



THE SPOKES SPEAK - GEARED TO SERVICE

Rotary Club of the North Fork Valley

POB 1543, Paonia, CO 81428

WEB SITES: www.rotary.org www.rotary5470.org www.paoniarotary.org

Meeting Thursdays at Noon in the Paonia Town Hall

District 5470

Club 1180 - Chartered 12/20/22

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LAST MEETING: August 1, 2019

President Coombe Presided.

Guest: Dave Herz (James' guest)

Key Guest: Kurt Ulrich, Ed Bliss' guest - (Bill Bishop is the new key holder)

Visiting Rotarian: Nick Lypps (Crested Butte club)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The City of Paonia received a \$10,000 grant from AARP for Poulos Park. When we find out what grant is for, Sarah is going to apply for a matching grant from Rotary Foundation for amount Rotary was planning to contribute.

RYLA students will be speaking next week.

Program: Delta County Memorial Hospital

James Schott introduced Melissa Palmer, the Director of Quality at Delta County Memorial Hospital (DCMH), who will be talking about Colorado's "End of Life Option" law (Proposition 106).

Melissa was born and raised in Paonia and graduated from Paonia High School. Her Husband, Randall Palmer, is the principal at Paonia High School. They lived in Texas for 20 years and moved to Paonia 11 years ago.

Proposition 106 passed in November 2016. It establishes that residents with a terminal illness can obtain and administer life-ending medications under certain conditions. Hospitals and pharmacies had to either opt in or out and had to publish their decision for patients and staff.

People with 6 months or less to live can obtain and self-administer drugs to end their life. Several other states have laws like this. The conditions to obtain this medication are:

18 or over

Terminally ill

6-months or less to live

Must be mentally capable
2 physicians must agree on evaluation.

Prescribing physicians must report to CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment) that the patient had been provided with drugs. There are lots of documents that must be filled out and submitted to CDPHE prior to use of the medication.

In 2017 there were 72 individuals that took advantage of Proposition 106. In 2018 there were 125 patients and 66 Colorado physicians who obtained prescriptions. The average age is 69 with the youngest being their mid-30's and the oldest in the upper 90's. The main diagnosis was cancer, ALS, Parkinson's Disease, MS, and some with respiratory diseases.

In 2017 45% were female and 55% were male; in 2018 48% were female and 51% were male. There were 62.9% in the Denver Metropolitan area and 24% in the Front-Range counties. In 2017 and 2018 most of the people took the medications in their own homes (80% and 86% respectively). Most others were in a nursing home facility.

Physicians who prescribe the medication must submit the patient's written request as well as a statement of the prognosis and diagnosis.

On Jan 11, 2017 DCMH opted out of the act. They will not provide medical aid in dying medications. They decided it's more appropriate for people to do this at home, however they will help transfer to another hospital if necessary.

Melissa spoke with Hope West Hospice to find out what their stance is and there are no doctors that will prescribe this medication. There are only 3 physicians (Eagle-Vail and Durango) participating. There are no pharmacies in Delta County that will dispense the medications and no DCMH doctors would participate.

Q&A

Q: Do people use the prescriptions once they obtain them?

A: There are currently no good statistics to answer that question.

Q: Why do pharmacies, doctors and hospitals not want to participate?

A: Hospitals are not the appropriate place. Patient can self-administer the medication.
Physicians took a Hippocratic oath and do not want to "do harm".

Q: Can CDPHE deny the request?

A: No. They are just making sure all the requirements had been met.

Q: Would the hospital make a referral to someone offering the service if requested?

A: The patient must have 2 minimum visits with their primary physician plus another visit with a different physician so the physicians would be able to say, but they may not know who is willing to prescribe the medication—there are only 3 Physicians on the Western Slope: Eagle, Vail and Durango.

Q: What is in the medications?

A: It's a sleeping medication dispensed in a very large amount, called: Secobarbital.

Q: Have other states had the law rescinded?

A: There are 10 states currently being held up in legislation.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Date	Speaker	Program	Member
8/8/2019	RYLA Students	RYLA	Glenn Dahlgren
8/15/2019			Sarah Bishop
8/22/2019	Amina Uben	2020 Census	Bill Bishop
8/29/2019		Fifth Thursday	
9/5/2019			Ed Bliss
9/12/2019			Pam Bliss
9/19/2019			Randy Campbell
9/26/2019			John Coombe
10/3/2019		Business meeting	
10/10/2019			Felix Belmont
10/17/2019			Marsha Grant
10/24/2019			Barb Heck
10/31/2019			Fifth Thursday
11/7/2019			Mike Heck
11/14/2019			Ulli Lange
11/21/2019			Bob Lario
11/28/2019		no meeting	
12/5/2019			Betsy Marston
12/12/2019			Jackie Parks
12/19/2019			Kevin Parks
1/2/2019			Karri Polson

