

The Supportive Care Coalition (SCC), founded in 1994 and comprised of 19 Catholic health care organizations in 43 states is committed to advancing excellence in palliative care. SCC's 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, Goals and Objectives are based on the findings and recommendations of the 2014 Institute of Medicine Report, *Dying in America*.

Education and Spreading Leading Practices

In early 2015 the Supportive Care Coalition completed a Professional Practice Gap Analysis and Educational Needs Assessment based on the IOM report findings. We prioritized educational offerings for 2015-2016 that addressed the recommendations regarding the Delivery of Person-Centered, Family-Oriented Care and Clinician-Patient Communication and Advance Care Planning.

The IOM report identified a problem with educational silos that impede the development of inter-professional teams. SCC has made a particular commitment to inter-professional palliative care team education that develops the team's ability to provide whole person care. Our webinar series draws upon the expertise of many palliative care disciplines to address professional practice gaps and educational needs identified in the IOM report. In the most recent 12 months, 2,525 health care professionals have participated in SCC educational programs with over 50 percent attending with other inter-professional palliative care colleagues to apply learnings to their team practice. 93.4% of participants rated the usefulness of these presentations for integrating new skills/knowledge into current practice as excellent or good. The goal of our educational offerings is to spread leading palliative care practices across Catholic health care.

Professional Nursing Education

In 2016 the Supportive Care Coalition Board of Directors are collaborating with a Cambia Health Foundation project at City of Hope to promote a new End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) online undergraduate curriculum in Catholic and other undergraduate schools of nursing nationally. This interactive curriculum addresses the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's recently released CARES document: *Competencies and Recommendations for Educating Undergraduate Nursing Students, Preparing Nurses to Care for the Seriously Ill and their Families*.

Advance Care Planning and Goals of Care

The Supportive Care Coalition completed a 2 ½ year, three-phase project in February 2016, including 20 inter-professional palliative care teams nationally, to integrate spirituality into goals of care conversations. The project focused on the quality of caregiver presence as a critical therapeutic variable of whole person care. The goals of care conference served as the leverage point for developing team practices that promote deeper spiritual engagement with patients, families and within the interdisciplinary team to honor the patient's spiritual beliefs and values in advance care planning and treatment decisions. This project included both inpatient and outpatient palliative care teams and created learning communities where physicians, nursing,

social work and chaplain professionals could reflect together upon the quality of their goals of care conferences, improve communication skills and develop greater competence and confidence in addressing the spiritual dimension of care for seriously ill patients and their families.

Policies and Payment Systems

The Supportive Care Coalition is an active member of the Patient Quality of Life Coalition (PQLC) formed in 2013 to advance the interests of patients and families facing serious illness, including survivors. The PQLC is dedicated to improving quality of care and quality of life for these adults and children and has developed a consensus-based agenda aimed at promoting public policy that will improve and expand access to high-quality palliative care. In the 114th Congress, the PQLC is working to gain support for and pass H.R. 3119 and S. 2748, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act. The PQLC includes nearly 40 nongovernmental organizations consisting of groups representing patients, survivors, family caregivers, hospitals, health systems, hospices, physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and researchers.

Contact Information:

Tina Picchi, MA, BCC
Executive Director
Supportive Care Coalition
Tina.picchi@providence.org