



Maine Hospice Council and Center for End of Life Care

Where Change Happens

Testimony before Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Submitted by

Kandyce Powell, Executive Director

Maine Hospice Council and Center for End for Life Care

February 26, 2024

Good afternoon Senator Rotundo and Representative Sachs. My name is Kandyce Powell, Executive Director of the Maine Hospice Council. Board members and staff of the Maine Hospice Council have been very grateful for a general fund appropriation from State Government since 1989.

When I pass the baton to the next generation, I do so knowing...

- a. We have brought credit to Maine through our innovative programming.
- b. Our programs and initiatives have been valued by colleagues in many other states and countries.
- c. Our work has addressed identified needs of underserved and disenfranchised populations through collaboration rather than competition.
- d. Our programs have helped transform the lives of many individuals.

It is also my wish that the organization may continue to be supported as an independent voice for Maine residents for years to come.

The Council has never received reimbursement from Medicare, Maine Care or other commercial payers because we do not do direct service work. The direct-service work is handled by capable colleagues in licensed Medicare Certified Hospice Programs. Augmented by the invaluable support from licensed independent hospice volunteers.

The Maine Hospice Council's long-term vision has been to promote universal access to quality end-of-life care through innovation, creativity, education, advocacy and collaboration. Sadly, the original general fund allocation in 1989 for the Council's operations has been decreased incrementally over the years, even though our programs and initiatives have increased exponentially. Today, MHC receives \$44,000 annually to maintain an office and employ one full-time Executive Director and one part-time Executive Assistant and a sub-contracted bookkeeper. We do receive an additional \$22,000; however, this is a pass-through to the independent hospice programs.

We have always been extremely frugal, grateful for every dollar we are given. If it weren't for the generosity of foundations supporting numerous project grants, many of our successful programs would not have been possible. For instance, the Hospice program we started at the Maine State Prison in 2000, which I was privileged to develop and direct over 18 years.

The Maine Hospice Council funded the entire program. Despite our investment of thousands of hours and dollars, MHC received no offers of financial support from DOC. So, you might ask, "Why did we do it?" Because it was ethically and morally the right thing to do, consistent with our mission. Access to quality of care during an end-of-life journey for everyone, no matter someone's place of residence or status in life. Simply the reason for all our work.

The Maine Hospice Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donation are tax-deductable.



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My plea today is for an increase in the general fund allotment for the Maine Hospice Council in order to sustain its operations. In 1989, MHC received \$44,000. This would have a value of \$127,000 today. If the Appropriations Committee would consider increasing our present allotment by \$84,000, this would be extremely helpful. It would allow the Maine Hospice Council to maintain an office; to provide salaries commensurate with responsibilities; and to hire a part time grant writer in order to sustain our present work plan and continue addressing identified needs in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kandyce

Maine Hospice Council: Who We Are and What We Do

From its beginning in 1984, the Maine Hospice Council has been the leading advocate, educator and technical resource for Hospice and end-of-life care in Maine.

Mission: *To promote universal access to quality end of life care through innovation, creativity, education, advocacy and collaboration.*

Funding: The Council receives financial support from diverse sources, including grants, donations, MaineShare, membership dues, sponsorships, annual appeals, Maine State General Fund, earned income, and education events

The Council provides-

- **Advocacy** regarding issues related to death and dying, palliative care, grief and loss
- **Consultation** for individuals, families, agencies, academic institutions, policy makers, health care entities, corporations, etc.
- **Educational**
 - ◇ Workshops
 - ◇ Conferences
 - ◇ Seminars
 - ◇ Webinars
 - ◇ News Briefs
- **Policy Development/Assistance/ Analysis including, but not limited to:**
 - ◇ Hospice licensure law (PL 1993, c. 692)
 - ◇ An Act to Improve End-of-Life Care in the State (LD 802)
 - ◇ Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (PL 2015, Chapter 203)
 - ◇ An Act to Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State (LD 1950)
 - ◇ Act to Amend the Laws Governing Membership of the Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council (LD 479)
 - ◇ An Act to Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State (LD 1064)
- **Collaborative Partnerships**
 - ◇ Internships for graduate and doctoral students
 - ◇ Maine POLST Coalition
 - ◇ National POLST Organization
 - ◇ Next Generation Advisory Committee
 - ◇ Maine Cancer Pain Initiative
 - ◇ Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council
 - ◇ Hospice Veteran Partnership
 - ◇ NHPCO, Department of Veterans Affairs Trauma Informed Care Initiative
 - ◇ Consumer Protection and End-of-Life Care with former AG Steve Rowe
 - ◇ Rural Listening Sessions
 - ◇ Stories Project
 - ◇ Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland
- **Public Speaking**
 - ◇ Public Forums
 - ◇ State/National Association Meetings
 - ◇ In-service Education
 - ◇ International Speaking Engagements-Human Rights Forum
- **Clearinghouse for Resource Information**

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- **Grant writing**
- **Representation/Awards**
 - ◇ National Social Work Association for Prison Program
 - ◇ National Hospice Organization-President's Award for Non-Print Media
 - ◇ National Retirement Research Association for "On Life and Living: the Hospice Experience"
 - ◇ Senior Legislative Advocacy Coalition Distinguished Service Award
 - ◇ Joe Mayo Award
 - ◇ Pope Leadership Award

 - ◇ Robert Wood Johnson Community/State Partnership
- ◇ Dr. Mary Chandler Lowell Distinguished Alumni Award
- ◇ Visiting Professor, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland
- **Resources:**
 - ◇ Select Social Media Sites
 - ◇ Lending Library
 - ◇ News briefs
 - ◇ Hospice News Network (National Newsletter)
 - ◇ Website
 - ◇ Print and Electronic Materials
 - ◇ POLST Forms (by request)
 - ◇ CD/"Sounds of Comfort"

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