



June 25, 2009

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The Legislative Committee commits countless hours to Hospice and Palliative Care advocacy within the Illinois Government. Their efforts in this area have included:

- Developing an effective working-relationship with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (formerly Public Aid), as well as Legislators throughout Illinois
- Numerous meetings with HFS on Medicaid reimbursement for hospice providers
- After three years of discussion and advocacy, passed Senate Bill 1583 in 2009 directing Illinois HFS to provide pediatric palliative care to children and their families
- Clarified the Illinois License Hospice Law to protect hospice consumers by emphasizing the difference between voluntary and full hospices in Illinois
- Passed legislation to allow the proceeds from the sale of hospice license plates to go the IL-HPCO for the purposes of education and training of hospice providers for special populations (i.e. Veterans, children)
- Created the Illinois Hospice Advisory Board (similar to the Illinois Health Advisory Board) within IDPH for the purpose of addressing specific hospice issues in a rapidly growing industry
- Working with legislators to address the Pain Management issues with physicians
- Persistently working to advance access to appropriate and effective pain relief to improve the quality of life for those patients who suffer from pain as well as to reduce the morbidity and costs associated with untreated or appropriately treated pain
- Developed good working relationship with other health care providers (i.e. ISMS, IOMS, Peds, etc)
- Developed good working relationship with AARP and Nursing homes.
- Seeking effective means to provide hospice care to the prison population
- Constantly monitor all legislative and regulatory action regarding hospice care including proposed legislation and regulations and report to IL-HPCO legislative committee
- Provide timely reports to IL-HPCO Legislative Committee and Leadership
- Participate in monthly conference calls with IL-HPCO Legislative Committee
- Attend legislative hearings on behalf of IL-HPCO