**Hospice Month Talking Points**

**Talking Points**

**Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association**

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**HOSPICE MONTH FOR March 2022 is about building relationships through hospice education about cost savings**. MHPCA provides this opportunity for Hospice staff and volunteers to meet their legislators and to strengthen the grassroots efforts to support quality end of life care.

**Hospice is an essential component of the health care system.** *There is no substitute for the compassionate, comforting care hospice professionals and volunteers provide. We would like to make the following points:*

***The Missouri Hospice Medicaid Project done by Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association clearly indicates that hospice saves Mo Medicaid money. The study shows a mean 42% savings in 2011 and a mean 41% savings in 2012.***

* **Nine out of ten Americans say they would prefer to be cared for and die at home.**
* **18.6% of Hospice staff hours worked is volunteer hours. In 2020, there were 180,273 volunteer hours worked in Hospice in Missouri.**
* **Hospice is considered to be the model for quality, compassionate care for people facing a life-limiting illness** or injury, hospice and palliative care involve a team-oriented approach to expert medical care, pain management, and emotional and spiritual support expressly tailored to the person’s needs and wishes. Support is provided to the persons loved ones as well.
* **In 2020, Missouri Hospices cared for over 44, 411 patients**
* **42% of residents in Missouri, who died in 2020, had Hospice Care**. This includes deaths from all causes.
* Hospice **reduced Medicare** program expenditures by an average of **$2,309** per Hospice user**, amounting to $2 billion in savings per year**.
* Hospice provides high quality care. More than **98% of served families are willing to recommend Hospice to others**.
* **Hospice Medicare/Medicaid services are paid a flat, all-inclusive rate** of about **$135** per day per patients. With the flat rate hospice must cover medications, medical equipment, nursing care, physician consults, home health aide services, social worker, chaplain, inpatients care for terminal diagnosis and after-death bereavement care.

The Missouri Hospice & Palliative Care Association remains committed to advancing the efficient utilization of resources at the end of life. Few people are prepared for the issues that accompany a terminal diagnosis; the expertise of a hospice team is an essential part of any health care system.