

2017 Report to the Community

“We have the opportunity to refashion our institutions, our culture, and our conversations in ways that transform the possibilities for the last chapters of everyone’s lives.”

Atul Gawande, MD, MPH, author,
“Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End”





Note to the Community

Honoring Your Wishes collaborated at local, state, and national levels to promote advance care planning conversations and improve health care systems, helping to ensure that people receive the care and treatment that is consistent with their preferences. Thank you so much for your support!

*Jane Dohrmann, Director,
Honoring Your Wishes and
Margaret Reese, Advisory Board Chair
President, Mercy Hospital Foundation*



Photo: Tim-Llewellyn

“Being Mortal” Documentary Screened on Five Occasions

One hundred forty-eight people attended five screenings of the PBS Frontline film based on Dr. Atul Gawande’s book “Being Mortal.” Showings took place at the Senior Center, Oaknoll, and the Unitarian Universalist Society. This project was made possible through a grant from the John and Wauna Harman Foundation in partnership with the Hospice Foundation of America.

In 2017:

- **Six health care organizations** participated in an advance directive audit which showed that 41 percent of individuals served had an advance directive in their medical chart.
- **Nine care centers** participated in an audit which showed that 71 percent of long-term care residents had Iowa Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (IPOST) medical orders.
- **Forty-six health care leaders** became certified as Respecting Choices® Advance Care Planning facilitators. Classes were taught by local instructors.
- **One hundred and sixty-one people** met with certified Advance Care Planning facilitators at four community-wide sites: Iowa City Hospice, the Senior Center, Mercy Iowa City, and University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.
- **National Health Care Decisions Week was recognized April 16–22.** Governor Branstad and the Johnson County Board of Supervisors made proclamations, information was shared at local hospitals and presentations were given in the community.

Highlights at local, state, and national levels

Professionals and community health leaders attended the conference “Enhancing Person-Centered Care through Advance Care Planning” on Oct. 20 in partnership with the University of Iowa College of Public Health.



Above: Katherine Imborek, MD, University of Iowa Health Care, provided the keynote address “Enhancing Person-Centered Care with LGBTQ Patients.”



Left: Sheila Frascht, RN, CHPPN, CPLC was awarded this year’s Dianne Day Community Champion Award at the conference. Frascht is a nurse clinician with the Pediatric Pain and Palliative Care Program at University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital. Her talents and skills in promoting the mission and vision of Honoring Your Wishes within the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital and statewide have allowed children with serious illness and their families to receive the care they desire and deserve.

Below: Jane Dohrmann, MSW, LISW, Iowa City Hospice, Nicole Peterson, DNP, ARNP, University of Iowa College of Nursing, and Mercedes Bern-Klug, PhD, MSW, MA, University of Iowa School of Social Work, assisted in the development of a national toolkit “Using POLST to Honor Patient Wishes Across the Care Continuum” in partnership with the national POLST office and Pew Charitable Trusts.



“[Your Advance Care Planning class] was excellent. It was so valuable to learn ways to start the conversation and how to help people make the best decisions possible. Very person-centered.”

Advance care planning class attendee



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Advisory Board members (left to right): Lori Erickson, Beth Poci, Emily Edrington, Margaret Reese, Andy Maas, Jane Dohrmann, Jeffrey Ritchie, Sarah Maiers, Grace Matthews

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Honoring Your Wishes™ is a community-wide initiative under the leadership of Iowa City Hospice and a community-wide advisory board. Its mission is to promote a community-wide advance care planning process in which individuals' health care preferences are discussed, documented, and honored by families, friends, and the health care community.