Making Palliative Care Sustainable: Advocacy, Research & Workforce

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Contacts & Background

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Disclaimers

• Aspire Healthcare – KC Metro Lead MD
• Social Media Editor - JPSM
• No pharmaceutical funding
• No off-label indications discussed
Objectives

1. Identify three ways to advocate for better policies and increased awareness for palliative care
2. Implement Quality Improvement projects at your clinical sites
3. Engage with fellow clinicians to address workforce challenges at the local, regional and national scale
Our Guide

• Understanding sustainability
• Advocacy
  – Social, organizational and political
• Research
  – Consuming, implementing, and doing
• Workforce
  – Local, regional and national
• Bringing it all together
Achieving Sustainability

- Need a balance of:
  - Social
  - Workforce
  - Economics

- Economics + Social = Passable
- Social + Workforce = Bearable
- Workforce + Economics = Viable
Social

- Public need
- Public demand
- Clinician demand
- Stigma versus acceptance
- Awareness of availability
- Access to care
- Trust in services
Workforce

• New clinicians per year – Not just docs
• Palliative care standards
• Palliative care training
• Palliative care draining – burnout & dropout
• Scope of practice - maximal vs restrictive
• Competitive benefits – money vs time
• Geographic equity – town vs gown
Economics

- Fair reimbursement
- Funding drivers – P4P vs FFS
- Development of quality indicators
- Development of new codes
- Cost savings – truth or illusion
- Cost savings – on what scale, whose $?
- Does PC improve quality of life?
Advocacy

• Social
• Political
• Organizational
Social Advocacy

• What is the world saying about us?
• What are we saying about ourselves?
• What does the public care about?
  – Current conversations about illness
  – Death positivity movement
  – Patient advocacy and patient rights
Political Advocacy

• Think on the state and national level
• Any successes or setbacks?
• Touchy subject but everyone has a story
• Calling your legislators is suddenly cool
• If you don’t tell your exp, bus drivers will
• Check with your org and professional societies – follow the rules, use resources
Organizational Advocacy

- What is your organizational sentiment?
- Mission, Vision, Goals – Know ‘em, align ‘em
  - For self
  - For group
  - For organization
- How easy/hard is it to get resources?
- Is your team indispensible?
Research

• Consuming
• Implementing
• Doing
Consuming Research

- Who feels up to date on the latest?
- Free and paid resources
  - PC-FACS
  - Fast Facts – PC-NOW
  - Social media
  - Journal clubs
  - State of the Science
- Share and discuss internally
Implementing Research

• Get reports and know your own data
• Take QI courses
  – AHRQ
  – AMA STEPPS Forward
  – Organizational resources
• Ask simple questions
• Test published research
• What quality measures are you testing?
Doing Research

• Moving beyond QI
• Participate in a palliative care registry
  – Palliative Care Quality Network
  – Global Palliative Care Quality Alliance
  – Center to Advance Palliative Care
• Collaborate with non-palliative partners
  – Access to your patient population
• Find internal grants
Advocacy and Research

• All of us are capable to some degree
• What are you currently doing?
  – As an individual
  – As an organization
  – As a profession
• How well do your actions, time and resources work?
• Are you efficient?
Workforce

• National
• Regional
• Local
National Workforce

- Professional Certification
- GME Funding
- Educational standards
- Exposure to palliative care for learners
Regional Workforce

• Geographic distribution
• Scope of practice
• Exposure to palliative care for learners
Local Workforce

- HPM Fellowships
- Non-physician training opportunities
- On-the-job training
- Exposure to palliative care for learners
- Geographic distribution
- What professional helps most?
Find Your Action Point

• Advocacy
  – Social, Political, Organizational

• Research
  – Consuming, Implementing, Doing

• Workforce
  – National, Regional, Local
Summary

• You cannot do it all!
• What is your role? What can you do?
• What can you support?
  – Action, time, resources
• Sketch out your Venn diagram
• Have this conversation with others
• Commit to an action
SOCIAL

SUSTAINABLE

WORKFORCE

ECONOMICS
References


5. Palliative Care: Transforming the Care of Serious Illness. Meier, Isaacs, Hughes (Eds). Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Series on health policy. 2010


