howard was a good model to keep in mind as the Council considers possible initiatives.

Tiffany Callender gave a presentation regarding the work of the Horizon Foundation on the Speak(easy) Howard campaign. She stated that 30% of people surveyed in Howard Councty have advance directives and that the percentage is higher as people get older, but is only significantly higher when people are 70 years or older, at which time the rate is about 80%. She noted that African Americans, Korean Americans, Latino Americans, and persons with lower incomes have much lower rates of completing advance directives (15%). She stated that the goal of the project is to persuade people to talk about their wishes and appoint a health care agent. A physician would keep a record of the advance directive once it is completed. Speak(easy) Howard also works with the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP), Maryland's Health Information Exchange, to make sure advance directives get to the health care provider.

Tiffany Callender showed the Council test advertisements for the program designed to encourage people to engage in advance care planning. After viewing the test advertisements, Council members agreed that appeals to faith-based groups may be an effective way to promote advance care planning. Jocelyn El-Sayed noted that second-generation immigrants are more likely to prepare advance directives than first generation immigrants.

Elena Boivert asked if the Speak(easy) Howard's program could be accessed by people outside of Howard County. Tiffany Callender stated that it could be accessed by non-county residents and that ideally Speak(easy) Howard could become a statewide program. She also noted that it will be helpful to able to tell people that an electronic advance directives service has been approved by CRISP once that approval process has been finalized.

Regarding possible initiatives for the Council to undertake, Christopher Kearney asked what the Council could do in accordance with its statutory mission. Paul Ballard noted that the Council is an advisory body without a budget and that its greatest asset is its ability to persuade policy makers to adopt programs that would be beneficial to the care of persons at the end of life. Council members wondered how Maryland compared to other states with regard to advance care planning and the percentage of advance directives completed. There was a consensus among Council members that the Council should promote advance directives and advance care planning.

Marian Grant stated that the Council must be practical about what it can accomplish and find partners to implement its recommendations. Christopher Kearney stated that based on his experience running a geriatric center that appointing a health care agent is the most important decision to be made. Hank Willner stated that it is important for the patient to have conveyed to the agent in a succinct way what abilities are so crucial to the patient that they can't live without them.

Tricia Nay suggested that a list of Council ideas for projects be rated on their validity and feasibility so that the Council can work on projects that have the most impact. Paul Ballard will email a form to Council members soliciting their ideas and explaining why they would have feasibility and validity, and why they would be passionate about seeing their proposal implemented.