



FINAL TOUCHES

Innovations in End of Life Care

Volume 1, Issue II

Commission Edition

Summer 2000

Minnesota Commission on End of Life Care Launched



Pictured (from left): Jim Klobuchar, co-chair Deputy Commissioner Julie Brunner, Dr. Edward Ratner, co-chair Dr. Barry Baines

The first meeting of the Minnesota Commission on End of Life Care was launched on May 9th with a press conference moderated by Edward Ratner, MD.

Jim Klobuchar, retired journalist from the Star Tribune, told the story of the compassionate and loving care his dying mother received from a hospice program. He expressed his

wish that every family could have the support he experienced.

Deputy Commissioner of Health Julie Brunner talked of the significant gap in the way we provide health care to those nearing the end of their lives. She described the ambitious agenda of the Commission that will include looking at availability of health insurance coverage, education standards for health professionals, and the impact of current regulatory policies on the care options that are available. She reiterated, "We have our work cut out for us."

"The Commission is about raising the standard of end of life care in our state."

~ Ed Ratner, MD, MN Partnership to Improve End of Life Care

Barry Baines, MD, co-chair of the Commission spoke of a need for a fundamental transformation in the way we think about medical care and the way we provide it for those at the end of life. "We will be attempting to define the kind of social, economic, ethical and regulatory environment that will help us bring about change."

First Commission Meeting Highlights

Discussion at the first commission meeting centered on identifying and validating many of the barriers to high quality end of life care. Commission members shared personal stories and professional expertise as six areas were outlined.

- Inconsistent support network for providing care at home
- Inconsistent institutional care for those who are dying
- Inconsistent emergency system standards
- Inconsistent training for health care providers working with the dying
- Inconsistent reimbursement structures
- Inconsistent data regarding care at the end of life

IN THE KNOW

Please let us know about events in your area.

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Is there anyone who you think should receive this newsletter? Let us know.

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The next issue of Final Touches will focus on the education initiatives of the MN Partnership.



From left: Dr. Bob Meiches, representing Fairview Health Service; Mary Brainerd, representing HealthPartners; and David Strand, Chief Operating Officer for Allina Health System

Partners excited to work together to improve end of life care

The founding partners of the Minnesota Partnership to Improve End of Life Care, Allina Health System, Fairview Health Service and HealthPartners, were on hand for the press conference before the Commission's first meeting. Chief executives from each organization issued statements on the importance of the Partnership and the Commission.



David Strand, Chief Operating Officer of Allina Health System: *"Allina is hopeful that the energy behind the Minnesota Partnership to Improve End of Life Care and the involvement of the state's major health care organizations will help to bring improvements to end of life care for many Minnesotans."*



David Page, CEO at Fairview Health Services: *"With the formation of the Minnesota Commission on End of Life Care, we have the opportunity to work together to establish standards of quality and access to care for all Minnesotans."*



George Halvorson, President and CEO of HealthPartners: *"We believe that by working together as a coalition we can help make the changes needed to improve end of life care services on a statewide level."*

What can you do?

How can you make a difference in end of life care?

- ⇒ **Submit your end of life idea or concerns to Commission Co-Chairs Barry Baines and Jan Malcolm**
Minnesota Partnership to Improve End of Life Care
1600 University Avenue West #300, St. Paul, MN 55104
☎ (651) 917-4635 OR ✉ brenda@tcaging.org
- ⇒ **Attend the Commission meeting Tuesday, September 12th**
11 AM to 3 PM in the Mississippi Room of the MN Department of Health Service Center, Snelling Office Park
1645 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul (by the State Fair grounds)
- ⇒ **Stay informed via the internet**
Check out our website for links: www.tcaging.org/eol.htm
- ⇒ **Help publicize the Bill Moyers "On Our Own Terms" documentary series in September**
Info can be found at www.pbs.org/wnet/onourownterms
- ⇒ **Volunteer at a local hospice**
For the hospice program nearest you contact the Minnesota Hospice Organization!
☎ (651) 659-0423 OR ✉ www.mnhospice.org

Members of the Commission on End of Life Care

Barry Baines, MD, Co-Chair, MN Partnership to Improve End of Life Care	Mark Leenay, MD, MN Medical Association
Commissioner Jan Malcolm, Co-Chair, Minnesota Department of Health	Lillian Eid, AARP
Dianne Bartels, University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics	Angie Smith Lillehei, Deva House
Catherine Blaeser, MN Citizens Concerned for Life	MaryAnn Stump, MN Council of Health Plans
Kathleen Cota, MN Department of Human Services	Jeanette Metz, MN Board on Aging
Rabbi Barry Cytron, Jay Phillips Center for Jewish- Christian Learning	Margaret Owens, Care Providers of MN
John Diehl, MN State Bar Association	Paul Quie, MD, U of M Academic Health Center
Karen Gervais, MN Center for Health Care Ethics	Edward Ratner, MD, MN Partnership to Improve End of Life Care
Elinor Hands, MN Hospice Organization	Lisa Solterman, MN AIDS Project
Chief David Huisenga, MN Emergency Medical Services Board	Don Westergard, MN State Council on Disability
	Becky Woll, MN Hospital & Healthcare Partnership
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	Linda Norlander and Brenda Paul - Staff support, MN Partnership to Improve End of Life Care

Staff of the Minnesota Partnership to Improve End of Life Care

Linda Norlander, Project Director	lnorlander@tcaging.org
Ed Ratner, MD, Principle Investigator	eratner@tcaging.org
Jane O'Brien, Education Specialist	jane@tcaging.org
Brenda Paul, Information Specialist	brenda@tcaging.org