

LifeCircle South Dakota

Minutes

3/24/2025

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	

SDAHO Member Portal	<p>SDAHO has a new member portal used to register and track all your educational information. Go to https://members.sdaho.org to create/ login to your account in the new member portal. If you work for an organization that has SDAHO membership, you have access to all things on the Portal. If you are a LifeCircle member only, you will have free access to LifeCircle education and non-member access w/fee to SDAHO sponsored education. Go to the education tab and click on the event you wish to attend- then follow the prompts to Register Here.</p> <p>Kallee.rydland@sdaho.org email for any assistance you may need to register for LifeCircle events.</p>
Review Vision and Aim	We updated the Vision and Aim Statements for LifeCircle- see above. They more accurately reflect our priority areas and the definition of Vision Statement and Aim
April 23 Meeting	
National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD)	<p>Wednesday April 16, 2025-promotional ideas and resources can be found on the Conversation Project's <u>website</u></p> <p>SDAHO will be partnering with the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California to bring a FREE webinar on April 16th called: <i>AI for Advance Care Planning</i>. <u>Register here</u></p>
Action Alerts	LifeCircle SD signed on to two Action Alerts: Hospice Telehealth coalition letter from The Alliance for Care at Home and the DEA e-prescribing proposed rule from LeadingAge. Attached is the final letter from The Alliance who in the end signed with National Organizations supporting Hospice and Palliative Care. The other attachment are the points being asked of the DEA to re-think with the proposed rule on Special Registrations for Telemedicine and Limited State Telemedicine Registrations.
Telehealth Flexibilities	<p>Extended through September 30, 2025 with the passage of the Continuing Resolution on 3/15/25. This includes the ability to perform face to face recertifications. <u>Other extensions include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient's home as an originating site • No geographic restrictions for originating site • Telehealth can be provided by all eligible Medicare providers • FQHCs and RHCs can serve as Medicare distant site providers and are subject to the national average payment rates under the PFS through 12/31/2025 • In person visit w/in 6 months of an initial Medicare behavioral/mental telehealth service and annually thereafter is not required through 9/30/2025. FQHCs and RHCs the in person visit requirement to beneficiaries in their homes in not required until 1/1/2026 • Audio only non-behavioral/mental health services can be delivered through 9/30/2025
National POLST	<p>National Registry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important to have state funding and support with a POLST registry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost \$250,000 for 1 year due to 5 staff members ○ Important to have staff to review various EMRs and documents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of redundancy noted with the documents ○ Important to have IT Support and recommended having a cloud back up the data ○ Registry access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They launched several platforms- call center, Web based portal uploads based upon EMR

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is being attempted in California <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Noted that they did not have enough community engagement, complicated workflows and needed more technology support
Palliative Care Education for DoH website	<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</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 is complete. THANK YOU TO THE WORK GROUP WHO DEVELOPED THE CONTENT!! SDAHO will update the website in April!</p>
Guardianship Education Update:	<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- In Development 7. Dialysis 8. Help with Breathing 9. ICD Implant 10. What You Need to Know to Set Up a Guardianship
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 will be approximately 10-15 minutes required training on Advance Directives for all LTC employees working with patients. The link will be added to the SDAHO You Tube site and sent on a flier to all SDAHO LTC facilities along with a pre/posttest. Marketing through newsletter, social media and Member Organization Calls will take place as soon as the video is ready.</p>
LifeCircle Education 2025	<p>April 8 & 9- SDAHO Post Acute Care Partners in Care Conference</p> <p>May 14- Laura Bryant Earner- Healwell- Palliative Massage</p>

	<p>July 9th – Emily Kasmar- DNP Student- Sturgis: Implementing the IHI Age Friendly Health System in the VA Nursing Home</p> <p>November 12th: Carrie Christopherson- SD DoH Public Health Advisor/Hospice Certification</p> <p>To be scheduled:</p> <p>Dr. Dan Mark/Pam Koepsel -Perinatal/Pediatric Palliative Care</p> <p>Dr. Terri Peterson-Henry- ACP and Billing for ACP</p> <p>Dr. Amanda Sedlacek- Pulmonary Palliative Care</p> <p>We Honor Veterans</p>
ELNEC Training	<p>End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) RN Training Contact: sandra.reinesch@sanfordhealth.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 23, 2025 • September 10, 2025
MISC Education re: Hospice and PC	<p><u>Hospice Foundation of America:</u> 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>April 29th 11-1 CT/10-12 MT: Living with Grief- Improving Dying</p> <p><u>CAPC:</u></p> <p>April 2: How to Improve Palliative Care in the Emergency Department: Learnings from the EMPALLA Study- Members Only</p> <p>April 8: Best Practices for Providing High Quality Palliative Care for Diverse Communities- FREE and OPEN to ALL</p> <p>May 14: The Art of the Ask: Advocating for What You Need to Succeed- Members Only</p> <p>May 21: Exploring Telehealth in Palliative Care: Policy, Payment and Research- Members Only</p> <p>June 25: “Can I still call you?”: Navigating Termination in Clinical Practice Members Only</p> <p>CAPC Interprofessional Grand Rounds- Members Only</p> <p>April 15: How to Use Buprenorphine to Treat Dyspnea</p> <p>SDAHO members get a 15% discount on their first year’s CAPC membership</p> <p><u>MJHS Institute for Innovation in Palliative Care: Free Webinars</u></p> <p>April 10: Reducing/Reporting Medication Errors</p> <p>April 24: Care for Vulnerable Populations</p> <p><u>Minnesota Center for Bioethics- Fee Webinars</u></p> <p>April 4: Where Do We Go From Here? Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Pediatric Health Disparities in 2025 and Beyond</p> <p>April 25: Whose Job is It Anyway? The Ethics and Management of Hospital Efforts on Social Determinants of Health</p> <p>May 20: What Would You Want? Navigating Life, Death, and Organ Donation When the Heart Stops</p>

	Please feel free to share these educational resources with your teams and colleagues!
2025 Conferences	<p>Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care (MNHPC) “Charting New Paths” April 7& 8 Radisson Blu Mall of America</p> <p>SDAHO Post-Acute Partners in Care Conference “Embracing the Seasons of Change” April 8&9 Sioux Falls Convention Center</p> <p>Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network (SWHPN) Annual Forum April 28-29 @ University of Minnesota- Minneapolis</p> <p>“Celebrating Our Works of Hope” National Association of Catholic Chaplains Conference (NACC) May 16-19 Buffalo, NY</p> <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>
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, 2027, and establish a claims code to track telehealth recertification. Telehealth flexibilities for hospice are currently authorized through March 31, 2025.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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)</p>

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.

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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> <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 will record 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>Effective 2/14/2025: CMS announced the implementation of the Hospice Special Focus Program for CY 2025 has ceased to further evaluate the program. Read the LeadingAge and The National Alliance for Care at Home press releases for more information.</p> <p>CMS Released Updated List of Unacceptable Hospice Principal Diagnosis Codes Effective April 1. In a Change Request (CR 13882) released on March 13, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided an updated list of unacceptable principal diagnosis codes under the hospice benefit. The Claims Processing Manual is also updated to provide</p>

	<p>guidance on non-reportable principal diagnosis codes and provides clarification of liability for claims denials during a hospice election. Specifically, the CR discusses the responsibility, and the liability related to missing GW, GV, or 07 modifiers for Medicare-certified providers. CMS states “It is the responsibility of all Medicare-certified providers to check the Medicare status of each Medicare beneficiary when rendering and billing for services, a claim missing the GW or GV modifier or condition code 07 would be denied as provider liability.” The effective date of this CR is April 1, 2025 - for claims received on or after 4/1/25, unless otherwise specified, the effective date is the date of service. Any claims submitted with these codes will be returned to the provider with claims edits for non-reportable hospice diagnosis code. Providers will no longer receive edits with reason code 30727 but instead they will receive an IOCE edit.</p>
State Grants	<p>HRSA notified all Outreach Grant applicants that the start date for the grant has been changed from May 1 to August 1 2025. SDAHO applied for this 4 year grant to help fund palliative care training in South Dakota through LifeCircle. It includes proposed work on: Medicaid Reimbursement for Home Based Palliative Care, Scholarships for Specialty Training in palliative care; scholarships for specialty certification in palliative care, primary palliative care education development using CAPC for two underserved areas in South Dakota.</p>
Publications & Marketing	<p>*All publications from South Dakota Authors can be shared on the LifeCircle web page if allowed by the journal.</p>
Pediatrics	
LTC	
Round Table	<p>It appears the original recurring link for the monthly LifeCircle meetings became invalid. Michele will cancel all remaining occurrences and send a new link for the remainder of the year.</p>
Next meeting	<p>May 19, 2025 @ 0900 CT/0800 MT-Michele Canceled the April 28th meeting and the May 26th meeting and sent a new link for the May 19th meeting. Let her know if you have not received this link.</p>
LifeCircle Contact	<p>Michele Snyders, MSW, CSW-PIP, APHSW-C SDAHO Hospice and Palliative Care Program Manager/LifeCircle Coordinator LifeCircleSD@sdaho.org 605-789-7538</p>