



NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

★ *your decisions matter* ★

MHA's Patient Family Advisory Council wants let you know about an exciting opportunity to promote advance care planning in your community...**April 16 has been designated as National Healthcare Decisions Day!** The National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the U.S. have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their health care decisions. The theme for this year's NHDD is, "It always seems too early, until it's too late." For more information, visit nhdd.org.

Facts

All health care institutions are required to:

- provide information about health care decision-making rights
- ask all patients if they have an advance directive
- education their staff and community about advance directives
- not discriminate against patients based on an advance directive status

According to the Pew Research Center's study in 2006:

- 71% of Americans have thought about their end-of-life treatment preferences
- 95% had heard of a living will
- 29% had a living will

MHA's Patient Family Advisory Council is proudly participating in this event along with a broad array of other organizations. We hope that you will participate with us to raise awareness about these important issues across our state. If you have not already done so, please sign up your organization at <http://www.nhdd.org/join/#sign-up> and confirm your participation.

Please know that you need not change what you are already doing to educate the public about advance health care decision-making and advance directives – instead, you simply are encouraged to make a "bigger splash" in your community regarding the topic. To assist in this effort, please use the resources listed below. This is a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively with patients and is a great chance to gain increased understanding of their needs.

For additional information or questions about this initiative, please contact NHDD@IHI.org.

Thank you for all you already do and for making this event a success.

Resources:

[The Conversation Project Starter Kit](#) – a useful tool to help people have conversations with their family members or other loved ones about their wishes regarding end-of-life care.

[Alzheimer's /Dementia Starter Kit](#) – for families and loved ones of people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.