



For Immediate Release

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Leadership Summit To Focus On Advance Care Planning

PERRYSBURG, OHIO – To help increase and ease end-of-life discussions between healthcare providers and patients, 100 physicians and healthcare executives are expected to attend a regional leadership summit about advance care planning. Summit attendees will learn about Respecting Choices[®], a successful model for community-wide advance care planning on Tuesday, May 2 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons.

The summit is part of an effort by The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio, Hospice of Northwest Ohio, physicians and other partners to gauge interest in launching a community-wide initiative to help healthcare providers and patients discuss end-of-life care. Utilizing advance care planning documents such as living wills and durable powers of attorney, patients decide what kind of care they would want to receive if they become unable to speak for themselves based on personal values, preferences, and discussions with loved ones.

“Many seriously ill patients receive aggressive medical care – whether they want it or not – because there has been no previous discussion about or written record of their healthcare wishes,” said W. Scott Fry, President and Chief Executive of the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio. “Communities around the nation are grappling with this issue, which causes undo stress for patients and their families.”

Two identical sessions will be held at the May 2 summit, from 9 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The featured speaker will be Bud Hammes, PhD., Director of Medical Humanities at the Gunderson Lutheran Health System in LaCrosse, WI, who developed the Respecting Choices[®] advance care planning model with his colleagues.

The Respecting Choices[®] model has been replicated in many healthcare settings. Evidence-based research shows improved outcomes for patients and cost-savings for providers where the model has been implemented.

Respecting Choices[®] delineates guidelines for higher participation in advance care planning for residents as they age. It outlines an effective approach to engaging the entire community – especially hospitals, clinicians, physicians, healthcare consumers and third-party payors – in a coordinated effort that assures a large percentage of the population has advance care planning documents in place and are followed.

About The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio

[The Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio](#) (HCNO) is a regional hospital association that represents and advocates on behalf of its members while providing collaborative opportunities to improve community health. HCNO coordinates several community health improvement programs, including [Healthy Lucas County](#) and the Northwest Ohio Pathways HUB. [Toledo/Lucas County CareNet](#), a partnership that provides access to coordinated healthcare services for low-income residents of Lucas County and insurance navigation services throughout northwest Ohio, contracts with HCNO for staffing and administration. Additionally, HCNO coordinates disaster preparedness and community health assessments in the region and beyond. For more information, please visit hcno.org.