

LifeCircle South Dakota

Minutes

5/19/2025

9:00 AM CT

	<p>Purpose of LifeCircle SD: Improve serious illness care for patients and their support person(s), not limited to, but including end of life care.</p> <p>Vision of LifeCircle SD: South Dakotans living with serious illness and their support person(s) will have access to palliative care and hospice care; healthcare providers will have access to information and education to improve care for patients and families.</p> <p>Aim of Life Circle: Provide a collaborative, interdisciplinary, inter-institutional approach to improve care, education, and access to palliative care and hospice care for South Dakotans living with serious illness and their support person(s).</p> <p>Goals of LifeCircle SD: To help us meet our purpose and vision, LifeCircle SD strives to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional Education• Public Education• Patient and Support Person(s) Education• Public Policy- monitoring and advocacy <p>Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every Month @ 0900 CST</p>
Members of LifeCircle SD	<p>To Join: Complete the registration page on the bottom of the LifeCircle Webpage. Once you have registered, you will receive the zoom link to get the year's meeting planner w/link. BE SURE TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR!</p> <p>For a complete list of LifeCircle SD members, reach out to Michele Snyders</p>
South Dakota State Definition of Palliative Care §34-12-1.1(13)	<p>"Palliative care," specialized medical care that is provided to a patient of any age, with a serious illness at any stage, and which:</p> <p>(a) Is designed to improve a patient's quality of life, and that of the patient's family, by providing relief from the symptoms and stresses of the patient's illness;</p> <p>(b) May be provided alongside curative treatments in primary and specialty settings, based on the needs of the patient and not on the prognosis; and</p> <p>(c) Delivered collaboratively, in any setting, by a specially trained interdisciplinary team that includes healthcare practitioners, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers, and other patient support providers;</p>
Items	Action
Welcome	

<p>April 23 Meeting</p>	<p>Outcomes- 17 professionals met in Chamberlain and identified 4 key areas for a hospice and palliative care network to work on to help improve access to hospice care and palliative care in our state. Agreement that LifeCircle will be the state's hospice and palliative care network with a little more structure to help get the work accomplished</p> <p>Restructure Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Board- 6-10 members- meet quarterly- serve two years with ½ off rotation- state-wide inter system, interdisciplinary representation • Committees-based on the 4 priority areas- see attached org chart • Marketing-"re-brand" LifeCircle under SDAHO with updated logo- once the new structure is in place- market it as the state's hospice and palliative care network • Website- LifeCircle will have its own website with links to it two ways on the SDAHO website. This will make it easier for community members to find it as we push to provide public education. <p>Next Steps: LifeCircle members- past and present- will receive a SmartSheet asking for updated contact information; which committee interest you have; if you are interested in serving on the advisory board; if you would chair a committee. Committee chair will have the full support of LifeCircle and be provided a summary of all the brainstorm planning that took place on April 23 so no committee is left to figure things out on their own.</p>
<p>Palliative Care Education for DoH website</p>	<p>Create Education for the DoH Website- Development team: Sarah Mollman, Hillary Turner; Sandra Reinesch, Megan Myers, Amanda Sedlacek, Jane Kroese, Pam Koepsell; Rebecca Piroutek, Stephanie Rissler, Sheena Thomas-Thank you to everyone who participated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DoH link to SDAHO Palliative Care webpage Content; • SDAHO Palliative Care Landing Page; • Medical Professional Page for Adults which takes you to; • Medical Professional Page- Primary Palliative Care; • Medical Professional Page Specialty Palliative Care Page; • Patient Page- Adult • Support Person Page • Medical Professional Page- Pediatric and Perinatal • Patient Page- Pediatric and Perinatal <p>Content Examples were shown- updates may be delayed as we transition to our own website. Will ensure the Department of Health has all updated links.</p>
<p>Guardianship Education Update:</p>	<p>Cameo Anders; Mari Perrenoud; Michele Snyders; Tammy Hatting; SDAHO education team- Michella, Stephanie, Shenna</p> <p>Web page: https://sdaho.org/guardianship/</p> <p>Current 5-10 minute video topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Informed Consent ✓- video is live on the website 2. Healthcare Responsibilities ✓ Video is Live on the website 3. Advance Care Planning parts 1 & 2 ✓ video is live on the website 4. Life Sustaining Treatment-✓ 5. Medically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration-✓- 6. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation- Ready to record 7. Dialysis

	<p>8. Help with Breathing</p> <p>9. ICD Implant</p> <p>10. What You Need to Know to Set Up a Guardianship</p>
Administrative Rule Advance Directive Education for LTC project	<p>Effective 11/11/24- https://rules.sd.gov/Uploads/843_AdoptedRules.pdf pg 56</p> <p>Thank you to Dr. Priscilla Bade, Melissa Schilousky, MSN, FNP-C, CNP for creating the content and to Melissa for recording the training. It is 13 minutes. It should meet the revised administrative rule that now requires training on Advance Directives for all LTC employees working with patients. Links are available on a flier for the pretest/posttest/answers and the video. Marketing through newsletter, social media and Member Organization Calls. Use this link to view the tests and training video Advanced Directives - Video Training Flier. Feedback has been wonderful- organizations thanking for the training and asking to incorporate it into their annual training tracking systems.</p>
LifeCircle Education 2025	<p>June- No Education</p> <p>July 9th – Emily Kasmar- DNP Student- Sturgis: Implementing the IHI Age Friendly Health System in the VA Nursing Home</p> <p>October 8th- Dr. Dan Mark- Pediatric Palliative Care</p> <p>November 12th: Carrie Christopherson- SD DoH Public Health Advisor/Hospice Certification</p> <p>To be scheduled:</p> <p>Dr. Terri Peterson-Henry- ACP and Billing for ACP</p> <p>Dr. Amanda Sedlacek- Pulmonary Palliative Care</p> <p>We Honor Veterans-reviewing this program at this time- trainings not available</p> <p>Ketamine use training will be arranged</p>
ELNEC Training	<p>End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) RN Training Contact:</p> <p>sandra.reinesch@sanfordhealth.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 10, 2025
MISC Education re: Hospice and PC	<p>May 21-Getting Past the Stigma of Palliative Care in Oncology Practice Webinar- sponsored by a collaboration between the American Cancer Society and CAPC- Designed to support oncology teams in improving Care for their patients through enhanced palliative care skills and services. The enhancing Palliative Care in Oncology Program Highlights the latest science, real-world implementation strategies, and success stories for integrating palliative care into oncology practices. Registration: ACS Palliative Care Login</p> <p>July 23: AI in Advance Care Planning has been rescheduled! This is through a collaboration between SDAHO and the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California. SDAHO members can register here: https://members.sdaho.org/events/ai-for-advance-care-planning</p> <p>Hospice Foundation of America: SDAHO has an agreement with HFA to offer their Live Webinars, including the annual Living with Grief program, FREE to SDAHO members. Links to register are on the SDAHO Education Calendar. There is a 2-step registration process: first through the SDAHO Education Calendar. Once registered here, you will receive a link to the HFA Registration Page and a FREE Coupon Code to use when you register on the HFA site. Preview webinars here.</p> <p>June 10: Supporting Adult Child Loss 11-12:30 CST</p> <p>CAPC:</p>

	<p>May 21: Exploring Telehealth in Palliative Care: Policy, Payment and Research- Members Only</p> <p>June 20: Beyond Passion: Building Sustainable Palliative Care Programs Without Overextending Your Team- Members Only</p> <p>June 25: “Can I still call you?”: Navigating Termination in Clinical Practice Members Only</p> <p>July 16: Part 1: How to Bring Well-Being Debriefings to your Organization Members Only</p> <p>July 22: Part 2: how to Implement and Facilitate Well-Being Debriefings at Your Organization Members Only</p> <p>CAPC Interprofessional Grand Rounds: Members Only</p> <p>June 5: Suzetrigine: A Novel Therapy for Acute Pain and Its Role in Palliative Care</p> <p>June 24th: Ketamine for Pain Management in Palliative Care: Building on Clinical Experience and Evolving Evidence</p> <p>July 23: Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy in Palliative Care: Early Clinical Trial Insights and Challenges</p> <p>SDAHO members get a 15% discount on their first year’s CAPC membership</p> <p>MJHS Institute for Innovation in Palliative Care: Free Webinars</p> <p>June 12: Wound Care Across the Continuum from the inpatient to the Outpatient Setting</p> <p>June 26: Behavioral De-escalation Techniques</p> <p>Minnesota Center for Bioethics- Fee Webinars</p> <p>May 20: What Would You Want? Navigating Life, Death, and Organ Donation When the Heart Stops</p> <p>Please feel free to share these educational resources with your teams and colleagues!</p>
2025 Conferences	<p>The National Alliance for Care at Home- Summer Conference with HHFMA: July 27-29 Chicago, IL</p> <p>2025 HPNA Annual Conference October 27-28 Lake Buena Vista, FL</p> <p>The National Alliance for Care at Home- Fall Conference: November 2-4 New Orleans, LA (Interdisciplinary Conference-Clinical)</p> <p>CAPC National Seminar September 15-17 Philadelphia, PA</p> <p>Please let Michele know of any conferences to post.</p>
Sign On OMB	<p>The Alliance, through their Assembly of States, submitted a response letter to the OMB Deregulation RFI. 47 State Associations signed on including ours. Commenters should identify rules to be rescinded and provide detailed reasons for their rescission. Leading Age also submitted a response. RFIs attached</p>
Federal Legislative News- 119 Congress- to be updated	<p>Hospice Recertification Flexibility Act Re-introduced 2/27/25 by Rep Carol Miller (R-WV) and five colleagues: Representatives Jared Golden (D-ME), Beth Van Duyne (R-TX), Don Davis (D-NC), Aaron Bean (R-FL), and Joe Morelle (D-NY) The bill would allow the hospice face to face recertification to take place via telehealth through December 31,</p>

2027, and establish a claims code to track telehealth recertification. Telehealth flexibilities for hospice are currently authorized through March 31, 2025.

Senate ([S. 575](#)) and House of Representative ([H.R. 1317](#)) led by Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OH) **re-introduced 2/13/25 [Improving Care and Access to Nurses \(I CAN\)](#)** Removes federal barriers that prohibit nurses from practicing to the full scope of their education and training in hospice, HHC and SNF. The [legislation](#) would also allow NPs to certify the terminal illness for hospice admission, expand eligibility to certify and recertify a Medicare beneficiary for home health services to certified nurse-midwives, and remove the requirement that SNF care be provided under the supervision of a physician and authorize NPs to perform admitting examinations and all required patient assessments.

Require hospital to provide information on available hospice programs to certain individuals upon discharge under the Medicare program ([H.R. 2437](#)) Introduced 3/27/25 by [Representative Erin Houchin \(R-IN\)](#)

Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act of 2025 ([H.R. 138](#)) Introduced 1/3/25 by [Rep. Vern Buchanan \(R-FL\)](#) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) aims to ease the financial burden on families by allowing certain expenses for parents to be considered medical expenses under the Internal Revenue Code. This legislation provides families with greater financial flexibility to afford in-home care services, potentially increasing demand for professional home care providers. By reducing financial barriers, more families may choose home care services over institutional care, allowing agencies to expand their client base and enhance service offerings. It includes:

- **Expansion of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):** The bill amends section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow individuals to use HSA funds for medical expenses incurred by a parent of either the account holder or their spouse. This change would apply to amounts paid after December 31, 2024.
- **Flexible Spending and Health Reimbursement Arrangements:** The bill ensures that funds from flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) can be used to cover medical expenses for a parent without affecting the tax advantages of these accounts. This provision applies to expenses incurred after December 31, 2024.
- **Expansion of Archer Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs):** Similar to HSAs, the bill allows Archer MSA funds to be used for medical expenses of a parent of the account holder or their spouse, beginning after December 31, 2024.

Expanding Access to Palliative Care Act ([S. 1845](#)) introduced by Sens Rosen(D-NV), Barrasso(R-WY), Baldwin(D-WI), and Fischer(R-NE). proposes the creation of a demonstration project to support improved access to palliative care services through a community-based model. If passed, the bill would require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to develop a Community-Based Palliative Care (CBPC) demonstration- interdisciplinary care to people with serious illness in their home and lead to improved quality and cost outcomes. NHPCO [Press Release](#)

CONNECT for Healthcare Act – ([H.R.4189](#)) Introduced by Sens Schatz (D-HI), Wicker (R-MS), Cardin (D-MD), **Thune (R-SD)**, Warner (D-VA), & Hyde-Smith (R-MS) on June 15. It would build on expanding coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities including Permanently allowing for the use of telehealth in the certification of a beneficiary for hospice. Read a summary [Here](#). Read the full Bill [Here](#)

Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act-PCHETA (US [SB 2243](#)): Reintroduced by Senators Baldwin and Capito: The Palliative Care and Hospice Education

and Training Act (PCHETA) requires HHS to provide support for Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers. The centers must improve the training of health professionals in palliative care and establish traineeships for individuals preparing for advanced-education nursing degrees, social work degrees, or advance degrees in physician assistant studies in PC. HHS may provide support to medical schools, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical-education programs for training physicians who plan to teach palliative medicine. HHS must (1) provide Palliative Medicine and Hospice Academic Career Awards to individuals to promote their career development, (2) support entities that operate a Palliative Care and Hospice Education Center, (3) support individuals in specified fields who are pursuing an advanced degree in palliative care or related fields, and (4) award grants to nursing programs to train individuals in providing palliative care. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) must provide for a national education and awareness campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care. The National Institutes of Health must expand national research programs in palliative care. Read NHPCO's press release [here](#). **Senator Rounds** (R-SD) has signed on to co-sponsor.

PQLC Lobby Day for PCHETA, July 22

The Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC) will be hosting its annual fly-in day in Washington DC on Tuesday, July 22, in support of the [Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act \(PCHETA\)](#). Advocates from across the country are needed to underscore the essential care that we deliver to people living with serious illness and their caregivers, and that investment in our interdisciplinary workforce is more critically needed. South Dakota is a targeted state- (Sen. Rounds) Dr. Amanda Sedlacek will represent SD. Last year, Dr. Franny Arneson went.

Improving Access to Transfusion Care for Hospice Patients Act (US [SB2566](#)) A bill to require CMMI demonstration to test allowing blood transfusions to be paid separately from the Medicare Hospice all-inclusive per diem payment was reintroduced to the Senate Finance Committee by Senator Rosen (D-NV) Read more [here](#).

Provider Training in Palliative Care Act ([S.2117](#)) Sens Rosen (D-Nev) and Murkowski (R-Alaska) reintroduced legislation designed to expand the palliative care workforce. IF enacted it would allow medical students in the National Health Service Corps' (NHSC) to defer clinical service requirements for up to one year to pursue additional training in palliative care. They would also provide primary care during their time of service with HHSC. Read more [here](#).

[Improving Access to Advance Care Planning Act](#) (H.R.8840/S.4873) New Version will be introduced soon and be ready for committee mark-up when larger legislative vehicles become available. The bills, sponsored by Rep. Blumenauer (H.R. 8840) and Senator Warner (S. 4873), remove Medicare copays for all ACP counseling, authorize Licensed Clinical Social Workers to use the two ACP billing codes to pay for ACP, and provide for additional provider education on these codes.

Preserving Telehealth, Hospital and Ambulance Access Act: Passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 41-0 read Leading Age summary [here](#). Read [here](#) to see how this impacts hospices face to face specifically. Extends Hospital at Home waiver until 12/1/29 and telehealth extensions until 12-31-26

	<p>Hospice CARE Act of 2024- Introduced into the House by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) September 26, 2024 which would reform the Medicare Hospice Benefit with reforms to payment structure and bolster program integrity.</p> <p>Enhancing Hospice Oversight and Transparency Act H.R. 10097 Introduced by Reps Beth Van Duyne (R-Texas) and Jimmy Panetta (D-California). The bill would ensure transparency to those hospices chosen for the SFP, require completed surveys prior to the SFP's launch, and delay the launch of the SFP program according to Katie Smith Sloan-CEO of Leading Age. Read more here Information on the Special Focus Program can be found here. Concerns about the SFP: LeadingAge The Alliance for Care at Home</p>
Hospice	<p>1 Hour Mandatory Hospice Training for LTC Facilities: Thank you to Julie Sampson from Prairie Lakes Home Health and Hospice who recorded this training. This video will be uploaded to the SDAHO You Tube site and distributed to LTC members and marketed through the newsletter, social media and Member Organization meetings</p> <p>CMS releases Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) Guidance Manual v1.01 And Change Table</p>
State Grants	<p>HRSA Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant- Expected start date of May 1 has been changed to August 1 with successful applicants notified in July.</p>
Publications & Marketing	<p>Sedlacek, A., Rabbi, L. T., Mollman, S., & Gierach, M. (2025). Facilitating comfort with palliative conversations through a virtual interdisciplinary palliative care seminar. <i>Journal of Pain and Symptom Management</i>, 69(5), e560–e561. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2025.02.216</p> <p>Kroeze Visser A, Pithan A, Kupershmidt S, Kenyon DB, Puumala SE. Integration of Community Health Workers into Palliative Care Teams: A Scoping Review. <i>Western Journal of Nursing Research</i>. 2024;47(2):110-124. doi:10.1177/01939459241304520</p> <p>Kroeze Visser, Angela PhD, MPH; Kupershmidt, Sabina PhD; Kenyon, DenYelle B. PhD; Puumala, Susan PhD; Pithan, Anne DNP. Integration of Community Health Workers Into Palliative Care Teams: Challenges, Barriers, Facilitators, and Implementation Strategies. <i>Journal of Hospice & Palliative Nursing</i> ():10.1097/NJH.0000000000001130, April 18, 2025. DOI: 10.1097/NJH.0000000000001130</p> <p>*All publications from South Dakota Authors can be shared on the LifeCircle web page if allowed by the journal.</p>
Pediatrics	<p>National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care Organizational Sign-On: Medicaid Letter to House and Senate Committee Leadership advocating to protect Medicaid funding and access to palliative care for children with serious illnesses- LifeCircle SD signed on. https://www.nationalcoalitionhpc.org/standing-together-to-protect-medicaid-for-medically-complex-children/</p>
LTC	<p>McKnights article: Revamped tool can reliably assess pain symptoms in dementia patients. The Revamped End of Life Dementia-Comfort Assessment in Dying (EOLD-CAD)</p>

	scale when completed by nursing home staff familiar with respective residents captured: Physical Distress, Emotional Distress, Dying Symptoms, and Well-Being.
Round Table	
Next meeting	June 30, 2025 @ 0900 CT/0800 MT-Memorial Day is May 26-No meeting
LifeCircle Contact	Michele Snyders, MSW, CSW-PIP, APHSW-C SDAHO Hospice and Palliative Care Program Manager/LifeCircle Coordinator LifeCircleSD@sdaho.org 605-789-7538