

**The State Advisory Council on Serious Illness Care**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, October 20, 2025**

**Members Present**

Dr. Marian Grant, Chair  
Dr. Lakshmi Vaidyanathan  
Dr. Danielle Doberman  
Dr. Katheryn Walker  
Susan Lyons  
Peggy Shimoda  
Delegate Ashanti Martinez  
Dr. Dan Morhaim  
Brian Mattingley  
Dr. Sadie Peters  
Sabrina Chase

**Members Absent**

Dr. Kimmi Nkechi Upchurch  
Senator Authur Ellis  
Liz Woodward  
Nicole Lopez De Victoria  
Rabbi Stephen Glazer (term expired)  
Gail Mansel (term expired)  
Jane Markley (term expired)  
Tiffany Chander Erbelding (term expired)  
Dr. Shahid Aziz (term expired)  
Chrstine Watts (term expired)  
Elena Boisvert, Esq. (term expired)

**1. Welcome and Chair Remarks**

- Marian Grant introduced herself as Chair and shared her background as a palliative care nurse practitioner at the University of Maryland Medical Center and as a federal and state health policy consultant.
- Noted increasing state-level activity in palliative care and advanced care planning due to limited federal movement.
- Introduced new council members and acknowledged 11 current vacancies on the council.

**2. Introductions of New Members**

- **Lakshmi Vathathan, MD** – Section Chief of Palliative Care, Gilchrist Health System.
- **Katherine (Kat) Walker, PharmD** – MedStar Health; faculty at University of Maryland School of Pharmacy.

- Shared overview of MedStar's inpatient and outpatient palliative care programs, advanced care planning initiatives, payer partnerships, and CRISP integration.
- Highlighted challenges with advanced directive accessibility and opportunities for statewide collaboration.
- **Danielle Doberman** (newly appointed) was unable to attend.

### 3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2025

- Motion to approve previous minutes was made and seconded.
- Minutes approved.

### 4. Update: Meetings with Maryland Department of Health

- Council leadership met with the Chief of Staff for the Secretary of Health in August.
- Discussion focused on the **AHEAD Model**, Maryland's new total cost-of-care model.
- State officials indicated continued interest in palliative care integration but requested follow-up later in the year as model requirements evolve.
- Secretary of Aging participated and expressed strong support for palliative care and community-based prevention efforts.
- Council formally acknowledged its placement under the Department of Aging.

### 5. Legislative Outlook for Upcoming General Assembly Session

- **Peggy Shimoda**, Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland:
  - Pre-filed bills expected late December.
  - Anticipated reintroduction of physician-assisted suicide legislation.
  - Possible return of opioid-specific advance directive bill (HB 737).
  - Reported outcomes of a September workgroup reviewing the Maryland Health Care Decisions Act.
  - Key concerns raised:
    - Public confusion around ACP terminology
    - Lack of patient reminders to update documents
    - Surrogacy order compliance
    - Need for education funding and plain-language materials
- Delegate Martinez emphasized the importance of proactive engagement before session begins.

### 6. Advanced Care Planning & Technology Updates

- **Scott Brown (MyDirectives):**
  - Explained document uploads, notifications, and limitations when using CRISP without direct EHR integration.
  - Highlighted benefits of direct system integrations for patient reminders and document updates.
- **Brian Mangold (Maryland Cancer Collaborative):**
  - Identified over 378,000 ACP documents inaccessible during emergencies due to lack of CRISP connectivity.
  - Described a one-page educational brief to encourage health systems to enable HL7 feeds.

- **Sadie Peters (Maryland Department of Health ACP Effort):**
  - Shared outreach outcomes including State Fair engagement and community events.
  - Reported increased website traffic and ACP completion, particularly among younger adults.
  - Discussed targeted outreach plans, small grants, community health worker training, and digital advertising relaunch.
  - Shared availability of a statewide Advanced Directives Social Media Toolkit.

## 7. Upcoming Events

- Hospice & Palliative Care Network of Maryland Conference – **November 6**
  - Danielle Doberman presenting on communication strategies for advance directives.

## 8. Council Membership & Vacancies

- 11 open positions remain, including:
  - Long-term care clinicians
  - Legal community representatives
  - Advocacy organization representatives
- Members encouraged to recruit candidates and notify staff when applications are submitted due to processing delays.

## 9. Meeting Schedule Discussion

- Consensus that quarterly meetings are appropriate.
- Recommendation to increase meeting frequency during legislative session (January–March) as needed.

## 10. Council Annual Report Proposal

- Chair proposed a short public-facing council report for 2025.
- Purpose: summarize council priorities, legislative perspectives, and ACP issues.
- Council member volunteers invited to assist with drafting.

## 11. Additional Updates

- **Office of Health Care Quality** announced plans to translate the Maryland MOLST into Spanish, with future languages to follow.
- Feedback on translation requested prior to final printing.

## 12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned with appreciation to all participants.
- Next meeting dates to be scheduled for January.