



Hospice Committee
4/2/2026
9:30am-10:30am

Minutes

I. Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 9:33
- Attendees:

Laura Haynes, Cindy Thelen, Kim Holton, Jen Meade, Sue Houseman, Jennifer Chupailo, Jeanne Edwards, Courtney Cope, Angie Ealing, Shelly Baas, Karen Skeith, Mollie Priebe, Christyle Broadworth, Heidi McAdams, Pamela Winegard, Karen Ketola, Katie Tumele, Dawn Duffield

II. Minute approval

- Minutes approved unopposed.

III. Additions to agenda:

Fingerprints and background checks- Laura provided updates on LARA's enforcement plans starting mid-year. The discussion covered challenges with staff licensing across different hospice licenses, system limitations preventing shared results between licenses, and efforts to work with legislators and the Hospital Association for potential solutions. Laura confirmed that existing background checks from within the last year should transfer to new applications, however hospice residences are not in the system yet to even upload the information. Laura is also working with lobbyists to request legislative changes and has proposed setting up regional fingerprinting locations across the state as an interim solution. While some hospices are beginning compliance efforts, others are waiting to see if a more permanent solution can be achieved through legislative action.

IV. Hospice Committee Reports

- Education
 - i. Cindy provided updates on education initiatives, including the Spirit of Caring Award and scholarship decisions, and announced the annual conference scheduled for May 20-22 at the Grand Traverse Resort with early bird registration due April 10th. Hotel reservation deadline is April 19th. Watch the calendar of events for updates on educational offerings throughout the year.
- CE Offerings for Future Meetings
 - i. May have a guest presenter at the July meeting to discuss whole body donation. More to come.
- Quality & Regulatory- No report

- Palliative Care
 - i. Kim Holton discussed a federal proposal for a reimbursement mechanism, which Laura noted was still in early draft stages and under review by the committee.
 - ii. Laura discussed the Palliative Advisory Council Bill, reporting that the House is reviewing the Senate-passed bill, with positive progress despite some concerns about task force composition and duration. The House added a disability advocacy seat to the task force and proposed a 4-year term limit.
- Reimbursement
 - i. Laura confirmed that Blue Cross Blue Shield will not change their 2026 hospice rates. The group discussed potential group contracting mechanisms for negotiating better rates with payers, though this would take about a year to implement.
- Hospice Residence:
 - i. The Hospice Residents Committee is waiting on a form from DHHS for Medicaid grants, with no response received after multiple delays.
 - ii. Also discussed fingerprinting
- Public Policy:
 - i. Laura discussed a successful legislative day event in Lansing where nearly 70 members met with 22 legislators and 37 staffers, focusing on room and board grant issues.
- Volunteer Managers
 - i. Karen Ketola confirmed they meet monthly and would like to recruit more participants.
 - ii. Short discussion on if volunteers were required to get pre-employment physicals since they are to be treated as unpaid employees. Some hospices have volunteers get physicals some do not based on the requirements of their paid staff.
- Bereavement Committee
 - i. Meet monthly, could use more participation

V. New Business

- Summer meeting Schedule
 - i. Next meeting is in person on May 20th at the MHHA conference. June meeting would be June 4th (2 weeks later), and the July meeting would be July 2nd (holiday week). Discussion regarding in the committee should skip the June meeting and go forward with July knowing attendance would be light or combine the June and July meetings to be held on June 18th or 25th and invite the guest speaker? It sounded like most members were in favor of combining the June and July meeting to meet at the end of June.

Exact date and meeting invite to come at a later date.

VII Old Business

- HOPE- Clarification of Hope timepoints, they are only in effect for the first 30 days of the admission (HUV's and SFV's), then the death note needs to be entered at time of death regardless of length of stay. This applies to any admission, readmission, or transfer onto your service.

VIII Open Discussion

- None

The next committee meeting is scheduled for May 20th, 2026 at 11:15 AM in person at the MHHA Annual Conference.

Submitted
Dr. Jen Meade 4/3/26