

Thanks to members like you, the Coalition improves the quality of life for people facing serious illness.



## We've Come a Long Way

In 2008, Idaho's two leading voices for end-of-life care unified: *The Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization* and *A Better Way Coalition*. Now known simply as the Idaho Quality of Life Coalition, we stand for consistent leadership, education and innovation in end-of-life care and advance planning.

As a non-profit organization, our vision and mission attract individuals from state and local agencies, medical facilities, elder-law firms, hospices, nursing homes, universities, the Idaho Commission on Aging, the National Association of Social Workers/Idaho, Idaho Health Care Association, and AARP. As Coalition members, they serve on our Board of Directors, committees, and task groups.

As a membership organization, we rely on your participation and support to continue to provide statewide education and outreach to consumers and healthcare professionals.

## The Idaho Quality of Life Coalition

We are a coalition of healthcare professionals, private citizens and businesses working together to provide information and education on hospice, palliative care and advance planning. We advocate for compassionate care at the end of life. Our mission is *to work collaboratively with our partners in providing education, tools and resources to promote quality of life through Advance Planning, Hospice and Palliative Care.*

The Idaho Quality of Life Coalition is frequently recognized for its statewide leadership. We were the recipient of the 2010 "Sojourns Award" - a \$50,000 award granted by the Cambia Health Foundation. We hope you will join us by becoming a member and lending your voice to our mission and efforts.

To Learn More  
[www.IDQOL.org](http://www.IDQOL.org)  
(208) 841-1862

# Idaho Quality of Life Coalition



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**QUALITY OF LIFE**  
COALITION  
Advocating for Quality of Life through Advance Planning,  
Education and Excellence in Hospice and Palliative Care



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## People Are Talking

The Idaho Quality of Life Coalition has been recognized for its efforts in many ways.

**2012-2014: Received a \$206,000 grant from the Cambia Health Foundation** to implement a multi-year, statewide education campaign on advance directives, hospice, and palliative care for consumers and healthcare providers.

**2011-2013: Received a \$35,000 grant from the POLST Paradigm** to implement a multi-year, statewide education campaign on advance directives, the Idaho POST and the State Healthcare Directive Registry.

**2010: Awarded the prestigious "Sojourns Award" (\$50,000) from the Cambia Health Foundation** for leadership in advancing quality palliative and end-of-life care in Idaho.

**2010: Named "Health Care Hero," by the Idaho Business Review.**

## Choosing a Hospice

If you or a loved one are seeking hospice services, we can recommend a few things to help. First, we suggest visiting the Coalition website to search our member-hospice directory. Second, interview several hospices to find the one with the services and staff that best fits your needs. Third, ask questions and compare. And finally, always remember that you have the right to choose *any* hospice that serves your area. This is a personal choice, and we encourage you to do your homework.

*This is a true coalition with only one part-time employee. All of our work is done by member-driven, volunteer committees, healthcare professionals, business and civic partners and individuals who care about our mission. Please join us!*

Casey Corbin  
IDQOL Director

**2009: Named "Idaho Governor's Brightest Star," for volunteer service.**

**2006: Conducted the first-ever, statewide survey** (with the BSU Center for the Study of Aging and other partners) to gather Idaho-specific data about views on end-of-life issues. The results still guide our efforts.

**2004: Received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Rallying Points Award of Excellence.**

## The Most Common Myths

### *Hospice is for people about to die*

Actually, hospice can help most when you seek their services up to six months before a loved one may pass. Quality of life can improve with hospice care.

### *I can't afford hospice*

Hospice care is available to anyone regardless of age or ability to pay. You have been paying into your "hospice benefit" your entire life in the form of payroll taxes. Medicare and the V.A. cover 100% of the costs! If you are not

Medicare eligible, most insurance plans offer a 100% free hospice benefit.

### *Palliative care is hospice*

Hospice does provide palliative care, but not treatments aimed at curing a disease. Palliative care provides a range of services to manage symptoms and increase quality of life, but it may also be a part of seeking a cure to disease.

### *I don't want to give up my doctor*

Hospice never forces you to give up your personal provider. In fact, it is best when your provider and hospice work together.

### *I am too young for an advance directive*

While it is difficult to admit, all of us are just an accident or sudden, unexpected illness away from needing advance directives. By putting your wishes and preferences in writing now, it can minimize the stress and burden on your loved ones.

To learn more and to get involved, visit:  
**[www.IDQOL.org](http://www.IDQOL.org)**