Agenda Item 1: Welcome and introductions
The Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Dr. Larry Driver, Chair. Dr. Driver welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members introduced themselves.

Mr. Jimmy Blanton, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided an overview of meeting and stated that part of the focus of the meeting was to review materials to help the council develop a work plan. He added that they want to do more than reports that would include other supportive activities that can be done over the next couple of years.

Ms. Francesca Kupper, HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO) conducted a roll call noted that a quorum was not present at the start of the meeting. Ms. Kupper stated that a quorum of the council was present at 10:17 am.

Table 1 notes Council member attendance.

Table 1: The Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council member attendance at the Wednesday, February 27, 2019 meeting.

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</table>

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting
No: Indicates did not attend the meeting
P: Indicates phone conference call

Agenda Item 2: Approve minutes from October 2, 2018, and November 12, 2018, meetings
Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, asked for members to review the meeting minutes and if there was any changes or edits. He then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018, and November 12, 2018 meetings.
Motion: Dr. Robert Fine moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018, and November 12, 2018 meetings as presented. Ms. Erin Perez seconded the motion. By voice vote and roll call vote for members in the phone, with twelve yea’s, no nays, one abstention, the motion passed.

Agenda Item 3: Election of vice-chair
Ms. Francesca Kupper, HHSC ACCO, reviewed the officer election procedure and process and referenced slides #6 and #7 of the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PClAC) – February 27, 2019 PowerPoint.

Ms. Kupper asked for nominations for vice-chair. Ms. Erin Perez was the only council member nominated and she accepted the nomination. Being only one nomination, Ms. Erin Perez was voted to serve as the vice-chair by acclamation by the twelve council members present during the election.

Agenda Item 6: National Academy for State Health Policy Palliative Care Initiative
Mr. Jimmy Blanton presented on the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Palliative Care Initiative and referenced PowerPoint entitled “NASHP – Advancing Palliative Care for Adults with Serious Illness: A National Review of State Palliative Care Policies and Programs”, and “Overview: Palliative Care in Texas”. The following are highlights from the presentation and council member discussion:

- Mr. Jimmy Blanton stated that while the majority of states have not developed a comprehensive policy strategy around palliative care, many states are taking steps toward increasing access to and quality of palliative care, such as:
  - Implementing state regulations that define and/or set standards of care, establish health care facility and provider requirements;
  - Integrating palliative care into existing Medicaid programs that often serve individuals w/ serious illness (e.g., MLTSS, PACE) through fee schedules, contract requirements, quality strategies; and
  - Promoting public awareness through multi-sector taskforces, public health agencies
- Mr. Jimmy Blanton and HHSC staff will make sure council members have access to the NASHPs state scan report.
- Regarding Palliative Care in Texas, Mr. Blanton stated that Texas is seen as a leader in palliative care and as such has been asked to provide information to states attempting to advance palliative care. In 2015, House Bill 1874 established the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) and the Palliative Care Information and Education Program. The Council and program work to make Texas a national leader in providing high quality palliative care to patients and families.

Agenda Item 7: Advance care planning data
Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, provided the advance care planning data and referenced PowerPoint entitled “the “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) – February 27, 2019”. The following are highlights from the presentation and council member discussion:

- Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, stated that the data collection portion of a survey is over. The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System is the instrument/approach used. The data is validated from other data that is also collected. There is a core data set and then some additional state questions.
Ms. Erin Perez, Vice Chair, stated that there are some grants that could help them work on this and that the council may want to look into this. Mr. Jimmy Blanton stated that there might be some additional questions that can be asked.

Dr. Robert Fine stated that in some cases the data indicates that patients and power of attorney conflicts exist about a third of the time (the power of attorney does not follow the patient’s wishes). He stated that families are often kept in the dark about what the patient’s wishes are. He stated that in the well insured group they had an advance directive but they also had not discussed this with their loved ones.

Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, queried if there might be some discussion that can occurred at synagogues and churches. He stated that in addition to questions, there can be more work along the lines of advance care planning and making it more meaningful. Dr. Fine stated that it should be a lay led program and cannot be a “one and done.”

Mr. Jerry Fenter stated that the conversation project has an initiative to encourage faith based communities to have projects. There is a program developed that can be used as a template. There is also national health care decisions day that this group can piggy back onto to encourage advance care planning. Most of the time the biggest issues is getting the information into their hands.

Mr. Gary Gross stated that this is great information and talked about using community-theater to help get the message across and then provide counseling at the end of the play.

Agenda Item 8: Health and Human Services (HHS) palliative care website

Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, provided an update on the HHS palliative care website and referenced the “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) – February 27, 2019” PowerPoint. The following are highlights from the update and council member discussion:

- Regarding information and education, the PCIAC Council maintains the Health and Human Services palliative care website and has organized and hosted two interdisciplinary continuing education (CE) events awarding more than 600 credits to physicians, nurses, and social workers. The events informed healthcare professionals on advance directives, palliative care legislation at the state and national level, palliative care trends in Texas, and pain management in the midst of the opioid crisis.
- The Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) periodically publishes a state level report card (Texas received a “C” rating in 2015). Program staff nearly replicated the report card for Texas using in-house data from the American Hospital Association (AHA). Although some differences in methods are noted, the overall results from the inhouse data were similar: CAPC Texas grade for 2012/2013 was 42.9% and the inhouse Texas grade for 2014 was 42.0%. Use of in-house data allows for customization of analytics and timely monitoring.
- Mr. Jimmy Blanton and HHSC staff will get the Texas report card information to council members as soon as HHSC obtains the report card.

Public Comment:

Ms. Maxine Tomlinson, representing the Texas New Mexico Hospice Organization, provided oral comment regarding the Texas New Mexico Hospice Organization offering website support development to the PCIAC Council and HHSC.
Agenda Item 4: Recommendations from the Pontifical Academy
Ms. Jennifer Carr Allmon, PCIAC Council Member, presented the recommendations from the Pontifical Academy and referenced PowerPoint and handout entitled “White Paper for Global Palliative Care Advocacy” and “White Paper for Global Palliative Care Advocacy: Recommendations from a PAL-LIFE Expert Advisory Group of the Pontifical Academy for Life, Vatican City”. The following are highlights from the presentation and council member discussion:

- Ms. Carr Allmon stated that the Catholic Church addresses right to life issues that include palliative care through the Council of Life and not the one dealing with health care.
- Ms. Carr Allmon stated that end of life statement was also issued by the United Methodist Church. The Catholic Church and the Methodist often collaborate in efforts.
- Ms. Carr Allmon stated that the report clearly addresses the difference between hospice and palliative with palliative care continuing with the family after the patient dies.
- There was a recommendation to patients and patient groups. The focus is on patients and patient autonomy. There should be a health literacy effort to understand the role of palliative care in treating patients.
- Dr. Robert Fine stated he participated in the academy and indicated that the meeting after the meeting was extraordinary. The white paper was developed by an international group. The Houston meeting was the white paper’s unveiling. People were very energized by the effort. He stated that a book would be coming out of this effort with a Vatican editor, though the effort will not be particularly Catholic. He stated that he appreciates the Catholic Church leading in this way. Ms. Carr Allmon stated that the effort was interfaith and that this was not only the Catholic view.

Agenda item 5: 86th Texas Legislative session
Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, asked committee members to provide any updates they might have on the 86th Texas Legislative session regarding palliative care. The following are highlights from the discussion:

- Ms. Erin Perez provided an update on HB 2057 (SB916) relating to supportive palliative care in the provision of home and community support services by Zerwas and there is also SB916, by Johnson which is similar though not identical. These have a distinct focus to distinguish Hospice and Palliative Care.
- Both sponsors of the bills (HB 2057 by Zerwas & SB916 by Johnson) relating to supportive palliative care in the provision of home and community support services have agreed to a committee substitute using the definition adopted by the PCIAC Council. Senator Johnson’s bill will leave out the standards and quality section. Both of these bills have a distinct focus to distinguish Hospice and Palliative Care. They will add on the pilot recommended by the PCIAC Council. The bills would be a new chapter in the Health and Safety Code.
- Other bills of interest include:
  - Perinatal palliative care and abortion.
  - Power of attorney issues (SB310 and HB1082).
  - Health care provider right of conscience bill (SB1107) (but excludes end of life).
- Dr. Gross stated that they should also reach out to other groups for support like the TMA, Texas Pain Society, and others.
- Mr. Jimmy Blanton stated he would send out a summary of legislation regarding palliative care to council members.
Agenda Item 9: 2018 legislative report follow up
Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, provided an update on the 2018 legislative report and referenced handout entitled “Texas Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council Recommendations to the 86th Texas Legislature”. The following are highlights from the update and council member discussion:

- Mr. Jimmy Blanton stated that the report has been distributed and is available online.
- Below are potential work plan activities that were presented by Mr. Blanton
  - Website revisions
  - Continuing education
  - Defining standards and quality for Supportive Palliative Care in Texas
  - Identify possible dashboard metrics
  - Begin development of 2020 legislative report
- Questions and ideas proposed by members/staff included:
  - April 16, National Health Care Decision Day
  - Health literacy campaign
  - Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (CTAC), annual meeting is in Dallas in 2020. They are focusing on caregiver stress. Perhaps they can come to this group and make a presentation on what they do.
  - We need an infographic for the Council.
  - Resolution on the House or Senate side related to palliative care and the bills that are advancing.
  - The majority of palliative care is being conducted in hospital settings while people want the care in their home. We should work to increase the community based component of palliative care.
  - Is there any way to survey community palliative care? An external group is looking at a road map of community palliative care. There may be more services out there than we know about.
  - Is there a way to find out what Medicaid is covering regarding Hospice and Home Health and palliative care as an option? Palliative care was available through DSRIP dollars as stated previously. Many were probably hospital based.
  - Use of DSRIP needed for out of hospital care in palliative care.
  - Palliative care as a career opportunity.

Agenda Item 10 & 11: 2019 planning and Action items for staff member follow-up
Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, stated that these agenda items had already been addressed in previous agenda items.

Agenda Item 12: Public comment
No additional public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 13: Adjourn
Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.
Below is the link to the archived video of the February 27, 2019 Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) meeting.

https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/02272019-1494
Agenda Item 1: Welcome and introductions
The Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PClAC) meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Dr. Larry Driver, Chair. Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Council members introduced themselves.

Mr. Jimmy Blanton, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), provided an overview of the objectives for the meeting.

Mr. John Chacón, HHSC Advisory Committee Coordination Office (ACCO) conducted a roll call and noted that a quorum was present.

Table 1 notes Council member attendance.

Table 1: The Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council member attendance at the Tuesday, November 5, 2019 meeting.

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Yes: Indicates attended the meeting
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P: Indicates phone conference call

Agenda Item 2: Approve minutes from June 11, 2019, meeting
Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, asked for members to review the meeting minutes and if there was any changes or edits. He then called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Dr. Robert Fine moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 meetings as presented. Dr. Hattie Henderson seconded the motion. By voice vote and roll call vote for members in the phone, with eleven yeas’, no nays, one abstention, the motion passed.
Agenda Item 3: Presentation: Caring for Family Caregivers
Dr. Carole Montgomery, M.D., Respecting Choices-Person Centered Care, provided a presentation on Caring for Family Caregivers and referenced PowerPoint slides from #7 - #22 entitled “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) November 5, 2019”. The following are highlights from the presentation:

- Major Caregiver Trends:
  - Insurance benefits for caregivers/large employer interest
  - Policy: Federal & State/Legislative & Regulatory
  - Advance Care Planning & Shared Decision-Making
  - Faith-based advocacy & support/state coalitions
- Committee member made a comment that Health care systems are reluctant to implement the system. Dr. Montgomery stated that there is fear of being misunderstood. We are at risk when talking about palliative care in conjunction with cost savings.
- Committee member made a comment that hospitals have a dog in this hunt and Advance care planning leads to less time in hospitals. Dr. Montgomery stated that it depends on how prevalent a pay for value system is.
- Committee member asked a question regarding what resources can be pointed to for this council. Dr. Montgomery stated they have talked about making comparative charts, but the programs evolve over time and so pigeon holing organizations did not make sense. The thing to look at is what happens after the conversation is held. If the systems do not take it to where it can be useful then it is not going to be effective.

Agenda Item 4: Update: Center to Advance Palliative Care Report Card
Ms. Erin Perez, Vice-Chair, provided an update on Center to Advance Palliative Care Report Card and referenced slides #24 - #53 on PowerPoint entitled “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) November 5, 2019”. The following are highlights from the update:

- Committee member stated that the survey presented does not consider quality and that a hospital in Dallas claimed to have a palliative care program and all they had was one nurse.
- Ms. Perez stated that grades do not reflect: quality, reach, staffing, size, or timeliness of palliative care programs nor do they include community palliative care or patient eligibility.
- Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, stated that we have made some progress, but we still have the overall low rating. We talk about the quality of providers and costs, but the challenge we run into is the acceptance of the philosophy of palliative care within the medical field. We have drifted away from the restorative nature of medicine via palliative care.
- A comment was made by a committee member regarding the rural nature of Texas and that has an impact.

Agenda Item 5: Update: Palliative Care, Supportive Palliative Care and Hospice Website
Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, introduced topic and introduced Dr. Craig Hurwitz, M.D., to provide an update on the Palliative Care, Supportive Palliative Care and Hospice Website and referenced PowerPoint slides from #55 - #63 entitled “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) November 5, 2019” and handouts entitled “Palliative Care”, “Supportive Palliative Care”, “Hospice”, and “Provider Website”. The following are highlights of the update:

- There is also under consideration the inclusion of:
- Faith based information
- Questions to ask to your provider
- Most common scales used

Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, asked for members to entertain a motion to approve the Palliative Care, Supportive Palliative Care and Hospice Website updates presented.

**Motion:** Ms. Jennifer Carr Allmon moved to approve the Palliative Care, Supportive Palliative Care and Hospice Website changes presented with edits provided by council members and furthermore delegating authority to Dr. Larry Driver and Dr. Craig Hurwitz to approve and include suggested edits as they are sent HHSC staff. Dr. Robert Fine seconded the motion. By voice vote and roll call vote for members in the phone, with twelve yea’s, no nays, one abstention, the motion passed.

**Agenda Item 6: Senate Bill 916 work plan – (86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019)**

Mr. Jimmy Blanton, HHSC, provided an overview of the Senate Bill 916 Work Plan and referenced PowerPoint slides #66 - #77 entitled “Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) – November 5, 2019”. The following are highlights from the overview:

- Mr. Blanton stated that there is a project governance process that must be followed within HHSC that include the milestones presented in the presentation.
- A subcommittee/work group was formed to look at the issues around the study and address a plan of action for the agency. This subcommittee/work group will provide recommendations to HHSC with the purpose to develop issues for policy makers.

Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, asked for members to entertain a motion to approve the Senate Bill 916 work plan presented.

**Motion:** Mr. Jerry Fenter moved to approve the Senate Bill 916 work plan as presented. Dr. Joshua Reed and Dr. Robert Fine seconded the motion. By voice vote and roll call vote for members in the phone, with twelve yea’s, no nays, one abstention, the motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7: Action items for staff member follow-up**

- The full Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC) slide set will be sent out for all council members to review.
- PCIAC website updates will be submitted and posted.
- A workgroup will be created for the Senate Bill 916 study.

**Agenda Item 8: Public comment**

No public comment was offered

**Agenda Item 12: Adjourn**

Dr. Larry Driver, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the November 5, 2019 Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council (PCIAC) meeting.

[Link to Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council](#)