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## **Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum Supports Furthering Advanced Care Planning and Increased LaPOST Education Across the State**

**MARCH 30, 2021. BATON ROUGE, La.** – The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum (LHCQF) strongly supports the need for increased education about advanced care planning and Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (POLST) documents for individuals who are seriously ill. As a data-driven organization that supports equitable health and healthcare improvement, LHCQF commits to furthering [LaPOST](#) efforts in Louisiana so that all patients with serious illness can actively participate in their own medical decision making – empowering their choices and honoring their wishes.

Studies have shown that patients who discuss and plan their goals of care receive improved, patient-centered treatment in the place they want it, whether it is at home, a hospital or a nursing home. In Louisiana, there are three advanced care planning documents available: The Advance Directive (Living Will), the Health Care Power of Attorney and a set of portable medical orders known as LaPOST. LHCQF shares these resources with patients, providers and policy makers to help navigate this often difficult yet critically important part of high-quality care.

Sadly, if patients with serious illness do not have their end-of-life care discussed and documented and their wishes are not made clear to providers and healthcare systems, they can receive unwanted medical intervention. The recent and heartbreaking incident in New York state, discussed in detail in Paula Span's New York times [article](#), illustrates this family's tragic experience. In 2021, there have been many processes developed so that health information and data can easily flow between health care systems and individual physician offices which includes POLST. This tragedy could have been avoided.

LHCQF stands by this announcement and will continue to support advanced care planning, as well as education and use of LaPOST and the LaPOST registry so that we can provide the best

care possible to the patients we are honored to serve. “We can, and we must do better. Our patients deserve it,” states Cindy Munn, CEO of LHCQF.

#### About LHCQF

The Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reshaping health care. Led by a volunteer Board of Directors, the Quality Forum serves as a neutral convener, bringing providers, purchasers, payers and consumers together to drive improvements in health care quality, safety and value for Louisiana residents.

#### About LaPOST

The Louisiana Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (LaPOST) document is a quality initiative of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum, a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to reshaping health care in Louisiana. Approved as Act 954 in the 2010 regular session of the State Legislature, LaPOST is an evidence-based model designed to improve end-of-life care for those with serious, advanced illnesses.