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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Advance Care Planning Task Force to Host Special Events to Honor National Healthcare Decisions Day**

(Mesa County, Colo.) – The Mesa County Advance Care Planning Task Force will host several events throughout the month of April focused on helping individuals create a plan for their future healthcare decisions in honor of National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) on April 16. These events range from panel discussions to workshops that will help people complete and understand advance care planning documents.

These valuable educational sessions will include information on completing advance directives and communicating end-of-life wishes to loved ones, appointing a healthcare power of attorney, and information regarding other advance care planning tools. Advance directives can be completed at some of the workshops.

The Mesa County Advance Care Planning Taskforce is hosting the following events:

- **April 2** - Movie & Discussion: Consider the Conversation, Mesa County Library, 443 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. An in-depth discussion and hands-on exercises regarding advance care planning. Please register for this event by visiting [MesaCountyLibraries.org](http://MesaCountyLibraries.org).
- **April 9** - The Conversation Project, Community Hospital, 2351 G Road, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Meet with Dr. Laura Campbell and learn how to start the conversation with your physician about advance directives.
- **April 16** - Putting it in Writing: Advance Care Planning Documents, Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main Street, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Learn more about advance directive documentation at BeaconFest.
- **April 23** – Thoughtful Endings: Panel Discussion, Mesa County Workforce Center, 512 29 ½ Road, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Meet with a panel of experts who will discuss the array of final options available in advance directives.

Those interested in attending these events can learn more through Western Colorado 2-1-1 by simply dialing 211 from a landline or 970-244-8400 from a cell phone.

“Preparing now, before a person becomes ill, is the best way to communicate to family and friends what your healthcare wishes are,” said Erica Eng, Community Hospital Director of Patient Experience and Advance Care Planning Task Force member.

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*April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day, a national initiative to encourage individuals to express their healthcare wishes through conversations and the completion of advance directives. More information can be found at [www.nhdd.org](http://www.nhdd.org).*