



IHO Update

Bi-weekly News for Hospice Professionals in Iowa

August 17, 2007

Still Time to Showcase Your Hospice at 2007 Fall Conference

September 1 is the deadline to submit a poster presentation application in celebration of IHO's 25th Anniversary at the Fall Conference. IHO wants your poster to showcase how your hospice has changed throughout its history – milestones, special achievements, etc. IHO would not be the organization it is today without our members – so this is your chance to show more than 600 people that will be in attendance at the Fall Conference what your hospice is all about!

Presentation applications are available on the IHO Web site at www.iowahospice.org under the “Calendar” Tab. Please submit only *one* application per agency location. For questions, contact Natalie Wilson, IHO, at 515.243.1046. *Please Note: Only the application is due on Sept. 1. The actual poster can be brought with you to the conference on Oct. 24-25.*

IHO Nominating Committee Seeking Recommendations

The IHO Nominating Committee is seeking potential candidates to serve on the IHO Board. The committee is chaired by immediate past Board President Marvin Fagerlind, Executive Director of Cedar Valley Hospice in Waterloo. Also serving on the committee are current IHO Board President Leanne Burrack with Hospice of Mercy in Cedar Rapids as well as two past IHO Board Presidents: Maggie Elliott, Executive Director of Iowa City Hospice and Linda Todd, Director of Hospice of Siouxland in Sioux City. Jean Walker, Patient Care Coordinator at Middle River Hospice in Winterset, completes the committee.

IHO members are encouraged to suggest individuals for consideration by the Nominating Committee for vacancies on the IHO Board. Anyone wishing to make a recommendation is encouraged to forward the suggestion to any of the Committee members. While the Nominating Committee will consider all suggestions, the Committee must give consideration for representation from districts, representation of hospices by size and by ownership, as well as skill sets and experience.

Prior to nominating a candidate, please be sure the nominee is willing to serve and can fulfill the expected commitment if elected. Please share with them the documents attached to this week's *IHO Update* including the *IHO Board Member Role and Responsibilities* and a 2008

IHO Board Nomination form. Candidates will be required to complete an *IHO Nomination Form* and return it by the deadline.

- Sept. 17 Nomination Forms due to IHO office
- Sept. 28 Slate of candidates and officers mailed to IHO Member Hospices
- Oct. 25 Election at IHO Annual Business Meeting

The Newly elected Board members will begin their term January 1, 2008. If you have questions, please contact any of the IHO Nominating Committee members.

Helpful Resources for Hospice Management Available on IHO Web site

In today's busy environment it is not always easy to find the time to do the research necessary to help us with our jobs. The IHO Web site now features a document that is intended to assist in pointing you in the right direction to assist in answering some of the more difficult questions that arise on a day-to-day basis.

Designed by a committee of IHO Board Members, "Helpful Resources for Hospice Management" is now available at www.iowahospice.org under the "Links and Job Openings" tab.

IHO Benchmarking Project—July Data is Due

All Iowa Hospice Organization member agencies are urged to log on and submit their July data for the online data collection survey. Agencies are encouraged to submit whatever data they have even if they do not have all the data requested. **The deadline is today, August 17.** This survey is among the efforts underway by IHO to enhance the quality of hospice care in Iowa as well as assist members in preparing for the expected changes forthcoming in the hospice conditions of participation. Those members attending the regional meetings in late June led by Martha Tecca with OCS/PeerForum provided the initial input for the survey along with IHO members who volunteered to be on the Iowa Benchmarking Advisory Group (IBAG).

Online Data Survey

All directors of IHO member hospices should have received an email from OCS/PeerForum earlier this month announcing the online survey and providing the user ID and password for the agency to use.

Data Collection Support

The OCS QAPI Help Desk and Frances Hoffman will provide data collection support. Contact information for both will be included in the survey. In addition, Frances and IBAG members will be following up with non-respondents to encourage submission.

Participation in this online survey is free for all IHO member agencies.

NHPCO News

- **August CMS Open Door Forum**

The next Hospice, Home Health, DME open door forum will be Wednesday, August 29, at 2 pm EDT. To join the meeting by phone, dial 800.837.1935 and use conference ID 3650599. An encore audio recording of this call will be available for three business days, beginning two hours after the call. To listen to the encore recording dial 800.642.1687 and enter the conference ID 3650599.

- **Advocacy: Call Your Representative Today!**

Both the US Senate and the US House of Representatives are in the midst of their August recess and will not return to Washington, DC until after Labor Day. Typically, congressional representatives use this time to return to their home states and hold constituent meetings. Program visits are the most effective advocacy tools providers have to impress upon your representative the importance of quality, compassionate end-of-life care. Use this opportunity to invite your representative to stop by and visit your hospice program while they are in town. Call your representative's office today to schedule a visit! For specific information on how to engage with your representatives, use our online [Advocacy Toolkit](#).

- **2007 Plenary Webcast Series Coming Soon**

Three plenary sessions from the “Caring for Mind, Body and Spirit: Psychosocial, Bereavement and Spiritual Needs at the End of Life” conference will soon be available through our new webcast technology for you to share with all your staff. Webcasts are an excellent means to bring nationally-recognized speakers to your program. The video-taped presentation combined with the speaker’s slides (where available) provide a “live-broadcast” feel to these inspiring and motivating sessions. Webcasts can be offered to your staff on your schedule – at the time you determine. Presentations will include: *Centering Our Work: The Challenge to “Be” in the Midst of Having to “Do,”* by Nontombi Naomi Tutu, MA; *Being with Dying: Compassion and Presence*, by Roshi Joan Halifax; and *Psychosocial, Bereavement and Spiritual Care at the End of Life: Realities, Responsibilities and Renewal*, by Mary Raymer, MSW, LMSW. Watch the *IHO Update* for further information when this become available.

- **New Resources from Caring Connections**

Caring Connections has new resources available that are great for patient/family education and community outreach at www.caringinfo.org (under ‘Resources’). The resources include *The*

Dying Process: A Guide for Family Caregivers Living with Serious Illness; How to Manage Your Pain; and Offering Spiritual Support for Family and Friends.

Enclosures

IHO Board Member Role and Responsibilities
2008 IHO Board Nomination form