IMPROVING END-OF-LIFE CARE IN DELAWARE

A Proposal to the Health Care Commission
Health reform efforts are shifting focus to quality, person-centered care.

“Baby boomers” demanding a more active role in health care decisions, including end-of-life decisions.

People are living longer, with more chronic illnesses.

Getting End-of-Life Care right is a challenge.
PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT EOL CARE
PROBLEM:

- Delaware has received the lowest rating (F) in a state-by-state Report Card for Palliative Care.
- Too many people don’t get the care they need or want.
- We can do better.
DE recently passed legislation to create a set of portable end-of-life medical orders.

Sen. Coons recently convened an End-of Life Roundtable to consider ideas for improving EOL care in Delaware.

There have been Public Forums to discuss physician aid-in-dying.
Several other states have created End-of-Life Advisory Councils (MD)

Some have passed legislation to promote palliative care.
HOW CAN WE ENSURE DELAWAREANS GET THE VERY BEST CARE?

- Bring the best innovative ideas to the table.
- Coordinate improvements in EOL care with larger health re-design efforts.
RECOMMENDATION: CONVENE A WORK GROUP

PURPOSE:

- Look at resources currently available
- Consider ideas from leading health policy groups
- Make recommendations to improve care of advanced illness in Delaware.
Delaware should create an Advanced Care and End-of-Life Working Group.

Purpose: To develop a set of recommendations for improving the care of advanced illness in our State by Spring of 2016.

Make-up of the group-about 10 members,
- Representatives from Sen. Coons’ May Roundtable
- Hospice community,
- Religious community,
- Legislature,
- State government,
- Patient advocates,
- Legal community
- Medical community.
The Health Care Commission should serve as an administrative home.

The Work Group would require minimal administrative support.

Existing resources from the Health Care Commission, along with volunteer efforts from the Work Group would be sufficient.

HCC, as the center of health care innovation, is a logical place to house this work group.
REFERENCES

- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande

- The Conversation Project, dedicated to helping people talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. [http://theconversationproject.org/](http://theconversationproject.org/)


