



Agenda Item 8

March 18, 2014

ITEM NAME: Palliative Care and End-of-Life Issues

PROGRAM: Health Benefits

ITEM TYPE: Information

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A challenging, yet very important, aspect of the health care system revolves around advance care planning, often referred to as end-of-life planning

In The Final Chapter – Californians' Attitudes & Experiences with Death & Dying, developed by the California HealthCare Foundation in collaboration with the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California, it was identified that individuals would prefer to die a natural death if confronted with a severe illness, rather than have the health care system prolong their care. However, most often this is not the path that is followed. These same studies also indicate individuals would rather die at home than in a hospital or other medical care setting.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This item supports Goal A, "Improve long-term pension and health benefit sustainability."

BACKGROUND

The Coalition for Compassionate Care of California is a statewide collaboration of regional and statewide organizations, state agencies, and individuals working together to promote high-quality, compassionate end-of-life care for all Californians.

Judy Citko, JD, is the Executive Director of the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California and will speak to the Pension and Health Benefits Committee on the need for an open dialogue on end-of-life care.

ANALYSIS

There are many complexities around end-of-life care, including the assumption that our doctor's communicate with us the challenges and options available to us if we were to find ourselves confronted with a severe illness. This is a complicated situation, getting to the core of our beliefs and preferences.

Ms. Citko will set the framework to understand this very important topic, including discussing what is available today for our members and others to become more

engaged in this topic, as well as provide some ideas of what the California Public Employees' Retirement System can do in this area.

BUDGET AND FISCAL IMPACTS

Not Applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Intensity of Care and High Costs at End-of-Life and Impacts of Advance Care Planning, Hospice and Palliative Care

Attachment 2 – The Final Chapter – Californians' Attitudes & Experiences with Death & Dying

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