



PALLIATIVE CARE



Palliative Care 2024 Legislative Priorities

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Definition of Palliative Care

- Palliative care is comprehensive, interdisciplinary care for patients living with serious, potentially life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, with the goal of improving quality of life for both the patient and family.
- This approach to care prevents and relieves suffering through the early identification, assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, whether physical, psychosocial or spiritual.
- Palliative care is delivered based on needs, not prognosis.
- It is appropriate at any age or any stage of an illness and can be delivered along with curative treatment.

Serious Illness Defined for a Population Health Approach

“Any condition that carries a high risk of mortality and either negatively impacts a person’s daily function or quality of life, or excessively strains their caregivers.” (Kelley, 2018)

Source: Kelley AS, Bollens-Lund E. Identifying the Population with Serious Illness: The "Denominator" Challenge. J Palliat Med. 2018;21(S2): S7-S16.
doi:10.1089/jpm.2017.0548

Palliative Care Council Representation

- Thirteen Legislatively Appointed Members.
- Palliative Care Experience and Expertise in:
 - Interdisciplinary palliative care medical, nursing, social work, pharmacy and spiritual guidance.
 - Delivery models in a variety of inpatient, outpatient and community settings and with a variety of populations including pediatric, youth and adults.
- At least two members shall be board-certified hospice and palliative medicine physicians or nurses.
- At least one member shall be a patient or a caregiver.



KANSAS STATUTES

65-1,261. State palliative care consumer and professional information and education program; creation; duties of department of health and environment.

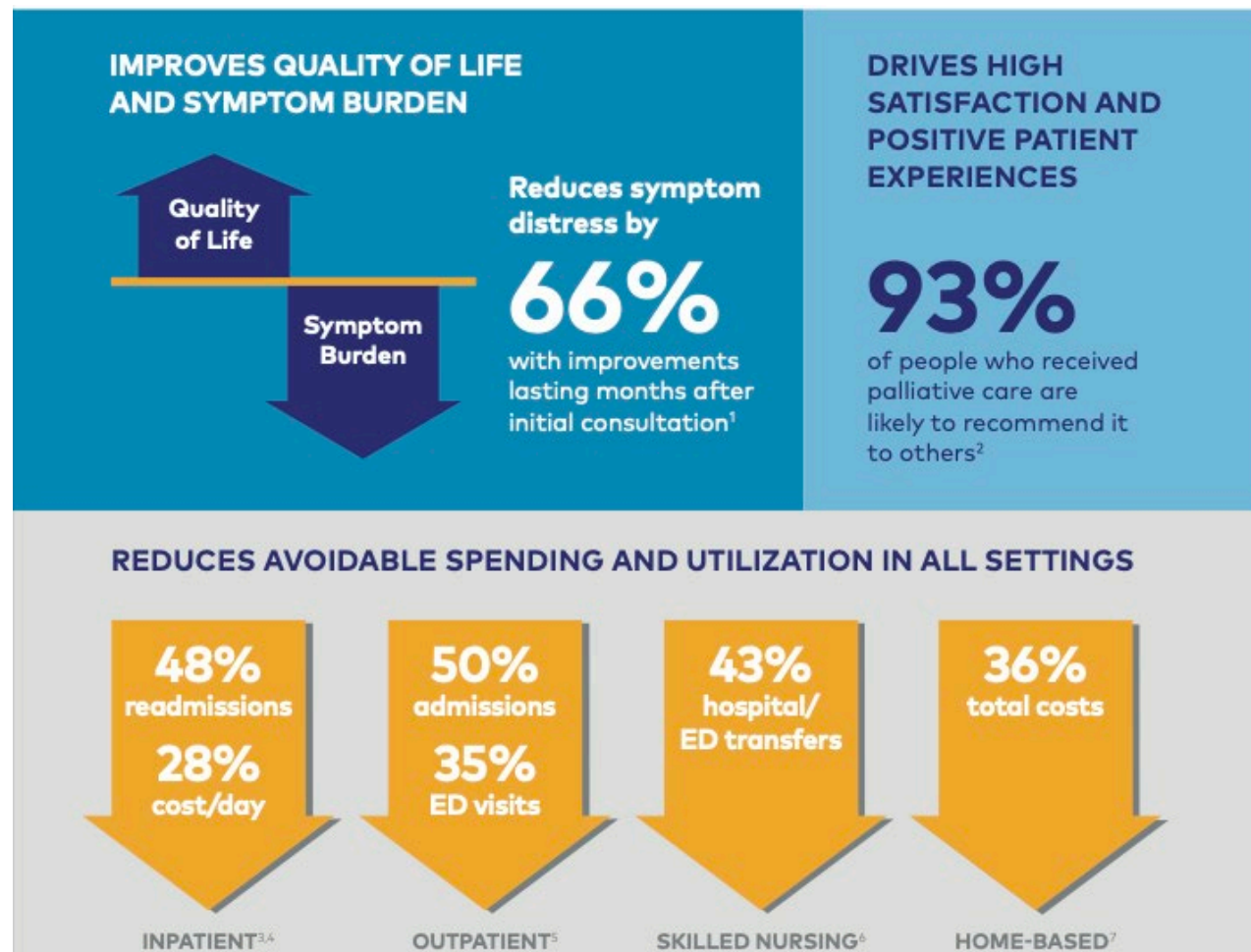
History: L. 2018, ch. 66, § 4; July 1.

65-1,260. Palliative care and quality of life interdisciplinary advisory council; creation; membership; duties.

History: L. 2018, ch. 66, § 3; July 1.

Palliative Care Ensures Value

- A strong evidence base exists proving its impact on quality, satisfaction, consumer demand, and cost. Because it focuses on the highest need and highest cost patient segment, palliative care is essentially a strategy for population health.
- Palliative care focuses on relieving the symptoms and stress of any serious illness, ideally alongside curative treatment.



Source: CAPC

Improved knowledge of and access to Palliative Care can improve value in KanCare.

- 67% of \$4.4 Billion dollars in KanCare is expended for services of beneficiaries with serious illness, disability and/or older adults/frail.
- 58.2% is spent for their medical services (hospital and physician fees).

National Workforce Shortage

- < 6,400 hospice and palliative medicine physicians in the U.S.
- **One** palliative care physician to **1,200** people living with serious illness
 - **One** cardiologist for every **71** persons having a heart attack.
 - One medical oncologist for every **141** people with newly diagnosed cancer.
- Increased Need for Palliative Care
 - Five percent of people with highest health needs account for half of all expenses.
 - Rise in aging population (1 in 5 will be over 65 years by 2030, and today 25% of rural populations are people 65+).
 - Advances in health care allow more adults and children to live with serious and chronic illnesses.

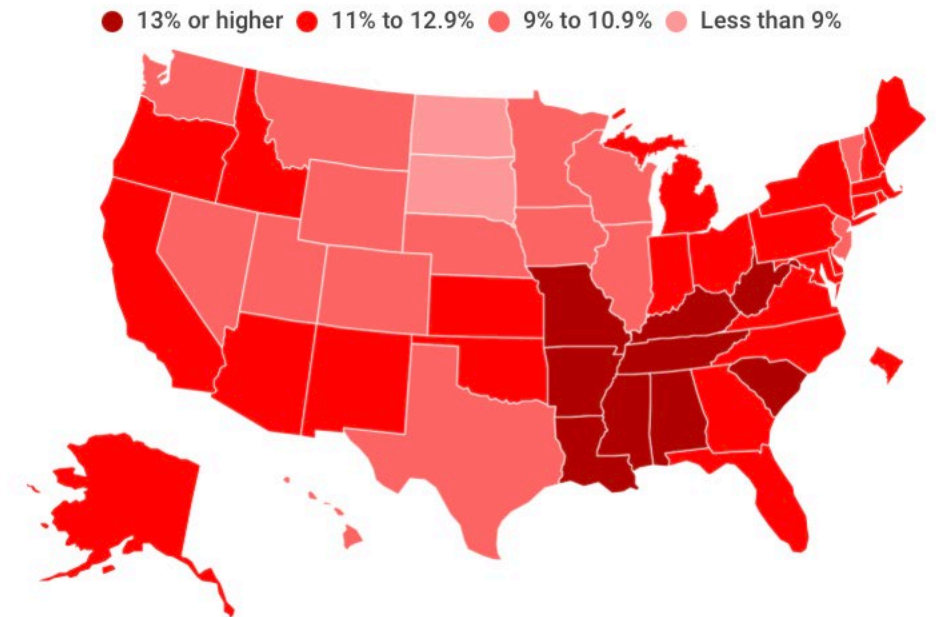
Kansas Workforce Shortage (board/specialty certified)

- Physicians
 - **21** palliative care **of > 12,000** (10,500 Medical and 1,700 Osteopathic)
- Advanced Practice Nurses
 - **13** palliative care **of > 7,500** (5,700 Nurse Practitioners, 1,200 Nurse Anesthesiologists, 466 Clinical Nurse Specialists, 100 Nurse Midwives)
- Registered Nurses
 - **49** palliative care (no pediatric) **of > 50,000**
- Social Workers
 - **Three** palliative care **of 7,997**

Health Care Chaplain data is not readily available but is likely to be limited in the state of Kansas.

Kansas Workforce Shortage (of adults with illness or isability)

- Unpaid Family Caregivers
 - **340,000** residents are **unpaid** family caregivers
 - 11.6% of Kansans (National is 11.5%)
 - **> 4x** licensed Kansas health care workforce
 - Nearly **7x** the largest health care workforce
 - Registered nurses = 50,000
 - **340 million** hours of care provided
 - **\$4.5 billion** economic value



Source: Valuing the Invaluable 2023, AARP Public Policy Institute.

Kansas Professional Workforce Shortage and Immediate Needs

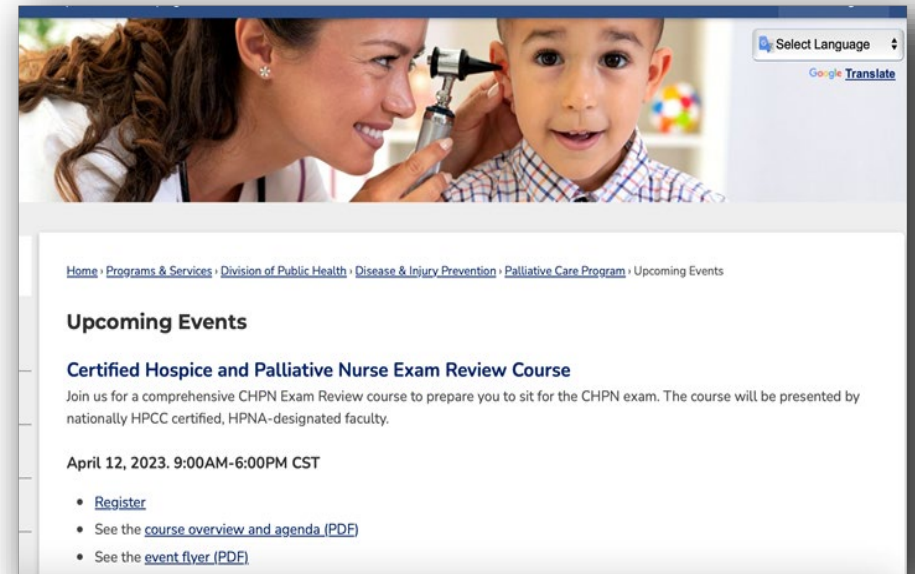
- Meager availability of Palliative Care professionals.
- Statewide distribution of these providers accentuates workforce shortages.
- Reliance on Primary Care and Frontline Providers is necessary to meet immediate needs - especially in rural and frontier areas.
- Primary Care and Frontline Providers need additional:
 - Training.
 - Education.
 - Access to sub-specialty care.

The Council Identified Four Priority Areas in the 5-Year State Plan

1. Access
2. **Education and Health Care Workforce Training**
3. Public and Community Awareness
4. Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Planning

Priority 2: Education and Health Care Workforce Training

- Programs to recruit, train and retain highly skilled palliative care clinicians.
- **Education on primary palliative care for all disciplines.**
- Enhanced support for unpaid caregivers.
- All of these are crucial in to address our State's palliative care workforce shortage.



Source: kdhe.ks.gov/2000

Education and Health Care Workforce Training Recommendations

- 1. Increase primary palliative care education in the current workforce caring for those with serious illness.**
- 2. Increase palliative care in the future workforce caring for those with serious illness.**
3. Increase community and home-based support to reduce caregiver burden and enhance their knowledge and skillset in caring for someone with serious illness.
4. Improve access to community and home-based services to individuals with serious/chronic illness.

Essential Educational Need

- Skill Building for Primary Palliative Care
 - Serious illness conversation/communication skills (for example, initiation of palliative care, goals of care).

Educational Strategy

- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Health Care Outcomes)
 - Moving Knowledge, Not Patients: ECHO brings **the right knowledge to the right place, at the right time** with case-based specialty medical education equipping primary clinicians to care for patients in their home community.
 - Research supports ECHO as an effective modality to impact provider and patient outcomes.

Sources: 1) McBain RK, Sousa JL, Rose AJ, Baxi SM, Faherty LJ, Taplin C, et al. Impact of Project ECHO models of medical tele-education: a systematic review. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2019;34(12):2842–2857. doi: 10.1007/s11606-019-05291-1. 2) Osei-Twum JA, Wiles B, Killackey T, Mahood Q, Lalloo C, Stinson JN. Impact of Project ECHO on Patient and Community Health Outcomes: A Scoping Review. *Acad Med.* 2022 Sep 1;97(9):1393-1402. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000004749. Epub 2022 May 24. PMID: 3561291.

Project ECHO

- Since 2015, The University of Kansas Medical Center has trained over 3755 frontline doctors, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and veterinarians in rural, frontier and urban settings.
- 2022 ECHO Series on Palliative Care:
 - **“Establishing a Kansas Community of Practice to Improve Lives of People Experiencing Serious Illness”**
 - 200+ participants across Kansas attended the four courses in June 2022
 - **“Pain Management for People Living With Serious Illness”**
 - 138 participants across Kansas attended the five courses in October 2022.
- Over 90% of attendees reported they would like access to a long-term Palliative Care educational option.

The Request

- 1) Establish a mechanism to fund a Project ECHO Palliative Care Center of Excellence for sustainable delivery of Primary Palliative Care education across the State.**
 - There is precedent in other states (Missouri, Texas, others)
 - A Center of Excellence will allow a committed community of practice of providers to develop these skills over a period of 24 months.
 - Missouri's ShowMe ECHO, Texas Bill: Providing Project ECHO® to Support Our Community in Addressing Child Mental Health Needs When and Where it Matters Most, Medicaid Financing Models for Project ECHO, Financing Project ECHO: Options for State Medicaid Programs, Medicaid Financing For Project ECHO: Strategies for Engaging State Medicaid Officials requiring annual licensure activities to include a minimum of palliative care education hours,
- 2) Create incentive for health care providers to seek the education by requiring annual licensure (physician, nursing, social work) CE activities to designate a portion of existing required hours be focused on pain/symptom management and/or serious illness conversation/communication skills.**

Gratitude for Legislative Support

- Prioritizing Palliative Care by funding the program and establishing the Council.
- Lending expertise from Legislator Council colleagues, Senator Gossage and Representative Ellis and appointing Council nominees to fill position vacancies.
- Today's opportunity to strengthen our relationship with you to advance access and workforce priorities.

Thank You/Questions

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