

Franklin VNA & Hospice

Press Release

Advanced Directives Event with Franklin VNA & Hospice was informative and inspiring

Franklin – To bring awareness to the importance of developing advanced directives Franklin VNA & Hospice held an informational session on April 16th, National Healthcare Decisions Day. They met with the public to educate about the importance of advance directives and were available to help in the process of completing them. Advance Directives are documents that put in writing what our wishes are for medical treatment. This conversation is one of the most important and possibly difficult conversations we have with our loved ones where we discuss what our wishes are for medical treatment if we were unable to speak for ourselves.

The discussion was led by Sherry Wilcox, Medical Social Worker for Franklin VNA & Hospice. She has extensive experience working with patients and families and she knows firsthand the importance of letting your wishes be known and getting these decisions in writing. Many times people are entering the final stages of their life and have never had a conversation with their loved ones or physician on what their choices are for life sustaining treatments.

Elaine Cartier, MHA, RN CPHN their Hospice Administrator at Franklin VNA & Hospice reinforced, “It’s so important for families to not be left wondering what would mom want?” She goes on to say that although the process can seem daunting and frightening when we think of our own end of life journey, it’s much more frightening to not have this discussion with our loved ones. “If we don’t wish to be kept alive by tubes and machines or if we want everything done, we need to tell someone; we need to put it in writing.”

In approachable and informal style, Wilcox educated the group on the language of these documents, how important it is to talk with your physician as well as your family, how to select a person who can speak for you, (a health care proxy) if you are unable to speak for yourself and what to do with these documents once they are completed.

Wilcox notes, “It’s so easy to put it off but with some guidance and an explanation of the process and the definitions of these documents it’s really not that difficult.”

She also provided resources with examples of wording, common questions and a list of websites to learn more. Everyone present got a packet with which to develop their Advanced Directives and Wilcox, a notary, was available to notarize them if anyone was ready.

If you missed this educational session and would like to learn more, please call Franklin VNA & Hospice at 934-3454 and ask to speak with Sherry or Elaine.

You have a choice in your homecare provider. Choose local, choose Franklin VNA & Hospice. They provide home care (nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, LNA, and homemaking services), Hospice, clinic and community education services to Andover, Belmont, Boscawen, Canterbury, Franklin, Hill, Laconia, Northfield, Sanbornton, Salisbury, Tilton, Webster and surrounding towns, as requested. **For more information, call Franklin VNA & Hospice at (603)934-3454 or visit www.FranklinVNA.org Your choice, your local VNA.**