

Advance Directive Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 12/12/2023 8:30am – 10:30am

Attendees:

ADAC Members: John (Merrick) Russell, John Holmes, Barb Hansen, Jen Hopping, Christopher Hamilton, Kristine Dukart-Harrington, Eriko Onishi, Woody English, Deborah de Quevedo, Bill Hamilton, Fred Steele,

OHA Staff: Charina Walker, Eugene Pak

Members of the public: Doug Niehus, Dade Grimes, Marianne Parshley, Shanie Mason, Raneva Dowty, Teresa Schuhmann, Caroline Hurd

Membership and Scope of Work Updates

Committee appointments:

- The Governor's Office (GO) spoke with Charina and shared that they will start staggering membership when the Committee member appointments end in 2026.
- The GO also clarified that members can only serve two terms, or 8 years on the same Board or Committee.
- Several Committee Members will have fulfilled their two terms in 2026.

Scope of work:

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) provided clarity on ADAC's scope of work outlined in Statute.
- DOJ felt the quality improvement work fell within the committee's scope of work outlined in statute. Advance Directive Quality improvement work should be done during ADAC public meetings.
- Advance Directive Education efforts are not clearly outlined in Statute and members should continue this work as individuals and not ADAC members.

Outreach/Education and Quality Improvement Updates

- Eriko updated the group on outreach and education and survey responses. Since March, Advance Directive education has reached close to 300 people, in-person and virtual, with 73 survey responses.
- Majority of survey responses have been female and white.
- Barb Hansen shared that they have been doing educational meetings for hospice and outpatient palliative care staff. People were not up to speed about how the Advanced Directive form was updated in 2021.
- Eriko Onishi expressed patients have difficulty answering questions about hypothetical health situations. Pictures would be very helpful, to demonstrate some of the care options, such as a feeding tube or ventilator. Pictures would make the form more interesting too.
- Christopher shared that we can't add pictures because the form is in Statute. There is nothing preventing electronic signatures or an electronic form, nor is there any requirement for signatures other than the principal and the notary/witnesses.

- Many patients don't want to fill out the values/goals/place for care section.
- An online version of the form with option for electronic signatures would be helpful so that people can collect signatures electronically. A QR code on the front of the Advance Directive that takes you to an online video explaining the form would also be helpful.
- Jen Hopping shared that the form would be easier to fill out if it had lines.

Potential Changes to the Advanced Directive Form and the function of ADAC

The Committee discussed making recommendations to the Legislator on changes to the Advance Directive form in 2025 and unanimously voted to bring changes forward.

- Charina Walker will work with the OHA Government Relations team to schedule meetings with Legislators after the February short session.
- Engagement with Legislators in Late Winter/early Spring will be ideal.
- Senator Prozanski may be the best Legislator to engage with. He was who the Committee engaged with previously. The Committee should also consider engaging with Legislators in their district.
- Developing a one-pager with history and changes needed will be needed when engaging with Legislators.
- Christopher Hamilton shared HB 4135 in 2018, creating the ADAC, passed through the House Health Care Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee; SB199 in 2021, the bill that contained the current form, also went through Senate Judiciary and House Health Care.
- The Committee reviewed suggested changes to the form.
- Section 3 and 4 needs clarity. More information can also be included in the User's Guide.
- Clarification needs to be made regarding who is responsible for filling out the form and signing it.
- Clarification needs to be made about the ability to attach other documents and information to the form.
- The group discussed changes to the ADAC scope of work in Statute and the need for outreach and education funding.
- The Committee voted to include Education in the Committee's scope of work in statute. Christopher Hamilton was Nay, with the other members in attendance all voting in favor.
- To best prepare for the January 18th meeting ADAC members should:
 - Identify changes they would like to make to the form and be prepared to discuss.
 - Identify changes to statute regarding the Committee scope and function and be prepared to discuss.
 - Be prepared to discuss what the compelling argument should be for changing statute.
- During January 18th meeting ADAC members need:
 - to agree on what changes need to be made to the form. Exact language will not be needed until later. Charina will confirm timeline for drafting language.
 - Agree on a compelling argument to present to Legislators

Member Discussion and Public Comment

- Members from the public expressed the difficulty getting the AD form witnessed or signed by a notary in a care setting, including hospitals and for patients who are unable to leave their home. It is against Providence and Kaiser policy for staff to witness AD form.

- A community member shared how overwhelming and exhausting it was to complete the AD form when they were diagnosed with late-stage cancer. Process could be simplified.

Next Steps:

- Charina will work with Government Relations to schedule meetings with Legislator(s) and clarify a timeline for specific statute revision language.
- ADAC members will identify changes they would like to be made to the form and the committee's scope of work before the meeting on January 18th.
- ADAC members will agree on what needs to be changed in Statute and information to provide to Legislators at the January 18th meeting.

Meeting Adjourned