

ACP Goals and Charge

Our Initial Goal

The Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI) Advance Care Planning (ACP) group formed in early 2015 with the goal of improving the quality of life for Washtenaw County residents so that when they face an illness that is potentially life-limiting or life-threatening, their preferences are known and respected. The group worked towards this goal by: researching different options for advance care planning education, defining parameters for dissemination and evaluation sites for using the guide, and engaging community organizations and consumer representatives throughout the process.

Charge

Promote a person-centered approach to delivering advance care planning both in Washtenaw County and the state of Michigan by:

- Educating community members on the steps involved in advance care planning and providing tools to support the various processes
- Disseminating these tools broadly across all healthcare providers and settings
- Evaluating the impact and effectiveness of education efforts in the community

Accomplishments to Date

Since it was formed, the Advance Care Planning group has had several noteworthy accomplishments in the community, including:

- The group conducted seven focus groups and published two reports on the findings through CHRT and the journal "Health Affairs"
- The publication of the ACP guide, "Making Your Health Care Wishes Known," shared on the WHI website
- The group supported educational events (through screenings of "Consider the Conversation 2" and "Being Mortal")
- Gloria Brooks and Genevieve Stewart presented the focus group findings at the Wayne State University Palliative Care Conference.
- The ACP guide was cited in a Michigan Health blog on advance care planning conversations, and was incorporated in the University of Michigan's Team-Based Clinical Decision Making course.

New Goals for 2018

Since the initial completion of the guide, the goals have been updated for 2018, to include:

1. Updating the initial guide.
2. Broadening the dissemination of the guide and educating about its use to achieve the three-pronged goals of ACP¹:
 - a. Designating a patient advocate
 - b. Discussing a person's values and wishes with their patient advocate, family, and healthcare providers at regular intervals
 - c. Completing an advance directive document and sharing it with patient advocate, family, and healthcare providers
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the guide in assisting individuals in achieving each of the three goals

Process

1. Increase dissemination of the guide to key stakeholders and organizations throughout Washtenaw County as well as statewide
2. Collaborate with providers and organizations in the community to develop measures to evaluate the guide's effectiveness in prompting completion of advance directives and participation in advance care planning conversations
3. Provide feedback regarding the need to adjust dissemination strategies and/or update information in the guide, based on the findings of pilot studies

Proposed 2017-2018 Project Timeline

November, 2017 – March, 2018: Finalize project charge and updates to ACP guide; Identify initial dissemination and evaluation sites

January - February, 2018: Apply content updates to designed version of ACP guide

March, 2018: Apply any additional updates/design to ACP guide

March - April, 2018: Finalize evaluation methods, recruitment of new ACP members

April -May, 2018: Active dissemination of ACP guide

June - July, 2018: Conduct evaluation of ACP guide

August – September, 2018: Analyze evaluation findings

Fall 2018 – Present findings to WHI Steering Committee

¹ Adopted from Respecting Choices and other documented literature.