

**State Advisory Council on Quality Care at the End of Life
Minutes from October 12, 2011 Meeting**

Meeting time and place: October 12, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Department of Aging, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Council members present: Ted Meyerson, Chair; Gail Mansell, Catherine Stavely; Hope Miller; Mary Lynn McPherson; Timothy Keay; Paul Ballard (Attorney General's designee); Michael McHale; Steve Levenson, Lya Karm, Karren Pope-Onwukwe.

Chairman Ted Meyerson convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Paul Ballard reported to the Council that proposed regulations concerning the "Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment" (MOLST) form were published in the Maryland Register for public comment. The MOLST form contains medical orders regarding life-sustaining treatments. Once the regulations are finally adopted, containing orders regarding life-sustaining treatments, the MOLST form will be required to be used in hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living programs, home health agencies, hospices, and kidney dialysis centers, and must be honored by other health care providers to the extent required under the Health Care Decisions Act. The MOLST form would travel with patients transferring between facilities.

Mr. Ballard told members who they could write to provide letters of support for the proposed regulations containing the proposed MOLST form. He noted that the MOLST form may be used voluntarily by health care facilities pending the final adoption of the regulations and that emergency medical personnel will be honoring orders regarding CPR contained in the MOLST form. The Council discussed the form and expressed its support for the adoption of the proposed MOLST form and regulations to increase the likelihood that patients' choices for their care will be carried out.

Ted Meyerson distributed to the Council educational cards describing a patient's rights and options for care at the end of life and asked the Council to review the cards. The Council made changes to the card and approved its posting on the Council's website. The Council approved the card's use by the public. Organizations are free to print and distribute the educational cards to health care professionals and the public.

Paul Ballard reported to the Council regarding the advance directive registry pilot project to be conducted by the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Our Patients (CRISP). CRISP is planning the pilot project in several Maryland counties where six nursing homes and nearby hospitals will use an electronic registry for advance directives and the MOLST form. Based on CRISP's experience with the pilot project, recommendations will be made to implement Maryland's advance directive registry. CRISP is learning from Oregon's experience with a Physician's Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) registry and from the experience of Rochester, New York with its advance directive and MOLST registry.

Ted Meyerson informed the Council that the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has the ability to allow drivers to add 3 emergency contacts to their drivers' licenses. The emergency contact information is stored electronically by the MVA. This may be an opportunity for people to put their health care agent's contact information on their drivers' licenses. The information is only available to authorized law enforcement personnel.

Gail Mansell noted that her health care system has had an advance directive registry for several years. A health care provider can access the system and print out the advance directive but may not change it. She said it has been very helpful.

Paul Ballard reported that Jack Schwartz and Cynda Rushton wrote an article discussing the Council to be published in the November issue of the Journal of Palliative Medicine.

No further items of business having been presented, Chairman Meyerson adjourned the meeting.