



The progress in the palliative / hospice care in Ukraine development.

July 2006-September 2006.

The numerous references, complains, proposals, recalls etc. from Ukrainian citizens directed to All-Ukrainian Council of Patients' Rights and Security afforded the Council to begin the project "Development of the palliative care in Ukraine". The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Ukraine and the International "Renaissance" Foundation.

On July, 6th 2006 the Order of Ministry of Health was issued (#201) about the forming of the Multidisciplinary Task Force on Palliative Care. Accordingly to the Order, it unites 21 Ukrainian experts on Hospice / Palliative Care. But it can involve other (additional) experts / specialists, too.

In the Group participate Mrs. R. Moiseenko, director of the Department of organization and development of the medical care (she is the co-Head of the Task Force), Mr. Prof. Y.Gubsky, MDr, President of the All-Ukrainian Council for Patients' Rights and Security (co-Head of the Task Force), Mr. I. Shpytyak, Director of the Department for the elderly in Ministry of Social Affairs (co-Head of the Task Force), Mrs. L.Andriishyn, Head physician of the hospice in Ivano-Frankivsk town, Mr. Prof. V.Kulinitshenko, PhD, MDr, Vice-President of the Association of Bioethics, Mrs. I.Borushek, expert of the All-Ukrainian Network of PLH and other experts. Just 5 days after the issuing of the Order the first meeting of the Task Force was organized (on 11.07.2006). The numerous actual questions on Hospice / Palliative Care were aroused, among them, for example, the drugs access in the care.

After the forming of the Task Force and the first meeting of the Group the following events took place.

1. Members of the Group, to realize the tasks given them by the Task Force, started to elaborate the legal acts on improvement of the actual activities of the hospices working in Ukraine. They created the Drafts of Documents, defining a Hospice, Hospice Director, Hospice Nurses. The papers define the standards, privileges, and obligations etc of the workers of a Hospice.
2. Experts of the Group elaborated the project of the State Standard of the social services, which are provided in the process of the Palliative Care. The international experts are joined to the process, and, among them, Mrs. Mary Callaway, Ms. Marie Coughlan (USA), Mrs. Kathalin Hegedus (Hungary) which take active part in the working in this direction and consultations and whom All-Ukrainian Council for Patients' Rights and Security is very thankful for the assistance.
3. On 4th September 2006 in the National Union of Ukrainian Journalist the meeting concerning the chaplaincy in the Palliative Care was organized by the Council. The questions of participating of the chaplains in the Palliative Care as well as their participating in the World Day of Hospice / Palliative care were discussed. The Council's invitation was received by representatives of different Churches and Religious Units active in Ukraine. Among them: were Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, Ukrainian Lutheran Church, Orthodox Church of both

Moskowan and Kyiv Patriarchates, Evangelical Church of Baptists, German Evangelic-Lutheran Church, Roman-Catholic Church.

The meeting resulted in:

- Proposition about the forming of the special Task Force to elaborate the Standard of the chaplaincy in Palliative Care;
- Proposition about the participating of the representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches in the Multidisciplinary Task Force on Palliative care;
- Proposition to organize the special prayer in churches of Ukraine in intention of those who dies or / and is incurably ill.
- The Ortodox Church directed the letter of the support of the Council's initiatives in the Palliative Care.
- The Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church after the meeting, in the coordination with the Council, initiated the prayers in the dioceses of the Church in Ukraine.

More concrete results would be understood after the consultations with the rest Church leaders.

4. At the same time the All-Ukrainian Council proposed the organizations, which provide the hospice / palliative care in Ukraine, to initiate the events, which would draw public attention to the problems of people needed in the Palliative Care. For example, in Ivano-Frankiivsk town the Organizational Committee is already created. Also, the same events shall take place in Khmelnytskyi region. Other Ukrainian regions also plan to arrange the national celebration of the day. The international chaplains from different countries and Churches (US, France, Austria, Bulgaria) have the enormous interest in the development of the chaplaincy in palliative care in Ukraine.

5. Also, in collaboration with Ministry of Health the research on Palliative Care development in Ukraine was done. Its results shall be presented as soon as possible and will be taken in attention in the Task Force work.

The numerous leading experts in Palliative Care from different countries of the world shown the great interests in the work of the Task Force and accented their participation in the Task Force. Among them are: Mr. Stein Kaasa, Norway, Mr. Steven Connor (USA), Mr. Frank Ferris (USA), Mr. David Casarett (USA), Mrs. Alexandra Cialkowska-Rysz (Poland), Mrs. Kathalin Hegedus (Hungary), Mrs. Cristine de Walden-Galuszko (Poland), Mrs. Mary Callaway (USA), Ms. Marie Coughlan (USA).

On 7th October 2006 the unprecedented event is planned – the Prayer in which representatives of different religious denominations shall take part. The event is organized for the first time in the history of Christianity in Ukraine. Before the World Day of Hospice / Palliative care the press-conference (3rd October 2006) and the meeting of the Task Force (6th October 2006) are planned. This time it unites not only the social and medical experts on Palliative Care, but the preventatives of different Churches in Ukraine.

The propositions concerning the World Day of Hospice / Palliative care would be summarized and disseminated among the regional administrations and other institutions active in the Palliative Care. So the geography of the event would be widened.

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Actuality: 17th September 2006

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