

**State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life
Minutes from June 16, 2006 Meeting**

Meeting time and place: June 16, 2006, 10:00 a.m., in the Department of Aging's Conference Room, 301 West Preston Street, 10th floor.

Council members present: Dr. Cynda Rushton, Chair; Dr. Arnold "Skip" Amass; Ms. Ruth Eger; Ms. Karen Kauffman; Dr. Timothy Keay; Ms. Wendy Kronmiller (Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene's designee); Mr. Ted Meyerson; Mr. Jack Schwartz (Attorney General's designee).

Others present: Ms. Theresa Jeter-Cutting; Dr. Eileen Kim; Ms. Chris MacMillan; Ms. Leslie Piet; Ms. Marie Savage; Ms. Jennie Siebenhaar; Ms. Elena Spitzer; Ms. Fran Stoner.

Dr. Cynda Rushton convened the meeting at 10:00 and welcomed the Council members and guests. She particularly welcomed Dr. Skip Amass, a pharmacist from Carroll County, who was recently appointed to the Council. Another new appointee, Catherine Boyne, President of the Hospice of Baltimore, was unable to attend this meeting but looks forward to actively participating in the Council's work.

Mr. Schwartz then reported on two pieces of legislation that the Council had been following. The proposal to update the statutory advance directive form, Senate Bill 369, became law without the Governor's signature. The Attorney General's Office, seeing no reason for delay, has issued a revised pamphlet on advance directives to incorporate the new form, copies of which were distributed. Mr. Schwartz noted that the enacted bill did not contain a controversial provision that would have authorized certifications of incapacity to be done by one physician and one psychologist, as an alternative to certification by two physicians (current law). Mr. Schwartz indicated that the Attorney General's Office would be studying this issue further. The second bill of interest, Senate Bill 236, which requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to create an advance directive registry, was signed by the Governor. The Department will form a work group to assist the Secretary in developing necessary regulations.

During this portion of the meeting, Council members and guests shared various items of information, including an upcoming conference on conscientious objection in health care, a new handbook for Maryland proxies, cuts in federal funding for support of Alzheimer's disease research, advance directive "parties" in private homes, and the need for further professional education about the nature and intended use of the Patient's Plan of Care form.

Dr. Eileen Kim, a Greenwall Fellow in Bioethics and Health Policy at Johns Hopkins and an intern for the summer in the Attorney General's Office, summarized her project to develop an updated "report card" on Maryland's end-of-life care policy, clinical

resources, and performance. The first such report card was issued several years ago by Last Acts, and more current data might be of interest in assessing progress. In addition, potentially useful data not reported by Last Acts ought to be sought if available. Discussion focused on interpretive issues about pain scores in nursing homes and the possibility of finding data on opioid use across time, especially on a subpopulation basis.

The remainder of the discussion focused on the Stakeholders' Summit, scheduled for November 13, 2006 at the University of Maryland School of Law. Like the Council's first summit in 2004, this is envisioned as a highly interactive meeting of invited participants, large enough to allow for representation of a wide range of interests but small enough to facilitate conversation. Dr. Rushton pointed to the Council's numerous accomplishments, in terms of priorities that had been set soon after the Council's formation, but some areas had not seen as much activity. The summit, she suggested, should be an occasion to celebrate accomplishments, acknowledge shortcomings, and help develop a future agenda. There was consensus that the summit should focus on vulnerable populations, especially children and patients with dementia. Council members and guests made suggestions about potential speakers and participants.

The Council set its next meeting for Friday, October 20, 2006, at 10:00 at the Department of Aging.

No further items of business having been presented, Dr. Rushton adjourned the meeting at 11:45.