


LifeCircle South Dakota

Minutes

06/30/2025

9:00 AM CT

	<p><b>Purpose of LifeCircle SD:</b> Improve serious illness care for patients and their support person(s), not limited to, but including end of life care.</p> <p><b>Vision of LifeCircle SD:</b> South Dakotans living with serious illness and their support person(s) will have access to palliative care and hospice care; healthcare providers will have access to information and education to improve care for patients and families.</p> <p><b>Aim of Life Circle:</b> Provide a collaborative, interdisciplinary, inter-institutional approach to improve care, education, and access to palliative care and hospice care for South Dakotans living with serious illness and their support person(s).</p> <p><b>Goals of LifeCircle SD:</b> To help us meet our purpose and vision, LifeCircle SD strives to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Professional Education</li><li>• Public Education</li><li>• Patient and Support Person(s) Education</li><li>• Public Policy- monitoring and advocacy</li></ul> <p><b>Monthly Meetings: Last Monday of every Month @ 0900 CST</b></p>
<b>Members of LifeCircle SD</b>	<p>To Join: Complete the registration page on the bottom of the <a href="#">LifeCircle Webpage</a>. Once you have registered, you will receive the zoom link to get the year's meeting planner w/link. BE SURE TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR!</p> <p>For a complete list of LifeCircle SD members, reach out to Michele Snyders</p>
<b>South Dakota State Definition of Palliative Care</b>  <b>§34-12-1.1(13)</b>	<p>"Palliative care," specialized medical care that is provided to a patient of any age, with a serious illness at any stage, and which:</p> <p>(a) Is designed to improve a patient's quality of life, and that of the patient's family, by providing relief from the symptoms and stresses of the patient's illness;</p> <p>(b) May be provided alongside curative treatments in primary and specialty settings, based on the needs of the patient and not on the prognosis; and</p> <p>(c) Delivered collaboratively, in any setting, by a specially trained interdisciplinary team that includes healthcare practitioners, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers, and other patient support providers;</p>
<b>Items</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Lindsey Sainsbury- Administrator of Belle Estate in Belle Fourche</b> <b>Sheila Kremer, RN, DON Springfield Assisted Living Cener</b>

	<b>Ryan Sailor- COO for SDAHO</b>
<b>LTSS Training</b>	LTSS Training: Sarah Mollman, PhD, Associate Dean for Research/PhD Program Director with SDSU's Graduate Nursing and Doctoral Program created a Palliative Care "101" for the direct care workers at LTSS. While it won't be mandatory, it will be available to around 1,000 direct care workers in the state. Great education not only professionally but personally as one of LifeCircle's aims is to increase public awareness. Sara will keep us posted on how many view the education.
<b>Restructure update</b>	<p><b>Re-registration-</b> Michele will be sending an email to <b>all</b> current and previously registered LifeCircle members to reregister to get on updated distribution lists and participate in committees, meetings and education. New org chart attached. Consider signing up to be on the Advisory Board- We want an interdisciplinary, inter-institutional statewide advisory board to ensure our work fits within our mission and vision.</p> <p></p> <p><b>New logo-</b>Reflects how LifeCircle is one of several other programs of SDAHO whose logos look like this. Kept the original font from LifeCircle. The new tagline used will be South Dakotas Hospice and Palliative Care Network to get recognized for the statewide work being done</p> <p><b>New Website-</b> Previewed the new site. To go live soon. Will have its own URL- can be accessed using that or through SDAHO's website.</p> <p>Would like to include <b>patient and healthcare testimonials</b> to put on the pages for Hospice, Palliative Care, Advance Care Planning and LifeCircle. Please send Michele a quote to use on the LifeCircle page about why you are involved in LifeCircle or how you feel LifeCircle has/will help those living with Serious Illness along with anything a from a patient or family member about how Hospice, Palliative Care or Advance Care Planning impacted them or how you as a healthcare professional have this care make a difference for you or a family/patient to whom you provided care.</p>
<b>Website</b>	Please review the <a href="#">Hospice Service Area Map</a> and the <a href="#">Palliative Care Directory</a> to make sure they have the must up to date information
<b>Guardianship Education Update:</b>	<p>Cameo Anders; Mari Perrenoud; Michele Snyders; SDAHO education team- Michella, Stephanie, Shenna</p> <p>Web page: <a href="https://sdaho.org/guardianship/">https://sdaho.org/guardianship/</a></p> <p>Current 5-10 minute video topics include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Informed Consent ✓- video is live on the website</li> <li>2. Healthcare Responsibilities ✓ Video is Live on the website</li> <li>3. Advance Care Planning parts 1 &amp; 2 ✓ video is live on the website</li> <li>4. Life Sustaining Treatment-✓</li> <li>5. Medically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration-✓-</li> <li>6. <b>Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation- Record August 5</b></li> <li>7. Dialysis</li> <li>8. Help with Breathing</li> <li>9. ICD Implant</li> </ol>

	<p><b>10. What You Need to Know to Set Up a Guardianship</b></p> <p>Discussed how to push these out to ensure people are aware of the resources. Will see if we can track who visits the website. Will follow up with the State Bar/Advisory Council on Aging through DHS/SD Elderlaw commission/McLean Kerver/State Guardianship Program to see if training can be mandatory for guardians once it is complete.</p>
<b>Administrative Rule Advance Directive Education for LTC project</b>	<p>This link will be added to the advance care planning website under Advance Directive Education and Training Tab <a href="#">Advanced Directives - Video Training Flier.</a></p>
<b>LifeCircle Education 2025</b>	<p><b>July 9<sup>th</sup></b> – Emily Kasmar- DNP Student- Sturgis: Implementing the IHI Age Friendly Health System in the VA Nursing Home</p> <p><b>October 8<sup>th</sup></b>- Dr. Dan Mark- Pediatric Palliative Care</p> <p><b>November 12<sup>th</sup></b>: Carrie Christopherson- SD DoH Public Health Advisor/Hospice Certification- Please submit questions you would have for Carrie to Michele by September 1 Our department surveys and has oversight of patient health and safety.</p> <p><b>To be scheduled:</b></p> <p>Dr. Terri Peterson-Henry- ACP and Billing for ACP</p> <p>Dr. Amanda Sedlacek- Pulmonary Palliative Care</p> <p>Ketamine Provider unable to do education this year. Asked to consider next year.</p>
<b>ELNEC Training</b>	<p><b>End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) RN Training Contact:</b>  <a href="mailto:sandra.reinesch@sanfordhealth.org">sandra.reinesch@sanfordhealth.org</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>September 10, 2025</b></li> </ul>
<b>Caregiving</b>	<p><b>Documentary created with executive producer Bradley Cooper, it highlights the challenges and triumphs of caregiving in America.</b> The two-hour documentary is centered on the personal experiences of caregivers providing for loved ones, and the challenges and triumph they face each day. As the number of caregivers declines, and the number of individuals requiring care in our country increases, the challenges grow. Caregivers require differing types and levels of support. At times, the burdens of caregiving can seem unbearable, regardless of resources. The “needs gap” for information may be greater for caregivers than it is for care recipients. The film will explore these issues and shine a light on innovation for 21st century caregiving.</p> <p><b>How to watch:</b> Caregiving is available to stream on pbs.org and the free PBS app, available on iPhone, Apple TV, Android TV, Android smartphones, Amazon Fire TV, Amazon Fire Tablet, Roku, Samsung Smart TV and Vizio.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Stream on PBS.org</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Download the PBS App</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Check your local listings for Broadcast Schedules</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Trailer</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>MISC Education re: Hospice and PC</b></p>	<p>July 23: <b>AI in Advance Care Planning has been rescheduled!</b> This is through a collaboration between SDAHO and the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California. <b>SDAHO members</b> can register here: <a href="https://members.sdaho.org/events/ai-for-advance-care-planning">https://members.sdaho.org/events/ai-for-advance-care-planning</a></p> <p><b>Hospice Foundation of America:</b> SDAHO has an agreement with HFA to offer their Live Webinars, including the annual Living with Grief program, <b>FREE</b> to SDAHO members. Links to register are on the <a href="#">SDAHO Education Calendar</a>. There is a 2-step registration process: first through the SDAHO Education Calendar. Once registered here, you will receive a <b>link to the HFA Registration Page and a FREE Coupon Code</b> to use when you register on the HFA site. Preview webinars <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>July 15: <b>Hospice and Palliative Care for Patients with Advanced Heart Disease, from Diagnosis to Death_11-12:30 CST</b></p> <p><b>CAPC:</b></p> <p><b>July 16:</b> Part 1: How to Bring Well-Being Debriefings to your Organization <b>Members Only</b></p> <p><b>July 22:</b> Part 2: how to Implement and Facilitate Well-Being Debriefings at Your Organization <b>Members Only</b></p> <p><b>CAPC Interprofessional Grand Rounds:</b></p> <p><b>July 23:</b> Psilocybin-Assisted Therapy in Palliative Care: Early Clinical Trial Insights and Challenges <b>Members Only</b></p> <p>Understanding Disparities in Dementia Care for Hispanic/Latina Communities- <b>FREE AND OPEN TO ALL</b></p> <p><b>SDAHO members get a 15% discount on their first year's CAPC membership</b></p> <p><b>MJHS Institute for Innovation in Palliative Care: Free Webinars</b></p> <p><b>August 7:</b> Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy in Relation to Patient Trauma</p> <p><b>Minnesota Center for Bioethics- Fee Webinars</b></p> <p>Please feel free to share these educational resources with your teams and colleagues!</p>
<p><b>2025 Conferences</b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">The National Alliance for Care at Home- Summer Conference with HHFMA</a>:</b> July 27-29 Chicago, IL</p> <p><b>CAPC <a href="#">National Seminar</a></b> September 15-17 Philadelphia, PA</p> <p><b>National End of Life Doula Alliance (NEDA) <a href="#">Doulapalooza 2025</a></b> October 10-12 New Orleans, LA</p> <p><b><a href="#">2025 HPNA Annual Conference</a></b> October 27-28 Lake Buena Vista, FL</p> <p><b><a href="#">The National Alliance for Care at Home- Fall Conference</a>:</b> November 2-4 New Orleans, LA (Interdisciplinary Conference-Clinical)</p> <p><b>Please let Michele know of any conferences to post.</b></p>
<p><b>Federal Legislative News-</b></p>	<p><b><a href="#">Hospice Recertification Flexibility Act</a> Re-introduced 2/27/25</b> by Rep Carol Miller (R-WV) and five colleagues: Representatives Jared Golden (D-ME), Beth Van Duyne (R-</p>

## 119 Congress

TX), Don Davis (D-NC), Aaron Bean (R-FL), and Joe Morelle (D-NY) The bill would allow the hospice face to face recertification to take place via telehealth through December 31, 2027, and establish a claims code to track telehealth recertification. Telehealth flexibilities for hospice are currently authorized through March 31, 2025.

[Improving Care and Access to Nurses \(I CAN\)](#) Senate ([S. 575](#)) and House of Representative ([H.R. 1317](#)) led by Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OH) **re-introduced 2/13/25** Removes federal barriers that prohibit nurses from practicing to the full scope of their education and training in hospice, HHC and SNF. The [legislation](#) would also allow NPs to certify the terminal illness for hospice admission, expand eligibility to certify and recertify a Medicare beneficiary for home health services to certified nurse-midwives, and remove the requirement that SNF care be provided under the supervision of a physician and authorize NPs to perform admitting examinations and all required patient assessments.

**EASE Act of 2025:** Require hospital to provide information on available hospice programs to certain individuals upon discharge under the Medicare program ([H.R. 2437](#)) **Introduced 3/27/25** by [Representative Erin Houchin \(R-IN\)](#)

**Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act of 2025** ([H.R. 138](#)) **Introduced 1/3/25** by [Rep. Vern Buchanan \(R-FL\)](#) and Mike Thompson (D-CA) aims to ease the financial burden on families by allowing certain expenses for parents to be considered medical expenses under the Internal Revenue Code. This legislation provides families with greater financial flexibility to afford in-home care services, potentially increasing demand for professional home care providers. By reducing financial barriers, more families may choose home care services over institutional care, allowing agencies to expand their client base and enhance service offerings. It includes:

- **Expansion of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):** The bill amends section 223(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code to allow individuals to use HSA funds for medical expenses incurred by a parent of either the account holder or their spouse. This change would apply to amounts paid after December 31, 2024.
- **Flexible Spending and Health Reimbursement Arrangements:** The bill ensures that funds from flexible spending accounts (FSAs) and health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) can be used to cover medical expenses for a parent without affecting the tax advantages of these accounts. This provision applies to expenses incurred after December 31, 2024.
- **Expansion of Archer Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs):** Similar to HSAs, the bill allows Archer MSA funds to be used for medical expenses of a parent of the account holder or their spouse, beginning after December 31, 2024.

**Medicare Advantage Reform Act** ([H.R. 3467](#)) **Introduced by Rep David Schweikert (R-Arizona) on 5/15/2025** would require health plans to pay for hospice care. “ If enacted, the bill would make wholesale changes to the Medicare Advantage Program. It would mandate capitated payment models, change risk adjustment methodologies, create new exemptions for physician self-referrals, among other provisions. The potential impacts of moving hospice into Medicare Advantage at this time would be “devastating” according the National Alliance for Care at Home.”

According to Rep Beth Van Duyne (R-Texas) in a [Hospice News article](#) adding hospice under MA would create delays and barriers from MA prior authorizations that can create unnecessary hardship at end of life. It would be better to work to enhance the existing hospice benefit which has worked well and those with MA already have access

**CONNECT for Healthcare Act – ([S. 1261](#))** Re-Introduced by Sens Schatz (D-HI) 4/2/2025, with 63 bipartisan co-sponsors including Senators Thune & Rounds. It focuses on Removing Barriers to Telehealth Coverage; Program Integrity; and Beneficiary and Provider Supports, Quality of Care and Data. It would build on expanding coverage of telehealth services through Medicare and make permanent COVID-19 telehealth flexibilities including Permanently allowing for the use of telehealth in the certification of a beneficiary for hospice. There is NO COMPANION Bill yet.

**Expanding Access to Palliative Care Act ([S. 1935](#))** re introduced 6/4 by Sen. Rosen(D-NV). proposes the creation of a demonstration project to support improved access to palliative care services through a community-based model. If passed, the bill would require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to develop a Community-Based Palliative Care (CBPC) demonstration- interdisciplinary care to people with serious illness in their home and lead to improved quality and cost outcomes. NHPCO

**Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act-PCHETA (US [SB 2243](#)):** Reintroduced by Senators Baldwin and Capito: The Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA) requires HHS to provide support for Palliative Care and Hospice Education Centers. The centers must improve the training of health professionals in palliative care and establish traineeships for individuals preparing for advanced-education nursing degrees, social work degrees, or advance degrees in physician assistant studies in PC. HHS may provide support to medical schools, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical-education programs for training physicians who plan to teach palliative medicine. HHS must (1) provide Palliative Medicine and Hospice Academic Career Awards to individuals to promote their career development, (2) support entities that operate a Palliative Care and Hospice Education Center, (3) support individuals in specified fields who are pursuing an advanced degree in palliative care or related fields, and (4) award grants to nursing programs to train individuals in providing palliative care. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) must provide for a national education and awareness campaign to inform patients, families, and health professionals about the benefits of palliative care. The National Institutes of Health must expand national research programs in palliative care. Read NHPCO's press release [here](#). Senator Rounds (R-SD) has signed on to co-sponsor. **PQLC Lobby Day for PCHETA, July 22, 2025** [Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act \(PCHETA\)](#) Dr. Sedlacek will attend. **Plans being made to reintroduce the bill July 2025**

**Improving Access to Transfusion Care for Hospice Patients Act ([S. 2186](#))** reintroduced 6/4 by Sen Jacky Rosen (D-NV). A bill to require CMMI demonstration to test allowing blood transfusions to be paid separately from the Medicare Hospice all-inclusive per diem payment.

**Provider Training in Palliative Care Act ([S.2117](#))** Sens Rosen (D-Nev) and Murkowski (R-Alaska) reintroduced legislation designed to expand the palliative care workforce. IF enacted it would allow medical students in the National Health Service Corps' (NHSC) to defer clinical service requirements for up to one year to pursue additional

	<p>training in palliative care. They would also provide primary care during their time of service with HHSC. Read more <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Improving Access to Advance Care Planning Act</a> (H.R.8840/S.4873) New Version will be introduced soon and be ready for committee mark-up when larger legislative vehicles become available. The bills, sponsored by Rep. Blumenauer (H.R. 8840) and Senator Warner (S. 4873), remove Medicare copays for all ACP counseling, authorize Licensed Clinical Social Workers to use the two ACP billing codes to pay for ACP, and provide for additional provider education on these codes.</p> <p><b>Preserving Telehealth, Hospital and Ambulance Access Act:</b> Passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 41-0 read Leading Age summary <a href="#">here</a>. Read <a href="#">here</a> to see how this impacts hospices face to face specifically. Extends Hospital at Home waiver until 12/1/29 and telehealth extensions until 12-31-26</p> <p><b>Hospice CARE Act of 2024-</b> Introduced into the House by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Oregon) September 26, 2024 which would reform the Medicare Hospice Benefit with reforms to payment structure and bolster program integrity.</p> <p><b>Enhancing Hospice Oversight and Transparency Act H.R. 10097</b> Introduced by Reps Beth Van Duyne (R-Texas) and Jimmy Panetta (D-California). The bill would ensure transparency to those hospices chosen for the SFP, require completed surveys prior to the SFP's launch, and delay the launch of the SFP program according to Katie Smith Sloan-CEO of Leading Age. Read more <a href="#">here</a> Information on the Special Focus Program can be found <a href="#">here</a>. Concerns about the SFP: <a href="#">LeadingAge</a> <a href="#">The Alliance for Care at Home</a></p>
<p><b>National Organizations/ Federal Action</b></p>	<p>Letters to Dr. Oz re: FY 2026 Hospice Proposed Rule- <a href="#">The National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care</a> (NCHPC); The Alliance-<b>SDAHO signed on</b> with 51 state associations representing 40 states;</p> <p><b>Alliance Champions Community Based Solutions at Senate Palliative Care Briefing:</b> 6/4 Senate Comprehensive Care Caucus briefing focused on expanding access to palliative care services- Sens Jacky Rosen (D-NV), John Barrasso (R-WY), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) &amp; Deb Fischer (R-NE) underscored the need for innovative models that deliver person-centered care in the home and community- Coincided with reintroduction of two PC bills (see above)</p> <p><b>Alliance, LeadingAge and NPHI send joint letter to Dr. Oz to delay HOPE implementation</b></p> <p><a href="#">LeadingAge</a>, The Alliance and <a href="#">The NCHPC</a> all submit comments on RFI for deregulation of Medicare Program</p> <p><b>LeadingAge sends a letter to Dr. Oz re: Medicare program, FY 2026 Hospice Wage Index and Payment Rate Update and Hospice Quality Reporting Program Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Patient Quality of Life Coalition sending letter of support to the 119<sup>th</sup> congress ( Sens Capito and Baldwin) for the reintroduction of the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). <b>LifeCircle SD signed on.</b> PCHETA amends the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools and other programs, including social work,</b></p>



	physician assistant and chaplaincy education programs to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative and hospice care. <a href="#">One Pager on PCHETA</a> <a href="#">draft letter available here</a>
<b>Hospice</b>	1 Hour Mandatory Hospice Training for LTC Facilities: Thank you to Julie Sampson from Prairie Lakes Home Health and Hospice who recorded this training. This video will be uploaded to the SDAHO YouTube site and distributed to LTC members and marketed through the newsletter, social media and Member Organization meetings. Link will be added to the hospice website.
<b>State Grants</b>	
<b>Publications &amp; Marketing</b>	*All publications from South Dakota Authors can be shared on the <a href="#">LifeCircle</a> web page if allowed by the journal.
<b>Pediatrics</b>	The Alliance for Care at Home 79 <sup>th</sup> issue of their <a href="#">Pediatric e-Journal</a> National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care- <a href="#">Protect Medicaid for Medically Complex Children</a> CAPC created <a href="#">state specific letters</a> to senators re: cuts to medicaid and impact on children
<b>LTC</b>	Implementing Palliative Care in Nursing Homes Podcast: <a href="https://geripal.org/implementing-palliative-care-in-nursing-homes-a-podcast-with-connie-cole-kathleen-unroe-and-cari-levy/">https://geripal.org/implementing-palliative-care-in-nursing-homes-a-podcast-with-connie-cole-kathleen-unroe-and-cari-levy/</a>
<b>Round Table</b>	Telehealth: Medicare Learning Network updated their <a href="#">booklet</a> on Telehealth and Remote Patient Monitoring to align with the extended telehealth flexibilities extensions authorized in March. The new extended flexibility will end September 30, 2025, if Congress does not take action to codify or extend the flexibilities.
<b>Next meeting</b>	<b>July 28, 2025 @ 0900 CT/0800 MT</b>
<b>LifeCircle Contact</b>	Michele Snyders, MSW, CSW-PIP, APHSW-C SDAHO Hospice and Palliative Care Program Manager/LifeCircle Coordinator <a href="mailto:LifeCircleSD@sdaho.org">LifeCircleSD@sdaho.org</a> 605-789-7538