

# Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment  
A Participating Program of National POLST

**April 2021**

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## POLST Focus for June CQEL Meeting

The Coalition for Quality at End-of-Life (CQEL) is convening their next meeting on **Thursday, June 24th** with a focus on updates from National and Pennsylvania POLST.

The session will also feature a presentation by Dr. Susan Tolle, Chair of the Oregon POLST Coalition and Director of the Center for Ethics in Healthcare. Dr. Tolle's presentation "Aligning POLST Orders with Wishes: Time to Put Evidence into Practice" will discuss different states' approaches to POLST quality assurance activities. The Journal of American Geriatrics Society recently published Dr. Tolle's editorial of the same title which discusses the importance of implementing best practices and five considerations of POLST use. The publication can be accessed [here](#) and additional details about the figures in the article is provided in a brief video "Do Not Count POLST Forms" [here](#).

If you are interested in attending the upcoming presentation, please RSVP to Nicole Greer at [greer@jhf.org](mailto:greer@jhf.org).

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## Jewish Healthcare Foundation & WQED Special

On February 24th, WQED hosted a virtual event which featured a screening of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation-produced documentary short [What COVID-19 Exposed in Long-Term Care](#). The 20-minute documentary explores the causes behind the COVID-19 crisis in long-term care across the country. The documentary screening was followed by documentary screening followed by a national panel of experts to discuss current trends in long-term care, what it means for seniors and their families, and what changes need to occur to support seniors in the future. Speakers included:

- **Alice Bonner, PhD, RN, FAAN**, Senior Advisor for Aging, Institute for Healthcare Improvement; and Director of Strategic Partnerships, Center for Innovative Care in Aging
- **Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN**, President and CEO, John A. Hartford Foundation
- **Bill Thomas, MD**, Founder and Chairman, Minka; Founder, Green House Project; and Co-founder, ChangingAging.org
- **Bobbi Jo Haden**, Vice President Retirement Services, Presbyterian SeniorCare Network
- **Karen Wolk Feinstein, PhD**, President and CEO, Jewish Healthcare Foundation

View a recording of the WQED screening and discussion [here](#).

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## Palliative Care Resources

The Pennsylvania POLST [website](#) now has a link to access additional palliative care training modules as part of a Goals of Care Education Series. The training videos were developed by Drs. Julie Childers, Rene Claxton and Jane Schell and powered by [VitalTalk](#) to improve providers' ability to have end-of-life conversations with patients and families. The recommended modules include:

- Reframing and Responding to Emotion, Part of the Goals of Care Education Series
- Mapping Values, Part of the Goals of Care Education Series
- Aligning and Proposing a Plan, Part of the Goals of Care Education Series

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## National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day is a nationwide day of observance to promote conversation about healthcare decisions and encourage discussions about the importance of advance care planning. National Healthcare Decisions Day is **Friday, April 16th** and additional resources can be found [here](#).

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## Upcoming Webinars

**National POLST** is hosting a five-part webinar series to promote the National POLST Technology Guide. The second webinar in the series on **Tuesday, May 18th at 3:30pm EST** will focus on how POLST is used by EMS and how technology can be improved. [Register here](#) or view the [list of webinars](#) on the National POLST website.

**Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition** is conducting a Pediatric Palliative Care Webinar Series to increase pediatric palliative care visibility and enhance clinician's competency. You can [register here](#) for upcoming webinars including *Big Pharma – Little People* on **Tuesday, April 20th at 3:00pm EST**.

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**Thank you for your continuing support of  
POLST.**

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Coalition for Quality at the End of Life (CQEL)

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