

Hernandez, Eric L (DOH)

From: Susan Brooks-Young <sjbrooksyoung@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2022 12:39 PM
To: DOH HSQA CN Rulemaking; Susan Brooks-Young
Subject: Copy of my remarks made on 8-24-22

Categories: Hospice

External Email

Good afternoon,

What follows is the text of my prepared comments made yesterday during the listening session. In response to a comment made by another participant, I also commented that many providers do not have a clear understanding of how participation in Death with Dignity is defined in WA law and suggesting that it would be beneficial to offer a workshop or other type of information session to ensure that applicants actually follow the law as required.

My name is Susan Young and I am a member of Save Secular Healthcare WA, a local citizens' group.

Entities that offer hospice care in this state must deal with the provisions of Washington's Death with Dignity Act. Based on the work I have been involved with over the last two years, including testifying in public hearings, I know that the reality in Washington is that a very small percentage of patients actually have access to a hospice agency that supports Death with Dignity.

As a result, hospice patients in the state of Washington are an underserved population. More equitable processes must be enacted to ensure that Death with Dignity is available to every one of these patients who want it.

Today I am suggesting three changes to consider to ensure that this population is better served.

1. Any applicant using clinical or ethical care guidelines based on something other than clinically accepted standard of care, must be required to include those documents in the application.
2. Hospice programs that do not participate in Death with Dignity (because they do not permit their physicians and staff to actively assist hospice patients in participating in Death with Dignity) must be required to provide in their applications documentation as to when potential patients are informed of this.
3. Hospice programs that do not participate in Death with Dignity (because they do not permit their physicians and staff to actively assist hospice patients in participating in Death with Dignity) must be required to provide in their applications a signed transfer agreement with an organization that does.

Thank you.

Susan Young
Bremerton

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"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Maya Angelou