



*Fayette County*

March 2009

# Health Beat

**Healthy Choices • Healthy People • Healthy Communities**

## **Hospice vs. Palliative Care**

Taunya R. Ohnesorge, RN, Hospice Director

Fayette County Health Department (FCHD) Hospice provides support and care to those in the last phases of life-limiting illness and we recognize that dying is a part of the normal process of living. We focus on quality of life for patients and their family or care givers by a group of many disciplines - the Interdisciplinary team (IDT). The team members include the patient and their primary physician, nurses, nursing assistants, trained volunteers, the hospice medical director, social services, clergy or other spiritual counselors and therapists (speech, physical, occupational, complementary, and massage).

To be eligible for hospice care a person must be certified with a life-limiting illness of 6 months or less (if the illness runs its normal course). One must live in the area that FCHD Hospice serves and must agree to non-curative treatments while receiving hospice care. Hospice care can be consecutively or at intervals, in the case the patient wanted to revoke hospice care and seek curative treatments (chemo, transfusions, surgery, etc.). Care can be given to those living at home, in a nursing home or assisted living facility, prison or homeless shelter - where ever the patient is. Hospice is paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, private donations and memorial funds.

FCHD Hospice provides IDT case management and palliative care consultations, durable medical equipment (hospital bed, oxygen, etc.), all supplies for hospice care, pharmaceuticals that relate to the terminal illness and to control symptoms such as anxiety, pain or nausea. We have a hospice room at the Fayette County Hospital for symptom control or if respite when the caregiver or family member is exhausted or respite when the caregiver or family member is exhausted.

State and federal regulations require that bereavement care begins with the start of hospice care and must follow the main caregivers and family for 13 months following the death. It also requires that each hospice provide at least 5% of patient care hours be given by volunteers. FCHD Hospice volunteers provide patient visits, Music Therapy, Baking Brigade and the newly formed, Gift of Love Group. They also provide grief counseling and memorial services to assist with the grieving process.

Hospice care is palliative, but all palliative isn't hospice.

Curative care focuses on quantity of life and prolonging of life. Palliative focuses on quality of life and death, and views death as a natural part of life. Curative care can actually cause more suffering when cure is no longer possible and treatments and procedures needlessly extend the period of suffering.

Palliative care is hospice that isn't defined by the 6 month hospice benefit. It is receiving treatment that enhances comfort and improves the quality of an individual's life during the last phase of life. The expected outcome is relief from distressing symptoms, the easing of pain, and/or enhancing the quality of life. Palliative care does not have to provide the same range of core services - IDT, bereavement, spiritual, social work, patient/family, etc.

Palliative care is a lessening and relief of physical, psychosocial and spiritual suffering so that the patient can accomplish his/her goals and life-closure tasks. Those tasks may include saying goodbye, letting go, finding meaning and value in life and death, and mending relationships. Contact 283-7262 for more information.

## February 2009 Statistics

### **FAMILY & CLINICAL SERVICES**

#### **WIC**

Active WIC Clients.....	842
WIC Services.....	321
Breast Feeding Women.....	40
Breast Feeding Peer Counseling.....	41

#### **Family Case Management**

Active Families.....	309
EPSDTs.....	62
Pregnancy Tests.....	4
ASQ:SEs.....	71
Edinburghs.....	48
Denvers.....	85
Home Visits.....	19
APORS Visits.....	5
Healthwork Clients.....	13

#### **Healthy Families Illinois**

Families Served.....	46
Home Visits.....	70
Assessments.....	3

#### **Doula**

Families Served.....	13
Home Visits.....	36
Doula Assisted Deliveries.....	2

### **Clinics**

#### **By Appointment Only**

#### **Tuesdays 8:30-4:30**

- Lab Clinic
- Adult and Adolescent Immunizations
- TB testing

#### **Fridays (schedule varies)**

- Children's immunizations
- TB
- Lead screening

#### **TPS**

Clients.....	17
Graduated High School/GED.....	0

#### **Genetics**

Screenings.....	33
Clinics.....	0
Patients Seen In Clinic.....	0
Paternity testing.....	5

#### **Immunizations**

Children.....	317
Adult.....	21
Lab Draws.....	8
Adult Injections.....	8

#### **Lead**

Lead Screenings.....	24
Active Lead Cases.....	8

#### **Flu**

Clinics.....	0
Flu Vaccinations.....	12
Pneumonia Vaccinations.....	1

#### **Diabetes**

Diabetes Participants.....	346
New Participants Enrolled.....	31

#### **Smoking Cessation**

New Break the Habit Smoking Cessation Clients.....	2
Tobacco Quitline Calls.....	9

#### **Communicable Disease**

New Cases.....	4
Cases Closed.....	3

#### **Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

STD Cases Received & Reported.....	3
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#### **Tuberculosis**

Investigations.....	0
New Prophylactic Patients.....	0
New Active Cases.....	0
TB Tests.....	36
TB Screenings.....	16

### **HOME HEALTH**

Number of Current Patients.....	47
Total Served.....	68
Total Number of Visits.....	418
Foot Care.....	26

### **HOSPICE**

Number of Patients.....	15
Number of Volunteers.....	17
Families in Bereavement.....	143

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

#### **Food Safety**

Inspections.....	13
Re-Inspections.....	0
Spot Checks.....	6
Complaints.....	0
Certifications.....	0
Re-Certifications.....	1
Pre-Openings.....	1

#### **Tanning**

Inspections.....	0
Re-Inspections.....	0

#### **Private Sewage**

Plan Approvals.....	3
Installations.....	5

#### **Potable Water**

Wells Permitted.....	0
Wells Constructed.....	1
Water Samples.....	9
Non-Community.....	0

#### **Complaints**

Sewage Complaints.....	0
Nuisance Complaints.....	3
Resolved Complaints.....	0
Referred Complaints.....	1

#### **Wells Sealed.....**

Wells Sealed.....	2
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#### **Real Estate Surveys.....**

Real Estate Surveys.....	0
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#### **Sewage Compliance-**

Vandalia Lake.....	0
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#### **West Nile Bird Submission.....**

West Nile Bird Submission.....	0
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#### **Subdivision Review.....**

Subdivision Review.....	0
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#### **Rabies Specimen Submission.....**

Rabies Specimen Submission.....	0
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