

Mortality Review Work Group Update - 2015

1. Meetings:
 - a. The Mortality Review Work Group met 4 times in 2015 to review cases.
2. Data:
 - a. 40 cases were sent to the Mortality Review Work Group for review on deaths that occurred in 2015.
 - i. Cases that involve a person with a terminal illness and served by Hospice are first reviewed by the Work Group Chairperson and generally these cases are presented to the group.
 - ii. 38 cases were for persons receiving adult services through the Developmental Disabilities Program
 - iii. 2 cases were on persons receiving children's services.
 - b. The age range of deaths for adults receiving services was 18 to 84 years with an average (mean) age of 53.
 - c. The leading cause of death was due to sudden cardiac or respiratory arrest (including acute myocardial infarction).
 - d. Cancer, aspiration pneumonia, and seizures also remain the top causes of deaths for adults receiving DDP services in Montana.
3. Concerns:
 - a. On occasion, we still see that staff persons call their supervisor for advice prior to calling 911 but this occurs less often than it had in the past.
 - b. We occasionally find problems with POLSTs including:
 - i. POLSTs in place with no terminal illness present.
 - ii. Signatures by non-family members including group home managers or guardians without end of life authority.
 - c. Of note, two cancer deaths were due to rectal cancer and both persons were under the age of 50.

2015 Mortality Review Data

Adults Receiving Services through the Developmental Disabilities Program

Causes	#	Ages (years)	Male	Female
Cardiac/respiratory arrest (including acute MI)	10	87, 53, 24, 76, 61, 53, 68, 72, 23, 46	4	6
Cancer	6			
Ovarian cancer - 1		62		1
Rectal - 2		47, 42	2	
Throat - 1		74	1	
Brain - 1		31		1
Bladder - 1		61	1	
Aspiration	5	37, 56, 67, 61, 33	3	2
Seizure	4	18, 23, 42, 57	2	2
Dementia/failure to thrive	4	60, 34, 53, 46	2	2
Heart disease/CHF	2	56, 67	2	
Parkinson's	2	59, 63	2	
Brain aneurysm	1	73	1	
Bowel obstruction	1	77	1	
Meningioma (noncancerous brain tumor)	1	58		1
Pulmonary hypertension	1	51		1
Myotonic dystrophy	1	54	1	
Totals:	38	Average (mean) age: 53 Median age: 56 Age range: 18 to 87	22	16

Comparison to previous years:

Cause of death	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Acute cardiac/respiratory arrest	10	0	3	0	0
Cancer*	6	5	0	2	3
Aspiration	5	13	9	3	8
Seizure	4	3	2	4	0
Dementia/failure to thrive	4	0	1	1	0
Heart disease/CHF (does not include sudden cardiac death)	2	2	1	2	0
Parkinson's	2	1	0	0	0
Brain aneurysm	1	0	0	0	0
Bowel obstruction	1	0	0	0	0
Meningioma	1	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary hypertension	1	0	0	0	0
Myotonic dystrophy	1	0	0	0	0
Asphyxia	0	0	2	0	1
Stroke	0	0	0	0	3
Gastrointestinal bleed	0	0	1	1	1
Natural	0	0	0	1	2
Pulmonary embolism	0	0	0	1	1
Congenital condition*	0	0	0	1	0
COPD	0	1	0	0	1
Infection/sepsis*	0	1	0	0	0
Anaphylaxis	0	0	0	0	1
Multisystem organ failure	0	0	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	38	26	19	17	22

*Explanations

Cancer: includes brain, bladder, breast, gastric, colon/rectal, liver, lung, melanoma, lymphoma, ovarian, uterine, renal, throat, and metastatic with unknown primary.

Congenital condition or disease includes: Sanfilippo syndrome and ventriculoseptal defect

Infection/sepsis includes: peritonitis and urinary tract infection