



2021 FIRST ANNUAL REPORT



VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Our Vision

New Mexicans have accurate information and caring support to choose their end-of-life options in a system that honors those choices.

Our Mission

End of Life Options New Mexico (EOLONM) provides information and support for all end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying.

Our Values

Compassion, Inclusiveness, Respect, Non-Judgmental, Integrity



The collective values that bring us to end-of-life work compel us to demonstrate:

- **Compassion** for others' experiences
- being **Inclusive** of our state's diverse population
- while showing **Respect** for each individual's end-of-life choices
- supporting them in a **Non-judgmental** manner
- with steadfast **Integrity**.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

2021 - A Reason to Celebrate

What a year it's been! It may sound unusual in a year so full of loss with disruptions, uncertainties, illnesses, and sorrow – but yes, 2021 was also a year to celebrate.

While we cannot deter the inevitability of death, with the passage of the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act, New Mexicans finally succeeded in expanding their options at the end of life and offering a way to peacefully end intolerable terminal suffering.

From Advocacy to Service

After many years of community outreach and education, the leadership of strong, well-informed, resolute legislative sponsors, and a determined group of advocates, partners, and community supporters, the heavy lift of passing medical aid in dying legislation was realized.

And then the work evolved.

Our New Mexico End of Life Options Coalition pivoted from an informal group of activists to become a formally incorporated non-profit organization – *End of Life Options New Mexico* - with the goal to help ensure access to the new law and all end-of-life options.

This annual report, the first in the life of our new non-profit, retraces our successful legislative journey and describes the exciting beginning of our new journey of service - to bring to light the importance of understanding our right to self-determination and the choices that all people deserve at the end of their lives.

Gratitude All Around

In our celebration, we owe a debt of gratitude to our staunch advocates, generous partners, founding donors, and steadfast volunteers, without whom none of the remarkable achievements outlined in this report would have been possible.

Thank you one and all.



OUR BOARD MEMBERS



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Elizabeth Armijo
Compassion & Choices
National Partner Advisor



Valerie Lovelace, MS
Death With Dignity
National Partner Advisor

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Passing the **Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act** in the spring of 2021 was a long time in the making and came only after years of advocacy. The Act authorizes medical aid in dying (MAID), a medical practice that allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults to request and self-administer a prescription for life-ending medication from their health care provider.

Since the first Oregon law was passed by ballot initiative in 1994 and actually went into effect in 1997, we've learned a lot. Both from Oregon and the experiences of the other authorized states, which now constitute more than 40 years of combined experience.

The New Mexico law is setting a new standard! Our law includes innovative provisions intended to improve access by reducing waiting periods and easing administrative burdens. These provisions are being incorporated into proposed legislation in new states and used to amend existing legislation in authorized states.

Eleven (11) jurisdictions have authorized the use of MAID, including Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont, California, Colorado, Washington D.C., Hawaii, New Jersey, Maine, and now, New Mexico. With the authorization of MAID in New Mexico, more than 22% of the U.S. population currently have access to this compassionate option.



OUR NEW MEXICO JOURNEY

New Mexico Senator Liz Stefanics introduced the first aid-in-dying legislation in 1995 . While that legislation did not get through the legislative process, a subsequent bill was introduced by **Rep. Karen E. Giannini** in 2009 which also died in committee.

1990's-
2009

2012

Morris v. New Mexico was a 2012 lawsuit that challenged our state's stance on aid in dying. The Court ruled that terminally ill, mentally competent patients have a fundamental right to medical aid in dying under the New Mexico State Constitution. However, this ruling specifically protected physicians from prosecution only in Bernalillo County, not throughout the state. This decision was reversed by the Court of Appeals.

The **New Mexico Supreme Court** unanimously ruled that it was the role of the legislature, not the courts, to decide if and how the state would allow medical aid in dying. The New Mexico End of Life Options Coalition was founded.

2016

2017

Representatives Deborah Armstrong and **Bill McCamley** introduced HB 171 and **Senator Liz Stefanics** carried the companion bill, SB 252. Despite the monumental efforts of nearly 6,000 supporters and citizen advocates from across the state, the 2017 New Mexico End of Life Options Act was narrowly defeated in the Senate by a 22-20 vote.

HB 90 was introduced in January of 2019. Bill sponsors and supporters decided to name the legislation after a fierce advocate, **Judge Elizabeth Whitefield**, in honor of her advocacy and hard fought battle against cancer. The 2019 session ended without sufficient time and political support to pass the bill.

2019

2020

The **New Mexico End of Life Options Coalition** prepared for the 2021 legislative session: recruited and rallied volunteers, organizations, and partners to secure endorsements; advocated for the passage of resolutions in several municipalities; spoke at local events, health fairs, and town halls; told the stories of those with terminal illness and put a human face on end-of-life challenges for people across the state.

2021 TIMELINE

January

HB 47, The Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act, was introduced.

HB 47 passed the New Mexico State House of Representatives on a vote of 39-27.

February

March

HB 47 passed the New Mexico Senate on a vote of 24-17.

On **April 8, 2021**, the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act was signed by **Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham**.

April

May

End of Life Options New Mexico (EOLONM) was incorporated in the State of New Mexico.

On **June 18 2021**, the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act went into effect. **EOLONM** began to provide information and referral services to New Mexicans

June

July

First known aid-in-dying death took place in New Mexico.

EOLONM launched the new website, www.endoflifeoptionsnm.org

September

November

EOLONM provided financial assistance for medical aid-in-dying medication for the first time.



ADVOCACY IN THE NEWS

Jan. 30, 2021

SANTA FE  NEW MEXICAN

A Life and Death Debate on Aid-in-Dying Bill in New Mexico

By Robert Nott

Feb. 5, 2021



Editorial: Aid-in-Dying Bill Brings Peace of Mind, Dignity to Final Days

By Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board

Feb. 11, 2021

Carlsbad  Current Argus

Last Rights: Legalizing the Decision to End One's Life

By Michael Benanav

Feb. 17, 2021



Column: Lawmakers Consider End-of-Life Options Bill

By Joline Guitierrez Krueger, Journal Staff Writer

Feb. 27, 2021



New Mexico Needs End-of-Life Care Options Now

By Dolores Huerta Bakersfield, CA

OUR LAW IN THE NEWS

June 17, 2021



"Elizabeth Whitefield End-of Life Options Act" Now in Effect

July 22, 2021



New Law Authorizes Medical Aid in Dying in New Mexico

By Mike Cook

Sep. 18, 2021



Terminal Patients Deserve Death with Dignity. New Mexico Aid-in-Dying Law Sets Standard

by Kim Callinan,
Opinion Contributor

Oct. 26, 2021



Lawmaker: Nearly 30 New Mexicans Have Used New Aid-in-Dying Law

By Daniel J. Chacón

Oct. 26, 2021



A Tale of Two Deaths: One in 'Pain and Despair,' Another 'Peaceful'

By Daniel J. Chacón

Nov. 22, 2021



At the End of Life, Peace for Terminal Patients

By Santa Fe New Mexican
Editorial Board

IMPLEMENTING MAID

Although **EOLONM** has no official responsibilities identified in the Elizabeth Whitefield End of Life Options Act, **assisting in its implementation has always been a high priority**. We assist with training interested providers, identifying potential prescribers, educating and referring patients who request assistance and more.

The information below reflects only what we know first hand; it is not a reflection of all the medical aid in dying (MAID) activity that has occurred thus far in New Mexico.

What we know so far...

- **Since June there have been more than four dozen successful uses of MAID** across the state, including the communities of Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Glorieta, Gallup, Farmington, Taos, and Truth or Consequences.
- For almost all of these MAID deaths the patient had been **enrolled in hospice and the prescribing clinician attended the death in person**.
- **About a dozen different health care providers have prescribed** MAID medications.
- We estimate **about another 25 clinicians are trained and willing to prescribe** if and when their eligible patients request MAID medications.
- **Several hospice organizations have fully incorporated MAID into their scope of services**, including allowing their clinicians to prescribe life-ending medications.
- **EOLONM has facilitated successful referrals** for MAID assessments for all those who requested such assistance.

OUR IMPACTS

In the short time since EOLONM began offering services, we've made a significant impact. The numbers on this page represent some of the encouraging results achieved in only six months.



136

individuals and their loved ones received information, support, and resources from an EOLONM volunteer.

36

clinicians received timely responses to their inquiries made via EOLONM's phone line (505-393-1321)



>2,000

EOLONM brochures distributed

4,000+

e-mail listserv subscribers

7,542*

unique visitors to EOLONM website

54,040*

page views on EOLONM website

**from October - December 2021*



12

hospitals received outreach on EOLONM and MAID

489

clinicians and healthcare staff were reached through 12 clinical education sessions

32

of the 71 Medicare certified hospice agencies in New Mexico received outreach on EOLONM and MAID

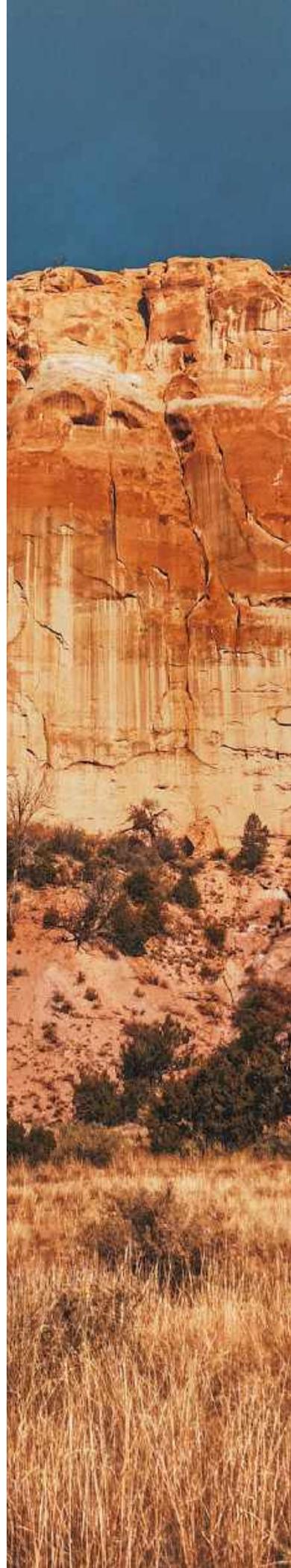
1,164

individuals received education on end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying through 16 community presentations

Also of note, educational sessions were made virtually and in person to audiences statewide, including Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Raton, Santa Fe, Silver City, and Springer.

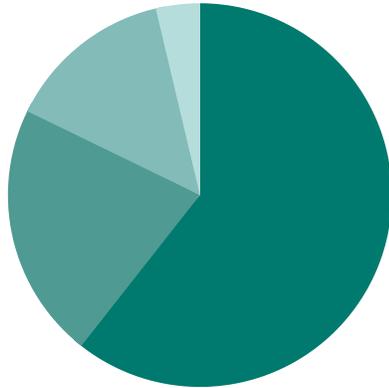
How were “we” able to get services up and running so quickly after the passage of the Elizabeth Whitefield End-of-Life Options Act? Through the incredible efforts of “Team EOLONM” – a group of about 30 committed and tireless volunteers who morphed from legislative advocates into service superheroes. Serving on the Board, as advisors, leading committee work, educating, directly assisting clients, and reaching into communities, EOLONM could not have attained this level of outreach and service without them.

Beyond the notable work of our Board and Advisors, EOLONM would like to specifically acknowledge volunteers **Jan Wilson, Adrienne Dare, Mary McLaren, C.J. Hickle, Phyllis Bergman, Lucy Fox, Judith Brillman, Hunter Marshall, Bee Zollo, Carol Glassheim, and Poem Swentzall**. In addition, **Meggin Lorino**, our Account Executive with Delta Management Group, provided masterful coordination managing the control center for Team EOLONM's efforts.



START-UP FINANCIALS

REVENUE



\$107,000 Pro-Bono Support (64%)

\$35,483 Donations (21%)

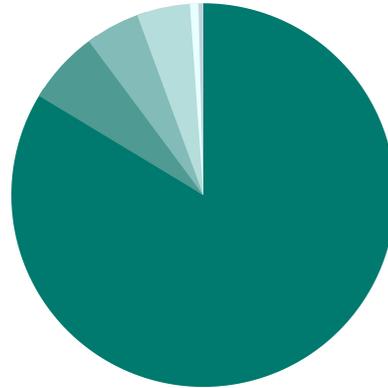
\$18,874 Net Proceeds via NM Foundation (11%)

\$5,000 Death with Dignity Grant (3%)

\$166,357

Total Revenue

EXPENSES



\$107,000 Pro-Bono Support (87%)

\$6,059 Website/Software (5%)

\$4,451 Printing (3.5%)

\$4,384 Insurance (3.5%)

\$690 Medication Support Fund (.50%)

\$395 Other Administrative Costs (.03%)

\$122,979

Total Expenses

As a new organization, one of EOLONM's first challenges was to develop a budget and financial reports that were clear and understandable to the Board, our supporters, and other interested parties. The New Mexico Foundation became our fiscal sponsor in July 2018, managing our accounts, grants, donations, and expenditures for a full two years. As reflected on the graphs above, the net proceeds from those early years was \$18,875 which was transferred to EOLONM in July.

SUPPORT FROM OUR PARTNERS

To date, all of the work of EOLONM has been done by volunteer or pro-bono support.

However, as we continue to work with our partners, better define our scope of services, and explore other sources of funding, it is clear that private donations need to become an increasingly larger percent of our operating funds in order for us to become a fully sustainable non-profit organization. Support from our generous donors *and* partners is putting us on the right path to do that.

EOLONM was able to hit the ground running both organizationally and programmatically because of volunteers, but also because of our national and state partners. We would not be where we are today without them. Here is a description of the of the kinds of pro bono support we received from our partners in 2021:

Compassion & Choices and **Compassion & Choices Action Network** provided direct contractual support for New Mexico Organizer **Jill VonOsten**, who was incredibly capable and productive in providing volunteer coordination, community organizing, education and training, public outreach, and communications. The value of this support for 2021 was \$57,000. Compassion & Choices Action Network also worked closely with EOLONM on advocacy, while Compassion & Choices helped develop bilingual materials to support our new law and provided their staff's expertise to co-host virtual clinical trainings.

Death with Dignity (DWD) awarded us a grant for \$5,000 early in 2021. We used this funding to upgrade our website and communications to enhance outreach. In addition to providing technical assistance throughout the year, DWD has recently served as our fiscal sponsor to accept all types of tax-deductible contributions, including stocks, equities, and other financial instruments as we wait for final approval of our 501(c)3 status from the IRS.

Delta Management Group (DMG), a New Mexico corporation that provides strategic planning, direct support, and technical assistance to a variety of non-profit organizations and professional associations, donated a year of start-up assistance to EOLONM. Through the generosity of our Champion and Advisor, **Debbie Armstrong**, President of DMG, they provided bookkeeping, facilitated strategic planning sessions, and provided staffing to both support the Board and manage EOLONM's day-to-day operations, including responding to inquiries and requests for client services. For the last eight months of 2021 these donated services had a value of \$50,000.

OUR FOUNDING DONORS

\$10,000 +

Stephen McConnell

Ronald Rinker & Jay Geiger

Joann Ruppert

\$1,000-\$9,999

Marcia Angell
Rep. Deborah Armstrong
Phyllis Bergman
Revathi A-Davidson
Martha Davis

Daniel & Susan Friedman
Keith Julian
Carin Milburn
Eleanor Palk
Robert & Jane Schwartz

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Paul Thorne &
Elizabeth Whitefield Thorne
Janice Wilson
Barak Wolff & Leah Popp

\$500-\$999

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Mary McLaren
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Melanie Reitmeyer
Doris Sanchez

Velma Smith
Rabinowe Family Fund,
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Carol V. Vaughan
Jill VonOsten
Jane Wishner

\$100-\$499

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Elizabeth Armijo
Elizabeth Baxter
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El Castillo Residents Foundation
Haines and Nancy Gaffner Fund,
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Lou Ann Garner & Paul J. Malin
Donna Seifert
Linda Siegle
Lorraine Smith
in memory of Hal Smith
Janelda Hogan
in memory of Janet Smith
Linda Sprague
Jim Platt & Jana Svobodova
Bert Umland
Joan Weissman
Norma Tapia
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< \$99

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Cynthia Barber
Leah Becker
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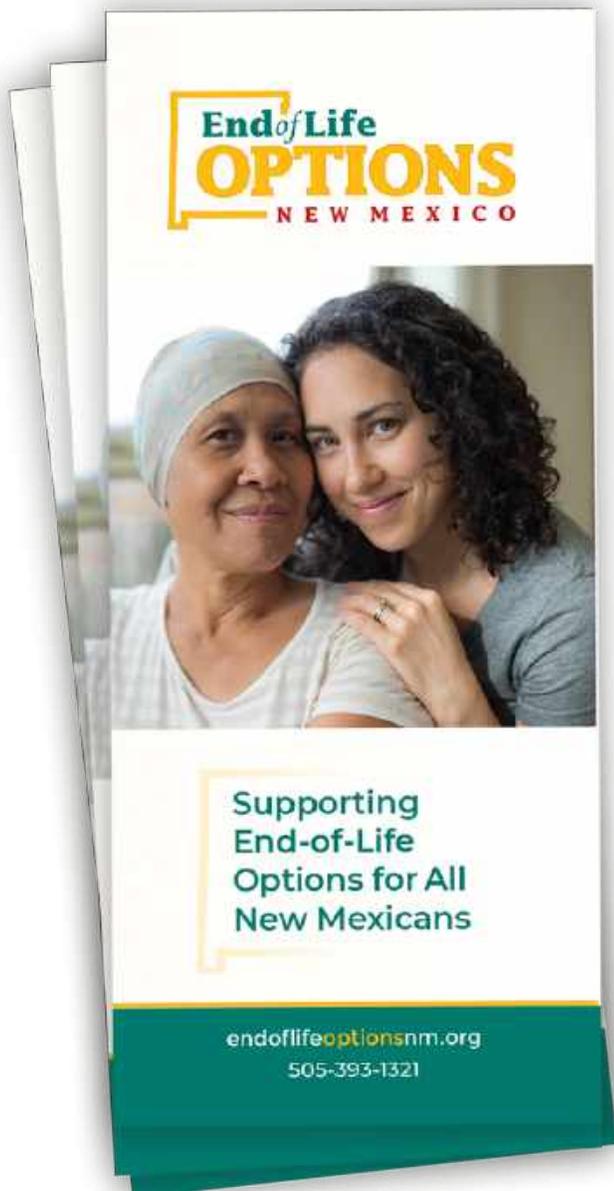
Cristy Holden
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Charlotte Minter
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Andrea Sullivan
Marke Talley
First Unitarian Church of
Albuquerque
Prashant Ziskind
Elizabeth Zollo

**If we have missed or misspelled your name, please let us know.*

WE WORK TO HELP...

- **Individuals and families** with advance care planning, educational resources, referrals, and support as they decide about their treatments and end-of-life options
- **The public, community leaders, and the media** be informed about end-of-life issues
- **Healthcare professionals** access education and training, and support them so they can provide the care and services their patients want
- **Healthcare systems and hospices** as they support their patients' end-of-life choices
- **Patients and families** access the new medical aid in dying law



Download
our brochure
as a PDF
from our
website

bit.ly/3pS7NTB

CONTACT US

For all of your questions about end-of-life options, we are here for you.

 **505-393-1321**

 **info@endoflifeoptionsnm.org**

 **facebook.com/EOLONM**

 **endoflifeoptionsnm.org**

