
IDAHO END-OF-LIFE NEWS

March, 2009

Idaho End-of-Life Coalition

Formerly A Better Way Coalition, Inc., and the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

Please email IdELC@clearwire.net with information about end-of-life-related news or events in Idaho

Idaho End-of-Life Events Calendar *all times MT*

March is National Social Work Month

- Tue, Mar 17 **Compounding Comfort: Compounded Medications in the Hospice Setting**
Corina Reyna, PharmD, presents live, online, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Register at www.rockymountainlearning.com, click Upcoming Live Presentations
- Tue, Apr 14 **Living With, Through & Beyond Cancer**, free CancerCare telephone workshop
Part 1: Managing the Stress of Survivorship, 11:30-12:30
Pt 2, May 19: Nutrition /Physical Activity; Pt 3, June 23: Fatigue of Caregiving
Registration required. Information at: www.cancercare.org/TEW
- Thu, Apr 16 **National Healthcare Decisions Day 2009**
Info at: www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org
- Wed, Apr 29 **Living With Grief Teleconference: Diversity and End-of-Life Care**, 11-2:30
Hospice Foundation of America
11 sites so far in Idaho; info at: www.hospicefoundation.org
- Wed, Apr 29 **Comprehensive Cancer Alliance for Idaho General Membership Meeting**
Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside, 2900 Chinden Blvd, Boise, 1:00-4:30
Focus: End-of-life issues
Contact: **Gail Baird**, CCAI Board Chair, bairdg@myexcel.com
- 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; NHPACO CEO **Don Schumacher**, PhD
One-Day Intensives on Wed, July 22:
Hospice 101: Introduction to Hospice, with Idaho hospice professionals
Hospice in Facilities, **Judith Eighmy**, CHPN, Pacific Healthcare Consultants
Contact: **Jonathan Krutz** at IdELC@clearwire.net
- Find other Idaho healthcare educational events at www.idahoahhec.org/calendar

CANCER MEETING TO BRAINSTORM ON END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

Add your input on cancer end-of-life issues to Idaho's state cancer plan. End-of-life issues will be a focus of the April 29 general membership meeting of the Comprehensive Cancer Alliance for Idaho. All are welcome to participate. CCAI is Idaho's collaborative effort to develop and implement the state cancer control plan, with efforts in the areas of prevention, early detection,

cure, survivorship, and, now, end-of-life. The meeting will be held from 1:00-4:30 at the Doubletree Hotel Boise-Riverside at 2900 Chinden Blvd.

As a part of the meeting, IdELC CEO Jonathan Krutz, CCAI treasurer, will lead a brainstorming session to establish priorities for the new CCAI End-of-Life Workgroup, which “seeks to identify and address issues affecting the quality of life of the 50,000 Idahoans living under the threat of death from cancer—and especially the 2,200 Idahoans who lose their life to cancer each year—including issues surrounding advance care planning, pain and symptom management, awareness and use of hospice and other palliative care interventions, and support for loved ones before, during, and after the loss of their loved one.”

The meeting will also discuss CCAI steps to reform itself as a 501(c)3 nonprofit. CCAI was established in Idaho in 2005 under the umbrella of Idaho’s Department of Health and Welfare. Most states have established similar such organizations with federal encouragement and support.

FIRST COALITION LISTENING SESSION HELD IN COEUR D’ALENE

As input for on-going planning, IdELC CEO Jonathan Krutz led the first of several envisioned End-of-Life Listening Sessions in conjunction the Saturday, February 28 meeting of Compassion and Choices in Coeur d’Alene. Krutz spoke on the state of dying in Idaho today and reviewed the recent unification of A Better Way Coalition, Inc., and the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. The group stayed far past the scheduled ending time in discussions on a variety of end-of-life issues. Future Listening Sessions are currently being planned for Idaho Falls and Twin Falls, with other sites under consideration. To host an End-of-Life Listening Session in your area, please contact IdELC@clearwire.net.

S1114 PASSES SENATE; ALZ TASK FORCE BILL WITHDRAWN

On March 3, Senate Bill 1114 passed the full Senate unanimously. The bill emerged from discussions through the IdELC Public Policy Committee over the past several months. It amends and adds to existing law relating to health care treatment and consent to revise treatment and consent provisions of the Medical Consent and Natural Death Act; and to revise the Treatment and the Care of the Developmentally Disabled Act. The bill now goes the House, where is scheduled for a hearing by the Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12. Find the bill at <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/S1114PrinterFriendly.htm>.

“The coalition was praised for its 18+ months of work to bring this good piece of legislation forward,” reports **Corey Surber**, Advocacy & Community Health Coordinator with Saint Alphonsus.

On February 26, Senator **Patti Anne Lodge** notified supporters of S1001, the Idaho Alzheimer's Disease Strategic Plan Task Force Bill, that it would not be heard this session. Despite the setback, **Skeeter Lynch**, LMSW, leader of the effort to create a state Alzheimer’s task force, writes, “Each of your letters, calls and networking efforts raised awareness about Idaho's lack of a strategic plan to support its citizens and fostered positive collaborative relationships for future work.”

REGISTER FOR 3/17 IDAHO COMPOUNDING PHARMACY WEBINAR

Register now for "Compounding Comfort: Compounded Medications in the Hospice Setting," offered live on the internet on Tuesday, March 17, from 4-5 p.m. MT. The online workshop, or "webinar," will be led by **Corina Reyna**, PharmD, with Origins Pharmacy Solutions. Register by credit card at www.rockymountainlearning.com under "Upcoming Live Presentations."

For this inaugural IdELC webinar, members of the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition can sign up for \$25, half the normal \$50 rate; the non-member rate is \$85. Information on joining IdELC can be found below. The webinar will originate from Heart 'n Home Hospice in Fruitland as part of the monthly 3:30-5:00 meeting of the Treasure Valley hospices.

"DYING WELL IN IDAHO" CONF SPEAKER PROPOSALS DUE NOW

Speaker proposals for the 2009 Dying Well in Idaho Conference will be accepted through the end of the day on Monday, March 9. Keynote speakers for the event will include Ira Byock, MD, author, researcher, and icon of end-of-life care, and Don Schumacher, PhD, CEO of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. The event is the largest gathering of end-of-life professionals and volunteers in the state--over 400 from hospices attended last year among a total of 1,500 from nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies, and hospices.

Find the request for proposals online on the homepage at www.hospiceidaho.org, under "What's New."

The Dying Well in Idaho Conference is a part of the annual convention of Idaho's nursing home, assisted living, home health, and hospice organizations, drawing over 1,500 people to the Boise Centre on the Grove and the Grove Hotel each year. The convention features keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a bookstore, awards banquets, and a large exhibit hall.

In association with the conference, IdELC will also sponsor two day-long Intensives on Wednesday, July 22. One will be an Introduction to Hospice Intensive for new hospice hires and those who work with hospices and want to understand it better. The other will be an Intensive on hospice in long-term care facilities.

2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY APRIL 16

The Idaho End-of-Life Coalition is Idaho's state liaison for National Healthcare Decisions Day, again set for April 16 now in its second year. Idaho plans for the day will be discussed in the March 18 meeting of the IdELC Community Engagement Committee (details below). All are welcome to participate.

Learn more about National Healthcare Decisions Day and get free information about holding activities in your area at www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org. By April 16, the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition encourages everyone to:

- Complete your own advance directives
- Discuss your wishes with your loved ones and physician

- Create an event in your workplace to encourage your colleagues to do the same

Join IdELC and Americans from across the country in making future healthcare decisions known to family, friends and healthcare providers.

IdELC NAMES MEMBERS OF THREE KEY COMMITTEES

Many thanks to the following individuals who have agreed to serve on three important committees for the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition: Nominating, Finance, and Ad Hoc Integrated Marketing Communications.

Bruce Stevens, MDiv, Retired and Senior Volunteer Manager for the Area Office on Aging at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, chairs the Nominating Committee, which also includes Idaho Hospice Organization Past-President **Carolyn Nystrom**, RN, director of Hospice and Palliative Care of the Wood River Valley, and A Better Way Coalition Past-President **Carol Taylor**, with Above & Beyond Consulting. Contact Bruce at bstevens@ooa.csi.edu to be considered for the ballot to join the IdELC Board later this year. New Board members will be seated at the Dying Well in Idaho Conference in July.

IdELC Treasurer **Robert Vande Merwe**, MBA, director of the Idaho Health Care Association and Idaho Center for Assisted Living, chairs the Finance Committee, which also includes **Cole Clarke**, MBA, director of Care First Hospice in Boise and **Linda Simon**, director of Plantation Place Assisted Living in Boise. The committee has drafted the 2009 IdELC budget and addresses financial management issues for the Coalition.

IdELC Board Chair **Cheryl Simpson-Whitaker**, MSW, chairs the Ad Hoc Integrated Marketing Communications Committee, which also includes IdELC Board Member **Cheryl Tussey**, Associate State Director with AARP-Idaho; former A Better Way Coalition Coordinator **Jill Rice**, LSW, MHS, with IHCA-ICAL, IdELC; IdELC Community Engagement Committee Chair **Heidi Walker**, with Hospice Visions in Twin Falls; IdELC Marketing Volunteer **Stacy King Powers**; Community Representative **Carol Hackney**; and **Ashley Holaday** with Heart 'n Home Hospice in Fruitland. This short-term committee is focused on how to communicate a clear identity for the Coalition, how to improve internal communications among members of the Coalition, and how to improve external communication from the Coalition to key audiences.

QUALITY PARTNERS FOCUS ON CLINICAL EXCELLENCE & SAFETY

Clinical Excellence and Safety was the focus on March 3 of the last in a series of Quality Partners conference calls coordinated by IdELC for Idaho's hospices over the past year. Built around a self-evaluation approach to the ten quality areas identified through the Quality Partners program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, these calls have allowed Idaho hospices to network on their quality improvement activities. The IdELC Quality Committee plans similar future calls around implementation of the QAPI (Quality Assessment/Performance Improvement) requirements of the new Medicare Hospice Conditions of Participation.

Highlights of the March 3 call, coordinated by **Gloria Misbach**, RN, with Idaho Home Health and Hospice in Twin Falls, include:

- A review of approaches used to assess and document terminal illness, including LMRPs, the FAST scale, and the Karnofsky scale. Areas of need include psychological and spiritual assessment formats.
- In response to the new COP's, one program now has a social worker do the initial visit to sign admission papers with a nurse and social worker team visiting again within 24 hours.
- One program has a "facility team" of two nurses, a social worker, and a CNA for consistency in facilities. They also have a DVD they send to all facilities. Provision of training on pain management, bereavement counseling, etc. can also help meet the requirement of teaching facilities about hospice care.
- One program makes "contracts" with some patients with regard to, for example, no smoking while having oxygen turned on.

The Quality Committee will have their regular meeting on April 7 and devote the May 5 call to discussions around measuring and addressing pain on admission. A future topic will likely be infection control.

END-OF-LIFE WRITERS WANTED

Wanted (appears in Idaho Writer's Update): True, several-paragraph, compelling stories about the end-of-life experience in Idaho, to help bring to life the challenges being addressed in Idaho by the Idaho End-of-Life Coalition. Contact IdELC@clearwire.net.

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: MEMBER FORM. To join Coalition committee meetings by phone, call 712-432-1100 and enter 300176#.

Professional Education – Tuesday, March 10, 10-noon, Legacy Hospice, Meridian

Agenda: Dying Well in Idaho Conference (breakout speakers, intensives, banquet, reception, bookstore, awards), March 17 Webinar on Compounding Pharmacy, professional use of and end-of-life DVD, possible on-line CHPN review course for nurse aids, review of 2009 education calendar plans

Chair: **Teresa Dixon**, CHPN, Hospice Alliance, Pocatello trsdixon@yahoo.com

Community Engagement – Wednesday, March 18, 1-2:30

Agenda: RCRT Advance Care Planning Book Promotion, EOL DVD, National Healthcare Decisions Day, No One Dies Alone program, Idaho Hospice-Veteran Partnership, NHPCO Workplace Outreach Initiative

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

Public Policy (formerly Advance Care Planning) – Tuesday, March 17, 4-5:30, Saint Al's

Agenda: Review/discuss POST (Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment) implementation issues, track S1114 progress, discuss coordinated statewide approach to dementia issues

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

Hospice & Palliative Care Policy – Thursday, March 19, 9:30-11:30, St. Luke’s Hospice

Agenda: Develop regulatory proposal for hospice residential facilities, draft Idaho Palliative Care Principles

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

Quality/Research – Tuesday, April 7, 3-4

Agenda: Plan hospice QAPI calls on Pain on Admission and Infection Control; discuss state end-of-life research agenda

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