

Vermont Hospice Study

Madison-Deane Initiative and VNA strongly believe in the importance of quality end-of-life care for every Vermonter. We have been working hard in our communities to increase awareness of palliative care and hospice and ultimately increase use of this care.

We also recognize the need to deepen our understanding of the barriers to hospice specific to Vermont and identify opportunities for ensuring Vermonters can experience quality end-of-life care. Madison-Deane Initiative, with support from VNAs of Vermont, is therefore commissioning a statewide study to examine end-of-life care in Vermont, to understand Vermonters' current experiences, and to ultimately inform our actions as a state to ensure quality care at the end of life.

The study will explore multiple aspects of end-of-life care with health care professionals, Vermont residents, and our hospice agencies. Specifically:

- Understand why Vermont's hospice utilization rate is where it is (According to the Dartmouth Atlas, 30.4% of Medicare deaths in 2011 were on hospice. Only two states were lower, New York (29.9%) and Alaska (21.6%). The highest three states are Florida (60.0%), Utah (64.0%) and Arizona (64.4%).
- Learn from other states and regions who have increased hospice utilization or are applying new models to support seriously ill persons.
- Test hypotheses and validate or correct assumptions related to end-of-life care in Vermont

Timeline

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| Oct 15 | Project announced at Stephen Kiernan event |
| Nov - Feb | Scope Research, select a research vendor |
| Mar – Jul | Develop research plan, conduct research (focus groups and quantitative surveys statewide) |
| Aug | Analyze and summarize findings |
| Sept | Release report and possible road show for community discussions |

We have contracted with a project manager, Kevin Veller, to provide the administration and management involved in performing this study.