

To honor [National Health Care Decisions Day](#) (April 16), COYL taskforces are holding multiple community signing events throughout New Jersey during the month of April. Local experts will discuss the benefits of advance care planning and important end-of-life care options. Community leaders will share personal stories and/or publicly sign their own advanced directives. We invite everyone to attend and to participate in these events by signing their own advance directives.

We encourage the widespread sharing of this opportunity, especially to mayors and other local leaders, colleagues, community members, and organizations who are interested in improving end-of-life care in New Jersey. If you or your organization would like to participate in a signing event, please contact Adelisa Perez at [aperez@njhcqi.org](mailto:aperez@njhcqi.org). #ConversationOfYourLife #NHDD #NJHCQI

### Locations and dates:

#### o Atlantic County:

- *April 24, 3 pm, Hammonton Library*
- Featuring: Mayor Steve Didonato of Hammonton; James Curio, Atlantic County Surrogate; Anthony Salvo, MD, Family Medicine, AtlantiCare; Raymond Beebe, Esq., Law Office of Raymond Beebe; Victor Gazzara, DM, LCSW, Holy Redeemer Hospice

#### o Bergen County:

- *April 4, 4:30 pm, Berkley College – Paramus Campus*
- Featuring: Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi; Mayor Ramon Hache of Ridgewood; Dawn Certulo, Health Officer, Ridgewood; Susan Breithaupt, Health Educator, Valley Hospital; Judy Migliaccio, Health Officer, Paramus; Shari Haber, Great Goodbyes; Shana Siegel, Norris McLaughlin
- *April 5, 1:30 pm, Senior Source - Hackensack, NJ*
- Featuring: Leslie Greenberg, Community Outreach Director, Senior Source; Naomi K. McDermott, Director of Social Services, Jewish Home of Rockleigh; Lisa Blumer, RN, Holy Name Medical Center; Tracey Arnauer, SW, Administrator, Villa Marie Claire
- *April 10, 1 pm, Tenafly Senior Center*
- Featuring: Mayor Peter Rustin of Tenafly; Naomi K. McDermott, Director of Social Services, Jewish Home of Rockleigh; Michael Prigoff, Lebson & Prigoff, LLC

#### o Burlington County:

- *April 16, 12 pm, Gibson House - Evesham Township, NJ*
- Featuring: Mayor Veasy; Sarah Adelman, Deputy Commissioner, NJ Department of Human Services; Monica Vandenberg, Evesham Township Director of Senior Services; Lieutenant Jason Siitonen, Evesham Police Department; Chief Carl Bittenbender, Evesham Fire Chief

#### o Camden County:

- *April 17, 2 pm, Jefferson Stratford Hospital*
- Featuring: Michelle Gentek-Mayer, Camden County Surrogate; Sarah Pagliaro, MD, Associate Director of Palliative Medicine, Samaritan Health

\*[COYL](#) focuses on engaging communities in important conversations on end-of-life care to ensure individuals' family, friends, and health care providers understand and respect their end-of-life wishes through advance care planning. COYL is generously supported by [The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey](#).

o **Essex County:**

- *April 17, 12 pm, Edgemont Park – Montclair, NJ*
- Featuring: Mary Ellen Clyne, PhD, CEO & President, Clara Maass Medical Center; Mayor Robert Jackson of Montclair; Dr. Audrey Radin, Hospice Medical Director, VNA/RWJBH Home Care and Hospice; Shana Siegel, Norris McLaughlin; Louis Monticchio, Director of Pastoral Care, VNA/RWJBH Home Care and Hospice; Dr. Sheree Starrett

o **Gloucester County**

- *April 27, 10 am, Calvary Chapel of Gloucester County - Washington Township*
- Deborah Armus, RN, MPA, VITAS Healthcare; Dr. Jaymica Patel, Hospitalist Director, Inspira Medical Center Woodbury; Melanie Siano, Pre-need Counselor and Family Advocate, McGuiness Funeral Home

o **Hudson County:**

- *April 16, 9 am, Bethune Life Center – Jersey City*
- Featuring: Ellen Rand, author of *Last Comforts*; Mayor Fulop of Jersey City; Dr. Michelle Reisner, CarePoint Health; Stacey Flanagan, Dir. Jersey City Dept of Health & Human Services; Ruddy Andrade, Assistant VP External Affairs, CarePoint Health; Irene Borgen, VP Ambulatory Care Network, Jersey City Medical Center

o **Mercer County:**

- *April 16, 2pm, Trenton Public Library*
- Featuring: Shereef Elnahal, New Jersey Commissioner of Health; Mary Ann Christopher, VP Community Health, VP Community Health, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of NJ; Brian Hughes, Mercer County Executive; Shakira Abdul Ali, Director, Trenton's Department of Health and Human Services; Mayor Gusciora of Trenton; Dr. Carolyn Gaukler, Director of Palliative Care, Capital Health; Patricia Hall, Operational Manager, Trenton Public Library; Victor Medina, Medina Law Group

o **Middlesex County:**

- *April 7, 2 pm, Highland Park Public Library*
- Featuring: Mayor Brill Mittler of Highland Park; Christine Filippini, Nurse Manager and Dr. Vikantra Sharma, Medical Director of Palliative Medicine, VNA Health Group
- *April 25, 2 pm, Spotswood Library*
- Featuring: Christopher Kellogg, MSW, LSW, NightingaleNJ

o **Monmouth County:**

- *April 26, 10 am, Monmouth County Library Eastern Branch - Shrewsbury*
- Featuring: Rosemary Gorman, Geriatric & Palliative APN, Monmouth Medical Center; Kathy McKean, RN; Patricia Starke, RN, Ocean Medical Center

o **Somerset County:**

- *April 16, 2 pm, Franklin Township Public Library – Community Room A & B*
- Featuring: Dr. Francine Hoh, CEO/Founder, Always Think Comfort

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