



For Immediate Release

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CHA Launches Care Decisions Connecticut Initiative

WALLINGFORD – The Connecticut Hospital Association on April 19 launched the Care Decisions Connecticut initiative, a statewide collaboration to empower patients to make planning decisions that are right for them, and improve care at the end of life.

More than 100 practitioners, patients, and advocates attended the kickoff of the program, which was created by CHA in collaboration with healthcare partners across the continuum of care and state government with the goal of integrating patient-directed care strategies to improve palliative/hospice care and quality of life for those with serious illnesses. It was initiated by the CHA Board of Trustees, through its Committee on Population Health, to develop a strategy on serious illness and end-of-life care.

The initiative, which includes representatives from hospitals, state agencies, insurance companies, as well as long-term, home, hospice, and palliative care, aims to increase public knowledge and awareness about advanced care planning, including through its [website](#), and implement best practices for providers across Connecticut.

The kickoff event featured a keynote address by Susan Frampton, PhD, President of Planetree International, who spoke about the importance of closing the gap between what many patients want at the end of their lives, which is to die peacefully at home, and what too many of them get, which is to die in a hospital after significant medical intervention.

The event also included remarks by State Comptroller Kevin Lembo; Karen Mulvihill, DNP, APRN, and Director of Palliative Care at Danbury Hospital; and a panel presentation with Adam Silverman, MD, Co-Chairperson of Care Decisions Connecticut and Vice President, Chief Population Health Officer, Trinity Health-New England; Margarita Reyes, MD, Center for Geriatric Care, Bristol Hospital Multi-Specialty Group; and Nancy Yedlin, MPH, who talked about her father's death in 2004.

Care Decisions Connecticut was developed in 2016 when the Connecticut Hospital Association Board of Trustees identified the importance of empowering Connecticut residents to take control of their serious illness/end-of-life care planning.

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About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.