LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ON LONG-TERM CARE JOINS THE INSTITUTE

In an effort to improve the quality of palliative and end-of-life care services in the long-term care setting, a consortium of Western Pennsylvania nursing facilities and the Institute to Enhance Palliative Care have joined together in an initiative called the Leadership Council on Long-Term Care.

Mission
The mission of the Leadership Council on Long Term Care is to establish best practices for palliative and end-of-life care in the long-term care setting.

Goals
The goals of the Leadership Council are as follows:

- Create a leadership council of long-term care providers committed to increasing awareness of residents’ options during life-threatening illness and at the end of life.
- Develop models of care related to options during life-threatening illness and at the end of life.
- Develop educational tools for the public and healthcare professionals, to increase awareness of palliative and end-of-life care within long-term care.
- Heighten facility exposure through joint education projects and participation in regional conferences.
- Evaluate and assess the quality of palliative and end-of-life care in long-term care through research as appropriate.
- Provide a forum for shared learning.
- Be a recognized regional resource for palliative and end-of-life information in the communities in which we serve.

Projects
The Leadership Council on Long-Term Care’s first project included the development and distribution of a survey to assess knowledge and perceived barriers to hospice care in the long-term care setting. Based on the results of the surveys, the Council has developed a series of Fact Sheets about hospice care, which are tailored to specific long-term care professionals, residents, and their families, to help continue efforts to improve care for seriously ill residents in the long-term care setting. These Fact Sheets can be accessed through the Institute’s website at http://www.dgim.pitt.edu/iepc/index.asp

Membership
The Leadership Council on Long-term Care is composed of the following long-term care providers committed to increasing awareness, education and developing best practices models of care for people who are seriously ill and living in long-term care:

- Asbury Heights
- Baptist Homes
- Presbyterian SeniorCare
- St. Paul Homes
- UPMC Senior Living
- UPMC Benedum Geriatrics and the Division of Geriatric Medicine

Contact Information
For more information about the Leadership Council on Long-term Care or if your facility is interested in participating, please contact Nicole Fowler at 412-692-4884.

INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL APPOINTMENT

The Governing Council of the Institute welcomes new member Cynthia Roche. Cindy is Vice President of Patient Care Services at Family Hospice and Palliative Care (FHP), an organization that has been caring for patients and their loved ones for longer than 25 years. The Institute is a partnership between the University and FHPC, as such both organizations are represented on the Council, which sets policy and strategic direction.

Cindy has been a member of the health care community for more than 25 years, and with FHPC since 2001. Her professional background demonstrates her commitment to advocating and championing for individuals and their families striving to maintain a life perspective and balance despite the impact of a life-limiting diagnosis. She feels that “the most crucial and critical challenge continues to be timely access to palliative and hospice care.”