
In a neat list, these are NHPCP’s areas of work. They broadly identify where our efforts and donor, grant, sponsorship and membership funds are directed to ultimately improve care and conditions for chronically and terminally ill Nebraskans.

What this brief list of work areas doesn’t reveal is the number of hours, the commitment by staff and volunteers, and the specific projects within these areas that really get us where we need to be as the state’s end-of-life association.

These projects cross the spectrum of needs, from implementing regular professional discipline networking calls, to monitoring end-of-life legislation and hosting an annual legislator luncheon, to the development of a new membership category to better integrate the hospice philosophy of care into Nebraska’s nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

NHPCP responds to the needs of its constituents – members and end-of-life professionals, the public, donors, policymakers, and the media – with everything we do getting us closer to a vision that “No Nebraskan Lives in Pain or Dies Badly.”

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

Sincerely,
Patricia Snyder, Executive Director

Pain Program Returns Nebraskans to Work

Since 2006, NHPCP has implemented the Ticket to Work Palliative Care Program, a first-ever demonstration project funded through the Ticket to Work Program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The program gives participants access to a team - a nurse, a social worker and a team of community resource representatives - to help keep pain and symptom issues from getting in the way of holding or keeping a job.

In partnership with Saint Elizabeth Palliative Care, NHPCP has seen 20 Lincolnhites and projects it will work with another 30 Nebraskans in 2008. The program expanded into the Siouxland area in February 2008 and will expand into western Nebraska later this year. Fifty percent of those that have completed the program are now employed.

“Joy” serves as an example of program outcomes. She entered the program with fibromyalgia, back injury and addictive personality. Prior to her involvement, Joy was making at least monthly visits to her physician, and also had multiple overnight hospital stays.

"My hospital addiction…is a subconscious addiction. If I smell the soap or put on a gown, my body wants to take a break, to take a rest in the hospital," said Joy. She rated the pain in her chest radiating to the rest of her body at 8.5 out of a possible 10 at admission, and at 5 upon completion of the program.

Prior to participation, it had been 24 months since Joy had been employed. As a part of the program, she became a volunteer writing grants and doing administrative work for a non-profit organization. At discharge, Joy was planning to enroll in graduate school. Within six months she secured a part-time administrative job. Joy has gone 10 months without an overnight hospitalization.
Pain Education Taken On the Road

The Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership repeated its Pain Tour across Nebraska in September 2007. The pain management workshops took physicians certified in palliative medicine across the state, educating 523 professionals over the last two years.

In addition, NHPCP received a grant from the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives to establish a statewide speakers bureau and conduct 50 pain presentations across the state in recognition of Pain Awareness Month in September. In civic, veteran and church groups across the state, Nebraskans were educated on the issue of pain by experts from their area.

Quality: A Priority for NHPCP

Last year, NHPCP instituted several programs to keep Nebraska’s hospices up to speed on important quality, regulatory, billing and certification information:

- The national hospice organization cited NHPCP’s monthly member conference calls as an example of a state organization implementing a quality improvement initiative among its membership. The calls served as a useful tool in reviewing each of the initiative’s components with NHPCP members.
- NHPCP implemented an electronic bulletin service to quickly inform members of pertinent regulatory issues.
- NHPCP administered regular conference calls and other technical support for members to prepare them for new federal billing requirements.
- Courses were held to prepare professionals for an exam that would certify them in hospice and palliative care. NHPCP also coordinated the test application process for Nebraska.

Nebraska Hospice History Put on Paper

In honor of its 25th anniversary and with support provided by a grant from the Nebraska Office of Rural Health, NHPCP staff and volunteers researched and documented the history of hospice in Nebraska.

The publication details the dedication of Nebraska’s hospice professionals that still exists today. It also includes a timeline of events and profiles on three Nebraska hospice pioneers, June Eilers, Martha Maseman and Tom Perkins.

Order a copy at info@nehospice.org or 402/477-0204.
NHPCP Works to Increase Hospice Use By Veterans

In partnership with the Department of Veteran Affairs, NHPCP leads the Nebraska Hospice-Veteran Partnership to ensure Nebraska’s veterans near the end of life receive the best care possible.

Last year, NHPCP coordinated the gathering of data from its hospice members on veteran usage of hospice, and works to educate veterans and their families about hospice.

In May 2007, NHPCP facilitated a workshop addressing mental health issues of veterans at the end of life.

Nebraskans Made Aware of End-of-Life Issues

In 2007, 75 percent of Nebraskans surveyed reported first learning about hospice when someone they knew used it. However, many still don’t know the full benefits this type of care can provide, or that it’s covered by Medicare, Medicaid, the VA and most private insurers. Last year, NHPCP focused much of its energy in educating the public about hospice and palliative care through the media, speaking engagements and the promotion of its new website, nehospice.org.

Consumers and the media responded well to NHPCP’s outreach efforts in FY 2007:

- More than 125 mentions of NHPCP were made in local, statewide or national media
- Approximately 75 church, civic, veteran or professional organizations were informed of hospice or palliative care
- More than 42,000 visits were made to nehospice.org

Board of Advisors Created

In May 2007, NHPCP announced the development of a Board of Advisors led by Honorary Co-Chairs Hal and Mary Daub and Tom and Nancy Osborne. The Board of Advisors is a group of distinguished Nebraskans dedicated to publicly providing their name, counsel, and financial and moral support to NHPCP’s efforts to improve end-of-life care and conditions.
A Review of Education Provided to Nebraska’s Hospice and Palliative Care Professionals in Fiscal Year 2007

April 3-5, 2007  
Living a Good Life…At the End of Life  
Annual Conference, Lincoln

May 8, 2007  
Veterans’ End-of-Life Mental Health Issues, Lincoln  
Co-sponsored with Nebraska Hospice Veteran Partnership

July 26, 2007  
Hospice and Long Term Care Challenges and State Licensure Regulations, Kearney

August 9, 2007  
Hospice 101, North Platte

August 10, 2007  
Hospice 101, Lincoln

August 22 and 30, 2007  
Hospice Certification Prep Course, Lincoln

September 12, 2007  
Pain Tour, Cozad

September 13, 2007  
Pain Tour, Chadron

September 18, 2007  
Pain Tour, Seward

September 25, 2007  
Pain Tour, Sidney

October 10, 2007  
End of Life Issues Across the Healthcare Continuum, Lincoln

December 13, 2007  
Integrating Palliative Care into Long Term Care, Lincoln  
Co-sponsored with Nebraska Health Care Association and Nebraska Assisted Living Association

January 23, 2008  
Cahaba Government Benefit Administrators Hospice Regulatory Updates, Lincoln

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Celebrating 25 Years  
Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership

3900 N.W. 12th St., Suite 100  
Lincoln, NE 68521

New Address!
Thank You
The Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Partnership thanks the following organizations and individuals for their generous support given from April 1, 2007, through March 31, 2008.

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In memory of Lois Smith, Robert Puls and Eldon Teel, and in honor of Dr. Richard Jackson, Dr. George Voightlander and Mrs. Josie Zito

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NHPCP Mission
A statewide partnership to improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans who have chronic conditions or are near the end of life and to support the various communities who care for them

In memory of Doris Adams

In memory of Paula Mandell

In memory of Lois Smith, Robert Puls and Eldon Teel

In memory of Bill Cordell, Jr.

In memory of John Dawson

In memory of Elaine Miller

In memory of Mark Roper

In memory of Grant D. Bennett

In memory of Jeanette Nixon

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In memory of Paula Mandell

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In memory of Mrs. Jack Weidinger

In memory of Marilyn Allen
Thank You (con’d.)
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Nebraska Hospital Association
Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center

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Northeast Nebraska
Greater Omaha
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Seward
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