



Living Initiatives For End-Of-Life Care

Helping Kansans with advance, chronic and terminal illnesses live with dignity, comfort and peace

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Living near life's end is a reality that every one of us will face. It is the hope of the LIFE Project that this time in the life of every Kansan will be filled with dignity, comfort, peace and meaning. We know that this is only possible if Kansans' needs are identified and addressed and if public policy, professional education and public engagement all support Kansans and their families.

Near life's end, citizens deal with issues related to making important healthcare choices, creating and living meaningful days in life's last chapter and attending to personal and family concerns.

During 2004, the LIFE Project held a number of Town Hall meetings – all across Kansas—to listen to and learn from Kansans about their hopes and wishes about how they live as they near the end of life. The issues that they identified are the key focus of the work of the LIFE Project as we serve as the advocates for these citizens.

Kansans tell us that they want:

- Good pain and symptom management
- To have their wishes in care known and honored
- To be told the truth about their medical conditions and illness t
- To be treated respect
- To not be abandoned
- To avoid financial devastation
- To not be a burden to their families

The LIFE Monograph titled, "LIFE Matters: Achieving Excellence in Care for Kansans with Advanced Chronic and Terminal Illnesses" describes our learning and outlines the six movements that we believe are important to address the needs and wishes of Kansans.

In addressing these needs, the public policy spotlight focuses on issues related to pain management; advance care planning and the administering of artificial nutrition and hydration. It is these three critical issues that we will address today.

Our latest monograph, "Critical Issues in End-of-Life Care" was created to provide information, for you our policy leaders, as you consider these important needs for these most vulnerable citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you today and to work with you as partners in seeking to protect the needs of Kansans and enable quality of life –even at life's end.

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