
IDAHO END-OF-LIFE NEWS

June/July, 2009

Idaho End-of-Life Coalition

Formerly *A Better Way Coalition, Inc.*, and the *Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization*
www.abetterwaycoalition.org and www.hospiceidaho.org

Please email IdELC@clearwire.net with information about end-of-life-related news or events in Idaho
Support and join the important work of the Coalition: www.hospiceidaho.org

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Idaho End-of-Life Events Calendar

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June 29 early registration deadline; Registration Brochure at www.hospiceidaho.org

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN THE 2009 DYING WELL IN IDAHO CONFERENCE

10. Seven national speakers:

- **Palliative Care Icon Ira Byock, MD**, author of “Dying Well” and “The Four Things that Matter Most”
- **NHPCO CEO Don Schumacher, PhD**, speaking on the Future of Hospice
- **Rev Ken Doka, PhD**, author of more than 20 books on grief, bereavement and spirituality; long-time panelist with the national Living with Grief teleconference
- **Mary Carr, BSN, MPH**, NAHC Regulatory Expert
- **Donna Cutting**, Customer Service Guru
- **Matt Thornhill**, Demographer
- **Joan Endicott**, Motivational Speaker

9. More than 140 sessions on a wide range of topics related to elder and end-of-life care

8. Two full-day bonus workshops included in the basic conference registration fee:

- Wednesday’s Hospice 101: Introduction to Hospice, led by Carolyn Nystrom, RN, Hospice of the Wood River Valley; Dennis Kelly, RN, St. Luke’s Hospice; Cindy Stice Lee, RN, CHPN, Heart ‘n Home Hospice; Jim Schmidt, Horizon Hospice; and Norm Schrumm, XL Hospice; designed for hospice hires and others seeking a solid hospice overview
- Tuesday’s Clinical Review for Hospice and Palliative Care: Nursing Assistant’s Certificate Program, led by Sharon Stephen, RN, GNP-c, MN, PHD and Caren Hosselkus, MA, CNA (limited seating, register early)

7. **Two high-powered workshop Intensives** all day on Wednesday (additional fees required):
 - Hospice in Facilities: Secrets to Success with Judith Eighmy, RN, CHPN, of Pacific Healthcare Consultants
 - Death, Loss, Spirituality, and Grief through the Life Cycle with Rev Ken Doka, PhD, author of more than 20 books in the field and long-time panelist with the national teleconference series Living with Grief
6. **2009 Idaho End-of-Life Coalition Awards Banquet**, honoring Idaho's 2009 Hospice Dream Team, the Person of the Year, the Lifetime Impact Award recipient, a Volunteer of the Year from each hospice, and other champions for a better end-of-life in Idaho—with remarks from Ira Byock, MD, and Don Schumacher, PhD
5. **Opening Networking Reception** Sunday evening, 7:15-9:00 p.m., with remarks from Saint Alphonsus Palliative Care Physician Kevin Clifford, MD; preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition, 6:30-7:15: Hampton Inn
4. **Conference Bookstore from NHPCO and book signings** by Ira Byock, MD, Rev Ken Doka, PhD, and others
3. **Significant discounts for Coalition members:** Hospices pay one low rate for all staff and volunteers to attend; individual members and staff of Coalition organization members can register at the individual member discount rate. Not a Coalition member? See <http://www.hospiceidaho.org/2009IdELCMembForm.pdf>. Then register here: <http://www.hospiceidaho.org/ConventionProgram2009.pdf>.
2. **Free “Life Care Planning and the Elder-Care Continuum” public event** on Tuesday evening led by Elder Law Attorney Peter C. Sisson. Learn how to find, get and pay for good long-term care and access the resources necessary during that journey, including a review of the key legal planning documents necessary and the asset protection planning and public benefits programs available to pay for care.
1. **Improve your ability to provide the best care possible for Idahoans near the end of life and network with others who share the same passion!**

Hospices: Submit your Volunteer of the Year recipient by the end of June

2009 IDAHO END-OF-LIFE AWARD WINNERS SELECTED

Nominations for the 2009 Idaho End-of-Life Awards illustrate how many champions for better end-of-life care and conditions are active in Idaho. This year's award recipients will be publicly announced at the 2009 Coalition Awards Banquet on Monday, July 20. The gala event will include comments from Author Ira Byock, MD, and NHPCO CEO Don Schumacher, PhD, as well as music from the Boise Hospice Singers.

Honorees will include individuals from Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Hospice of North Idaho, Four Rivers Hospice, Heart 'n Home Hospice, Legacy Hospice, Horizon Hospice, Hospice Visions, and Mercy Hospice. The Coalition will also honor two non-hospice organizations for excellence in their end-of-life work: Cloverdale Funeral Home and Pattie House Assisted Living Facility. To join in publicly honoring Idaho's leaders in improving end-of-life care and conditions at the July 20 Banquet, register through the Conference Registration brochure at <http://www.hospiceidaho.org/ConventionProgram2009.pdf>. Or use the Banquet-only registration at <http://www.hospiceidaho.org/RegisAwardsBanqOnly2009.pdf>.

Each hospice may also identify one Volunteer of the Year to be recognized at the banquet. Hospices, please forward the name of your volunteer to Jim Schmidt (jschmidt@horizonhh.com) by the end of June so that we can prepare their certificate and include their name in the Awards Banquet Program.

BOARD OF PHARMACY TO REVISIT “AGENT” STATEMENT

The Idaho Board of Pharmacy will reconsider a recent statement that hospice nurses are “generally not” considered physician agents for the purpose of verbal orders for legend drugs. IdELC Hospice and Palliative Care Policy Committee Member Cindy Lee, director of Heart ‘n Home Hospice, and Coalition CEO Jonathan Krutz testified at the Board’s June 19 meeting that the Board’s statement runs counter to current practice in Idaho and other states, is not supported in Idaho law, and would negatively impact good patient care.

After significant discussion it was decided that Board of Pharmacy Director Mark Johnston, RPh, will work on a clarifying statement from the Board, in collaboration with the Coalition. “I may have used the wrong terminology,” said Johnston, referring to the “generally not” language, which appeared in the Board’s March newsletter.

“I have no problem with hospice nurses being the agent,” said Board Chair Dwayne Sheffler, RPh. “Continue to do it until we get this straightened out.”

The Board also suggested that the Coalition pursue a change in the law to remove any doubt that pharmacies can accept verbal orders from hospice and home health nurses, just as they can from nurses in health care facilities. The law allows a “practitioner’s agent” to do so, but does not further define “agent” to either include or exclude hospice nurses.

“We don’t want to define the agent,” said Sheffler, recognizing that that issue is one for physicians or the legislature to clarify, if they so choose.

In recent meetings, the Hospice and Palliative Care Policy Committee had discussed the impact of the Board’s statement on Idaho hospices, with Lee taking the lead to research the issues. See the Coalition’s testimony at www.hospiceidaho.org under “What’s New.”

“POST” IMPROVEMENT PLANS INCLUDE OUTREACH, FINE-TUNING

Two steps to improve the effectiveness of Idaho’s POST are underway through the Coalition’s Public Policy Committee. The POST is an advance directive form established by Idaho law in 2007 to capture and share patient wishes for CPR, tube feeding, and other care issues as a standing physician order. (Learn more about POST at www.abetterwaycoalition.org.)

First, more efforts to promote the POST to professionals and the public are being pursued. With the recent publication of the 2009 edition of Idaho’s advance care planning bible, “The Right Choice at the Right Time,” the Coalition will promote its use in health facilities across the state

and through public events like those planned for June 25 at Saint Alphonsus and July 22 at the Boise Centre on the Grove. In addition, grant efforts for Alzheimer's, cancer, discharge planning, and workplace end-of-life outreach may lead to additional distribution of the book, which includes an explanation of POST and provides instructions for its completion.

Second, Health Attorney Kim Stanger will draft a proposal to fine-tune the POST law to address three concerns that have arisen on implementation: provision for the suspension of a POST while a patient is undergoing an elective procedure, clarification on the extent to which surrogates can sign or execute a POST, and an allowance for advance practice nurses to sign a POST, recognizing that in some parts of Idaho physicians are not available to have the required discussions with a patient.

The Public Policy Committee also continues to work on health care decision-making issues for Idahoans with developmental disabilities, which will be the focus of their July 29 meeting (rescheduled from July 21 because of the Dying Well in Idaho Conference).

RCRT now includes Spanish advance directive form

PROMOTE ADVANCE DIRECTIVES; SHARE IDAHO'S RCRT BOOK

The 2009 edition of The Right Choice at the Right Time, published by the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition, has now been released for sale. The book includes advice on how to talk with loved ones about wishes for care before a crisis; Idaho-specific information and forms for advance directives (including the POST), Idaho's DNR jewelry, and Idaho's on-line advance directives registry; a review of the perceptions of Idahoans about end-of-life issues; and contact information for Idaho's hospices. New to the 2009 edition is a Spanish translation of Idaho's advance directive form.

"Finally there is a publication that includes all the key elements and forms for advance directives planning in Idaho," says Coalition Board Chair Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker. "This book needs to be on the shelf of every health and elder care professional in the state."

The book retails for \$24/copy, with volume discounts available. As a special member benefit, Coalition members may purchase books at the wholesale price of \$15/copy. Find the order form at <http://www.hospiceidaho.org/OrderFormRCRT.pdf>.

The Coalition's Community Engagement Committee encourages every hospice, hospital, nursing home, and assisted living facility to purchase copies of the book, to share them with their staff, to make them available to their clients, and to use in their community outreach efforts.

"RCRT is a terrific Idaho-specific resource to help both consumers and professionals," said AARP Idaho State Director Jim Wordelman.

HVP TO FOCUS ON END-OF-LIFE ISSUES OF IDAHO VETERANS

More than one quarter of all deaths in America today are veterans of America's military services. To address the issues of Idaho veterans at the end-of-life, the Veterans Administration in Idaho

and the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition are taking steps to form an Idaho Hospice-Veteran Partnership. A planning lunch will be held on Monday, July 20, as part of the 2009 Dying Well in Idaho Conference.

The VA and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization have encouraged formation of HVPs in states across the country. Learn more and find tools you can use today at www.nhpco.org/veterans. To join Idaho's HVP planning team, contact Sharon Stephen at sharon.stephen@va.gov or Coalition CEO Jonathan Krutz, a member of the national Hospice-Veteran Advisory Council, at IdELC@clearwire.net.

TWO FREE LIFE CARE PLANNING FORUMS PLANNED FOR BOISE

Two free life care planning forums will be held for professionals and the public in Boise in the coming month. The first will be Thursday, June 25, from 4-6 p.m. at Saint Alphonsus' McCleary Auditorium on the first floor of the Central Tower at 1055 North Curtis Road. The second will be Tuesday, July 21, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Summit Room of the Boise Centre on the Grove, 850 West Front Street, in conjunction with the 2009 Dying Well in Idaho Conference.

Board Certified Elder Law Attorney Peter C. Sisson, CELA, with Sisson and Sisson, The Elder Law Firm, will be principal speaker at both events, which will address issues surrounding life care planning, Medicaid & estate planning, and care coordination. At the June 25 event Coalition CEO Jonathan Krutz will speak on end-of-life issues and coordinate a listening session to identify participant concerns. At the July 21 event Coalition Board Chair Cheryl Simpson Whitaker will coordinate a listening session and volunteers from Treasure Valley hospices will be on hand to assist participants to complete their advance directives on-site. Participants are encouraged to bring their advance directives or other end-of-life questions to these events.

Contact Carla Moses, BSW, Sisson and Sisson Care and Outreach Coordinator, at 387-0729, for more information about these events, sponsored by Saint Alphonsus (June 25), AARP Idaho (July 21), Sisson and Sisson, and the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition. Admission is free and all are welcome to attend.

FIND A NEW HOME FOR USED HOSPICE AND END-OF-LIFE BOOKS

Hospices and others are invited to bring any unused hospice or end-of-life books or materials to the Dying Well in Idaho Conference to share with those new to hospice. The Coalition will hold a book sale in conjunction with the July 22 Intensive, "Hospice 101: Introduction to Hospice," with proceeds going to support the work of Coalition. Check at the Conference Bookstore with your donated books and supplies. THANK YOU!

IDAHO END-OF-LIFE EVENTS CALENDAR *all times MT*

Committee meeting times, activities, and topics are summarized at the end of this newsletter

Tue, Jun 23 **Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer**, CancerCare tele-conf, 11:30-12:30
Part 3: Fatigue of Caregiving

- Free, but registration required. Information at: www.cancercare.org/TEW
- Wed, Jun 24 **Cancer End-of-Life Workgroup**, CCAI/IdELC, by phone, 12:30-1:30
Contact: Jonathan Krutz, IdELC CEO, IdELC@clearwire.net
- Thu, Jun 25 **Navigating the Elder Journey**, Saint Al's McCleary Auditorium, Boise, 4-6 p.m.
Life care planning, Medicaid & estate planning, care coordination, and end-of-life
Free and open to the public; refreshments will be served
With Elder Law Attorney Peter Sisson and IdELC CEO Jonathan Krutz
- July 20-22 **Dying Well in Idaho Conference**, Boise Centre on the Grove / Grove Hotel
Part of the collaborative Annual Convention of Idaho's Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Hospice and Home Health organizations
Keynote speakers: **Ira Byock, MD; NHPCO CEO Don Schumacher, PhD**
Three One-Day Workshop Intensives on Wed, July 22:
Hospice 101: Introduction to Hospice, with Idaho hospice professionals
Hospice in Facilities, **Judith Eighmy, CHPN**, Pacific Healthcare Consultants
Death, Loss, Spirituality, & Grief thru the Life Cycle, **Rev Ken Doka, PhD**
Registration Brochure at www.hospiceidaho.org under "What's New"
Contact: Jonathan Krutz at IdELC@clearwire.net
- Tue, Jul 21 **Life Care Planning and the Elder Care Continuum**, free; open to the public
Boise Centre on the Grove, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Life care planning, Medicaid & estate planning, care coordination, and end-of-life
Elder Law Attorney Pete Sisson & IdELC Board Chair Cheryl Simpson Whitaker
- Wed, Aug 12 **Treasure Valley Hospices Meeting**, 3:00-5:00, location TBA
Contact: Ashley Holaday, ashleyh@heartnhomehospice.com
- Fri, Sep 18 **Palliative Care Conference**, St. Luke's Anderson Center, Meridian
Contact: Amy Balstad, balstada@slrhc.org Sponsored by St. Luke's, Saint Al's
- Thu, Apr 16 **National Healthcare Decisions Day 2010**
Info at: www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org
Find other Idaho healthcare educational events at www.idahoahhec.org/calendar

IDAHO END-OF-LIFE COALITION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The work of the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition takes place primarily through our five priority-area committees. Select your committee of interest on the IdELC Membership Form at www.hospiceidaho.org under "Getting Involved." To join Coalition committee meetings by phone, call 712-432-1100 and enter 300176#.

Professional Education – 2nd Tues, July 14, 1-3 MT, by phone

Agenda: Dying Well in Idaho Conference (breakout speakers, intensives, pre-con networking session, banquet, reception, bookstore, awards), professional use of end-of-life DVD, fall certification review course, fall palliative care conference (with Saint Al's and St. Luke's)

Recent Actions: Finalize conference speakers, schedule, and awards recipients
Chair: **Teresa Dixon**, CHPN, Hospice Alliance, Pocatello trsdixon@yahoo.com

Community Engagement – 3rd Wed, July 15, 11:30-12:30 MT, by phone

Agenda: Plan promotions for The Right Choice at the Right Time advance care planning book, edit draft hospice DVD, review National Healthcare Decisions Day events, discuss conference plans for sessions on the No One Dies Alone program and the launch of the Idaho Hospice-Veteran Partnership, implement NHPCO Workplace Outreach Initiative

Recent Actions: Reprint and promote The Right Choice at the Right Time book, identify draft hospice DVD, add Hospice-Veteran Partnership lunch to the conference agenda, receive NHPCO Workplace Outreach support

Chair: **Heidi Walker**, Hospice Visions, Twin Falls heidi@thevisionsgroup.org

Public Policy (former Advance Care Planning) – 3rd Tues—except Wed, July 29, because of the Conference— 4-5:30 MT, Coughlin Room 1 at Saint Alphonsus in Boise, or by phone

Agenda: Continued discussion of proposal to address end-of-life decision-making for Idahoans with developmental disabilities, with disabilities advocates, right-to-life representatives, health attorneys, and healthcare professionals. Continue discussion of POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) implementation issues. Discuss coordinated statewide approach to end-of-life dementia issues.

Recent Actions: Set POST implementation and updating plan; revisit issues for the developmentally disabled.

Chair: **Jill Anderson**, CNS, Saint Alphonsus, Boise jillande@sarmc.org

Hospice & Palliative Care Policy – 3rd Thur, July 16, 9:30-11:30, St. Luke's Hospice, Boise, or by phone

Agenda: Address Board of Pharmacy newsletter that hospices not agents of physician for purpose of ordering medications by phone, continue to develop hospice residential facilities proposal, draft Idaho Palliative Care Principles,

Recent Actions: Review draft language for hospice residential facility regulations, establish task force for palliative care principles development; review Health & Welfare finding that oxygen is not part of Room and Board

Chair: **Mary Lou Long**, MSN, St. Luke's, Boise longm@slrmc.org

Quality/Research – 1st Tues, July 7, Aug 4, 3-4 MT, by phone

Agenda: July: QAPI hot topics call

Recent Actions: Coordinate calls on QAPI issues; support efforts of BSU Professor Kim Martz to study palliative care implementation in nursing facilities

Chair: **Sarah Bradbury**, MBA, XL Hospice, Payette Sarah@xlhospice.com