

# National POLST Paradigm

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## ***What are you doing for National Healthcare Decisions Day?***

***"It always seems to early, until it's too late."***

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Dear Friends,

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) - a day that was created ***to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning.***

I'm proud of the great work our POLST coalitions accomplish! Here is a sample of some of the things they are doing to promote NHDD this year:

- In **New York**, [Compassion and Support](#) planned several local [NHDD events featuring MOLST training](#).
- In **California**, the [Coalition for Compassionate Care of California](#) [launched a whiteboard campaign](#) promoting NHDD - and invites everyone to steal this fun, yet creative and easy-to-do idea!
- In **Louisiana**, [LaPOST has a webpage dedicated to promoting NHDD](#), has launched a regional TV advertising campaign in the Acadiana, Greater Baton Rouge, Greater New Orleans and Monroe areas; a social media awareness campaign, #HonorMyWishes; themed blogs; and a special video story. In addition, the cities of Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Monroe and New Roads as well as the state of Louisiana have issued proclamations officially recognizing April 16 as NHDD. In addition, Susan Nelson of [LaPOST gave a TV interview about NHDD](#).
- In **West Virginia**, the [West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care](#) is participating in NHDD by placing ads in local newspapers alerting the public to events, as well as [listing local NHDD events online](#).
- In **Arizona**, the **Arizona POLST Task Force/Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association** [offered two NHDD Facility Training webinars](#), and in planning an intimate "Death Over Dinner" party - intended to bring 12-15 people together at a local restaurant (in a private dining room) to discuss our views on end-of-life care.
- In **Florida**, the **FSU Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and**

**Law** co-sponsored a [NHDD program, \*Take Charge Florida! End-of-Life Decisions and You.\*](#)

- In **Kansas**, **TPOPP** has a [webpage dedicated to NHDD, featuring a inspirational NHDD video, hosted by the Center for Practical Bioethics.](#)
- In **Vermont**, the **Vermont Ethics Network**, which coordinates **Vermont COLST**, in partnership with a local tertiary care center, had a busy NHDD week including: a community presentation on advance care planning and advance directives; a palliative care physician interview on local TV news; Governors Proclamation on Advance Directives at the statehouse with media coverage and a TV interview following; a radio interview; and information tables with materials and staff providing AD information and support across the University of Vermont Health systems-both in hospital and at all outpatient and clinic settings.
- In **Georgia**, the [Georgia POLST collaborative](#) is hosting its annual conference on April 28th.

This is the perfect time to raise awareness of the importance of POLST in advance care planning! What plans do you, your local community group, or your POLST Program have for NHDD? There is still time for you to do something! Consider:

- Visit the official [NHDD website resources page](#) to see the organizations and tools they have highlighted.
- Sharing the [new ReachMD \*Dying in America\* podcast series.](#)
- If you're on **Twitter**, be sure to tweet with **#POLST**, **#NHDD**, and **@NationalPOLST**.
- If you're on **Facebook**, share your feelings and what you did for about NHDD, and repost our posts or other posts about NHDD.
- Watch with friends and family, share and discuss the [documentary that everyone's been talking about, \*Being Mortal\*.](#)

Most important of all, use this day to share your wishes and to listen to the wishes of your loved ones.

Take care,



Amy Vandenbroucke, JD  
Executive Director, National POLST Paradigm

