



# *Putting Things In Order*

## Continuum of Care Project

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# Healthcare Decision Maker at the Helm

## Checking on the Forms along with wishes:

- ❑ Advance Directives- Individual must have capacity - *Five Wishes* for example
- ❑ Power of Attorney (POA) -Individual must have capacity to choose Agent, proxy- knows Individual's wishes
- ❑ Guardianship - availability a must, functional, with supports
- ❑ DDSD Surrogate Decision Maker Form
- ❑ DNR, NM Medical Order for Scope of Treatment (MOST) and EMS DNR
- ❑ Update necessary DDSD forms and health-related plans to reflect the patient's current health condition
- ❑ IDT meetings to update and connect; members to: know the plan, commit to it and be accessible, be flexible to change

# Let's Choose a Hospice to Meet patient's needs – *Let's not Procrastinate*

Determine what are the needs at the time- they may change and you will need to make those changes accordingly – adaptability and support is key

- Confirming Residential Agency's standpoint on E of L, Hospice, DNR, etc. What supports can they assure?
- Keep things in Perspective – Hospice is supplemental and provides assistance: distinguish Hospice from DDSD
- List of some of the Pertinent questions to ask each Hospice Agency in order to make an informed decision. Crux: where, when and how services are rendered and communication methods and frequency



*Time is of  
Essence*

# Some Questions to consider when choosing a Hospice Agency

- How long has this agency been in existence, familiarity in working with I/DD patients; references, accreditation and licensure?
- Where, when and how are hospice services provided?
- Will hospice provide a hospital bed and/or medical equipment as needed?
- What process will address the patient or family concerns?
- How does the PCP and other specialist fit in with hospice?
- If there are areas that have not been addressed or we notice a pattern of problems, can we have another home meeting (s)?

## Some Questions to consider when choosing a Hospice Agency

- Is there a maximum number of hours that Hospice will provide each week?
- What about hospice in nursing homes?
- What about clergy or religious services?
- Is the staff available 24/7 especially if needed in an emergency?
- What support services does this hospice agency provide; what about emotional support?
- Will someone explain about the grief process and is this service provided throughout and even after...?

# Some Questions to consider when choosing a Hospice Agency

- Does hospice provide help after (business) hours, nights, holidays, weekends?
- Do you also offer Palliative care ?
- How does hospice manage pain especially if patient is non-verbal and solely relies on residential staff?
- If the patient's condition gets worse can s/he go to the hospital and who makes that call?
- Will hospice be there for him/her in the final hours?
- What happens if the patient passes away at home?

# A lot to do – take care, knowing you are loved and you are not alone

- Word of Mouth and referrals
- Support & Assistance from CM, Agency Nurse, Regional RNs, Hospice team, IDT member(s)
- Getting the right fit and going with your gut
- Check the boxes 
- Be prepared to tighten up loose ends – “Good to Go” knowing the patient’s memberships, passwords, social media, Facebook, any subscriptions, book clubs, etc.
- Next Phases & Grief Counseling, seek Resources be open to being consoled, open your heart

Yes, Grief Counseling can and will help -



Must go through the grief process...for healing  
Show Compassion to family & care-givers