

CONVERSATION CORNER

CATCHING UP

History was made on Thursday, April 13th. Advance Care Planning held its first ever conference. There were fifty five attendees, ranging in disciplines from providers to volunteers. Even before the conference finished multiple attendees voiced their interest in holding this event annually. ACP was honored to receive such feedback!

All presenters, Dr. Noel Deep, Dr. Jessick and Tom Harter, PhD, were well received. One attendee had this to say about Tom Harter: "This was hands down the best presentation of the day. I have discussions all day with patients regarding code status and this presentation dramatically impacted not only how I will discuss but my thoughts regarding the ethical implications of offering CPR to patients who are not medically appropriate to receive it. THANK YOU for bringing this speaker. I have shared with my entire team please ask him back again next year. Unique perspective on DNR conversation and not offering CPR if medically futile."

Save the Date...
2nd Annual Spring Conference
April 2024



SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to Alicia Cook, Clinic Social Worker, Upper Michigan. She is our ACP All Star for this quarter. It's easy to see why she was nominated. Alicia is known to go above and beyond in her role as social worker. This includes her efforts in helping patients and community members complete their advance directive even though this is not her primary focus. Also noteworthy, she rarely misses an opportunity to facilitate or participate in ACP events.

Many thanks for all your efforts, Alicia!!

Honoring Choices' appointments continue to be popular within our local communities. Medford, Stanley, Merrill, Wausau, Stevens Point, WI Rapids, and Ironwood, Michigan are paving the way to more wishes being honored. What about your community?

Quarterly Numbers:

- 159—Inpatient Advance Directives completed
- 326—Self-addressed envelopes received
- 474—Clinic Referrals completed
- 213—Incomplete documents corrected

Contact Numbers

Schedule Appointment— **Aspirus Customer Contact Center** 715-847-2380 or 800-847-4707
Telephone Assistance— **Advance Care Planning Warm Line** 715-843-1340 or 844-624-4793

FACILITATED ACP CONVERSATIONS SYSTEM WIDE

TOTAL BY FACILITY

ACP Steering Committee Facilitated Conversations 2023 CYTD

Number of 1:1 Facilitated Conversations 2023												
2023	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Aspirus Homecare (Roya)	32	28	26									
Aspirus Iron River & Crystal Falls	0	1	3									
Aspirus Ironwood Hospital	0	2	2									
Aspirus Langlade Hospital	54	35	43									
Aspirus Medford	0	0	4									
Aspirus Regional Cancer Ctr	32	4	14									
Aspirus Riverview Clinic	12	7										
Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital	17	12										
Aspirus Wausau Hospital	217	234	229									
Aspirus Stanley Clinic			7									
Aspirus Merrill			2									
Total	364	323	330	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

NOTEWORTHY NEWS

What now? So you have received an advance directive from a patient or family member and are wondering what the next step is. If this document is received while inpatient, please scan this to HIM as a STAT document (HIM-AspirusInc-AdvanceDirectives-1-470277830@aspirus.org). It will be entered into the patient's chart within 2 hours. While placing it in the patient's paper chart may seem reasonable, the document will only be accessible to the immediate team. Also, there is a very real possibility that it could be misplaced, especially if the patient is transferred to another unit. Similarly, it is encouraged that any documents received by a clinic be scanned to HIM (HIM-Scans@aspirus.org) upon receipt. These documents will be processed within 1-2 business days.



Have you considered? You may think that the opportunity for an advance directive is lost if one is not completed while the patient is in the hospital. Sure, this can make a lot of sense but there may be reasons why the creation of a document may be best served through an Honoring Choices' appointment. There are times when the patient is just not themselves during their admission or the conversation may seem too overwhelming in the present circumstances. In these situations, the patient may be better served by waiting and meeting with Advance Care Planning following their discharge. An Honoring Choices' appointment is also a great option when wanting to update an advance directive but some assistance is needed.