

Panel Discussion

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There will not be enough money
in the US to fund our current
health care system in the future

It is predicted that the percent of household income that will go to healthcare in the next two decades will exceed 41%

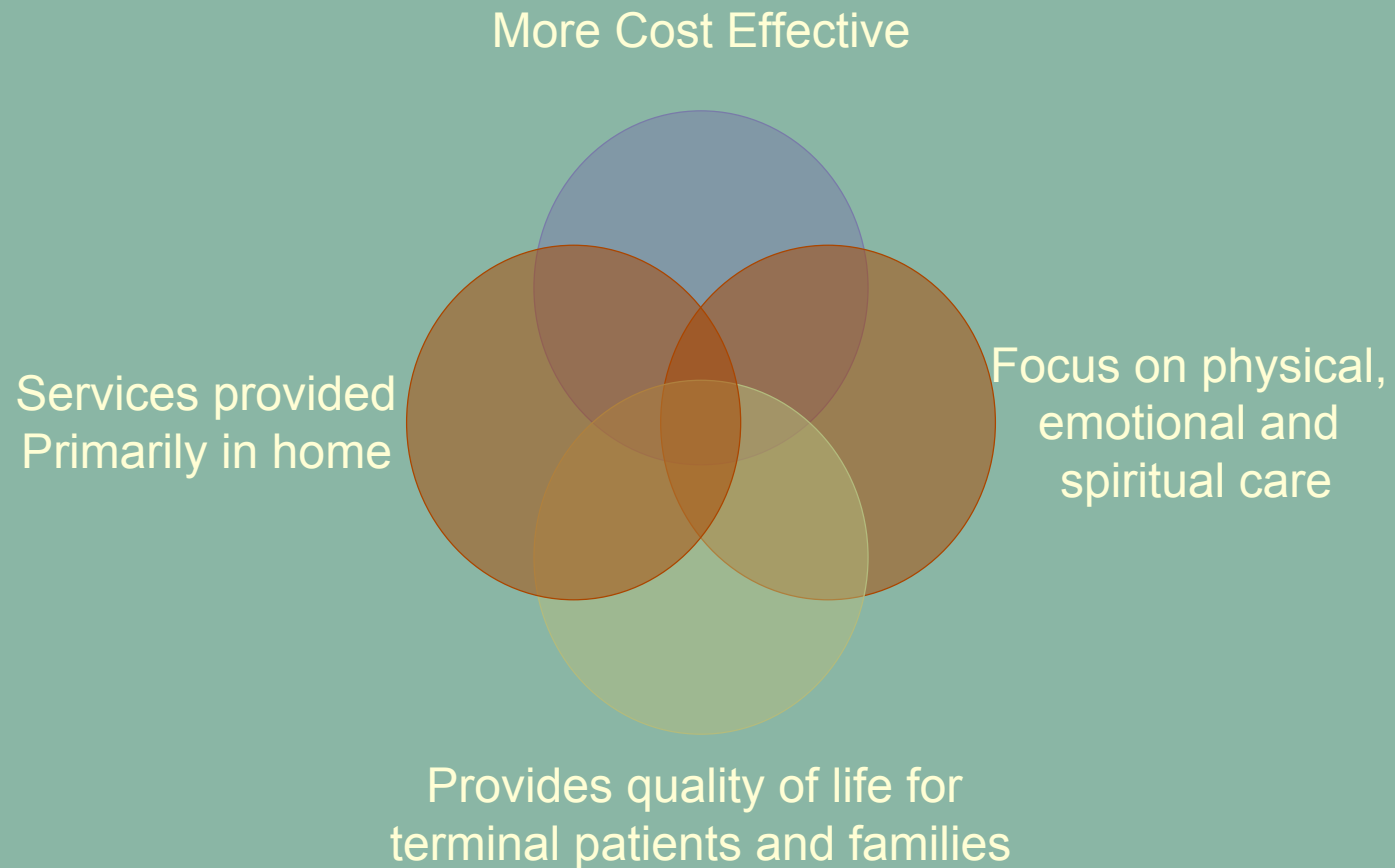
Two things could positively impact this trend.

1. Prevention & Wellness
2. More appropriate end of life care

What is Hospice Care?

Hospice care is an interdisciplinary approach to providing care for patients at the end of life that focuses on pain control and symptom management. Comfort is the primary goal.

What is Hospice Care? cont.



Hospice Improves Quality of Life

- Prior studies have found that hospice improves quality of care
 - Mor and Kidder 1985
 - National Hospice Organization 1995
 - Miller et al. 2002, 2004
 - Wu et al. 2003

Hospice is Cost Effective

- 25 % of the total US Medicare budget is spent on the last year of life.
- Mean expenditure in last year of life \$24,600 vs. \$9,400 for same beneficiaries in next to last year of life.
- Duke University study (2007)
 - Hospice use reduced Medicare costs by an average of \$2,309 in last year of life.
 - For 7 in 10 users, costs would be reduced if hospice had been used longer.

Medicaid is taking a larger share of the GRF

	1975	2009
Total GRF	\$2.67	\$23.0
Medicaid	\$.2	\$3.6

Percent of GRF	6.1%	15.6%
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Recommendations

- Put Medicaid in a separate fund.
- Appoint Director of Medicaid to a term of 6 years.
- Use leverage to the benefit of the State.
- Insist on quality medicine.
- Emphasize Prevention & Wellness and End of Life Care.