

**Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council:
Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 10, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM CST

Location: 710 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37243, Conference Room 5A

Meeting Link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDNiMWIzMGYtZGNhMC00ZDMzLThjMGEtZjFINTkyMmJiNWM0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f345bebf-0d71-4337-9281-24b941616c36%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2292eec660-b476-4bc3-a6f8-fd91f5468967%22%7d

I. **Welcome:** Meeting called to order by Dr. Mohana Karlekar at 11:08 am.

II. **Roll Call:** Dr. Mohana Karlekar

Council Member Name:	Classification:	Present:	Absent:
Shelley Hale	Department of Disability and Aging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Fedusenko	Erlanger Health System	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tracy Hills	Vanderbilt University Medical Center – Pediatric Palliative Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Karen Hyden	Evergreen Nephrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mohana Karlekar	Vanderbilt University Medical Center – Palliative Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nina Monroe	Tennessee Health Care Association	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maria Moore	Gentiva Hospice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sandhya Mudumbi	Tennessee Oncology	<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tammy Stokes	Maury Regional Medical Center – Palliative Care	<input type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Anna Lea Cothron	TennCare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chelsea Ridley	Tennessee Department of Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual	<input type="checkbox"/>

Physical Quorum Achieved: 9/11

- The meeting was recorded in accordance with Tennessee Sunshine requirements and will be published on the Tennessee Department of Health Office of Healthy Aging website for review.
- **Other Attendees: Deanna Nick, Miranda Givens, Lisa Ward, Matthew Coleman, Gordon Bonn**

III. Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.
 - A motion was made to approve minutes without edits.
 - *Motion: Maria Monroe*
 - *Second: Karen Hyden*

IV. New Business:

- **Tennessee TRAIN Initiative: Matt Coleman (TDH) & Lisa Ward (TDH)**
 - TRAIN is a free public health learning management system with nearly 30,000 Tennessee accounts and 353 courses developed.
 - Nine TDH courses featured in CDC’s top 40 for new public health staff.
 - Online nurse onboarding saved \$700,000.
 - Monthly course provider training available; 224 individuals trained.
 - CE credits being integrated for nursing, social work, and other disciplines.
 - Currently, there are no dedicated palliative care courses developed through TN organizations to date.
 - TN Train representatives were supportive of creating content focusing on palliative care and hospice.
- A motion was made to explore developing training content for the Tennessee TRAIN platform, specifically related to pediatric palliative care.

- **Motion:** Karen Hyden
- **Second:** Chelsea Ridley
- A motion was made to pull all current palliative care-related courses from TRAIN and share them with Miranda for council review.
 - **Motion:** Maria Moore
 - **Seconded:** Anna Lea Cothron

Action Items:

- Share Tennessee TRAIN link and introductory course link in chat.
- Confirm with Matthew if any upcoming paid courses exist.
- Create a training plan for staff using relevant TRAIN courses.
- Attend upcoming TRAIN town hall for refresher training.
- **Pediatric Palliative Care & Concurrent Care:** Taylor Bainbridge (Parent Advocate), Justin Bainbridge (Parent Advocate), Deanna Nick (Social Worker), and Gordon Bonn (Tennessee Justice Center)
 - Families face barriers accessing equipment and therapies under concurrent care while on hospice.
 - Lack of clear TennCare guidelines creates confusion for providers and insurers.
 - Personal stories highlighted financial and emotional strain on families.
 - The federal law on which supersedes state law and which controls TennCare, the federal law makes concurrent coverage mandatory.
 - Early and Periodic Screen Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) a special insurance policy for children who are on Medicaid

Action Items:

- Prepare a brief report on potential cost savings from improved concurrent care guidelines.
- Reach out to Gordon Bonnyman for advocacy strategies.
- Explore TennCare policy clarification and share findings at next meeting.
- A motion was made for Anna Lea to research TennCare guidelines and share findings on concurrent care at the next meeting.
 - **Motion:** Maria Moore
 - **Second:** Karen Hyden
- **REDCap Results Review**
 - Deferred to next meeting
- **Draft Report Review**
 - Deferred to next meeting
- **Palliative Care Directory**
 - Link Shared: <https://www.tn.gov/health/healthyaging/palliative-care/palliative-care-directory.html>

V. **Old Business:**

- N/A

VI. Next Meeting:

- A motion was made to confirm dates for next year's council meetings.
 - *Motion: Maria Moore*
 - *Second: Karen Hyden*
 - **January 14, 2026**
 - **April 8, 2026**
 - **June 24, 2026**
 - **September 9, 2026**

Calendar invites to be sent by Miranda Givens.

VII. Announcements:

- None were brought forward at this time.

VIII. Public Comment: No requests for public comments were made; no member of the public was present.

IX. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm CST.

- *Motion: Karen Hyden*
- *Second: Maria Moore*