

TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION FUNDS \$10,000 GRANT TO HELP ACP PLANNING FOR “AT RISK” POPULATION

Fort Worth, Texas, December 8, 2017

The **Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care (CQEC)**, is pleased to announce that the **Texas Bar Foundation** has awarded \$10,000 in Scholarship money to train volunteers and healthcare workers in Advance Care Planning (ACP) for “**At Risk**” populations.

Although many think about “last wishes” late in life, all US landmark legal cases involved young adults in their 20s.

“We know that the most stressful thing one human being can do is make a life or death decision on behalf of another,” says Chaplain David Lowe, Director of Pastoral Care Baylor Scott & White Health. “Advance Care planning transforms the agent into an advocate who speaks on behalf of another vs. feeling responsible for ‘making’ a decision.”

By planning in advance, we are giving a gift of grace to our families, healthcare workers, and society at large. **CQEC trains** volunteers and professionals **in a proven credentialed method: “Respecting Choices® -Transforming person-centered care”** to help them facilitate good health care planning so that all parties are equally informed of their rights & responsibilities under the law.

Jaime Cobb, President of CQEC, states, “We frequently collaborate with others to reach “**at risk**” **populations** like the homeless, urban poor, elderly, infirm and LGBTQ communities. **Union Gospel Mission** is one of our partners. We are currently training their intake staff, social workers and nurse practitioners in the basics of Advance Directives. Other collaboratives are possible and funding from the **Texas Bar Foundation is helping us train and develop future leaders in ACP.**”

A virtual tsunami of aging is occurring. In 2013, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 44.7 million people 65 years and older. Currently, 1 in 7 Americans is over 65 years of age; by 2060, 1 in 4 residents of the US will be 65+. That would be about 98.2 million Senior Citizens and almost 20 million of those Americans will be 85+.³

As we are facing an aging population the need for the services becomes even more critical. However, **all adults over the age of 18 should have education** and decisions made regarding healthcare planning. Healthcare status can change in an instant. We have all seen catastrophic injury or illness sideline even the healthiest among us.

In La Crosse, Wisconsin approximately 95%⁴ of their population have advance directives; currently, we estimate that 10-15% of citizens in the Dallas-Fort Worth area have advance directives completed. CQEC is out to change that statistic for DFW!

We know that collaboration & training with legal, medical and other professionals will accomplish this. According to **CQEC Board member Karen Telschow Johnson**, “Whether it’s the youth or elder populations, attorneys provide their clients with peace of mind through proper preparation, information, and execution of healthcare documents and wills. Having the legal language and the medical language providing insight for families will make us all better advocates for those we hope to serve with intelligence and compassion.”

Since it’s inception in 1965, the **Texas Bar Foundation** has awarded more than \$18 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the **largest charitably-funded bar foundation**.

For **over 17 years**, dedicated professionals have volunteered their time, talent, and treasure to **CQEC** to move forward the conversation about quality end-of-life care in the **DFW area**. This nonprofit organization, officially **incorporated in 2007**, was born out of many years of serving seniors and others with catastrophic, chronic, or critical illnesses.

For scholarship information for those desiring ACP training and are willing to help the homeless, urban poor, elderly, infirm and LGBTQ communities, go to <http://www.coalitionqec.org>

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1 <http://www.gundersenhealth.org/respecting-choices/>

2 <http://www.gundersenhealth.org/respecting-choices/certification/>

3 <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2015/cb15-ff09.html>

4 <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2014/03/05/286126451/living-wills-are-the-talk-of-the-town-in-la-crosse-wis>

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