

TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION FUNDS \$22,450 GRANT TO HELP ADVANCE CARE PLANNING FOR “AT RISK” POPULATION
Fort Worth, Texas, November 21, 2018

The **Coalition for Quality End-of-Life Care (CQEC)**, is pleased to announce that the **Texas Bar Foundation** has awarded **\$22,450** for leadership development including scholarship money to train Instructors, volunteers and healthcare workers in Advance Care Planning (ACP) for the “**at risk**” population.

Although many think about “last wishes” late in life, all US landmark legal cases involved young adults with an accident or illness 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**”¹ to help them facilitate good health care planning so that all parties are equally informed of their rights & responsibilities under the law. The **generous funds from the Texas Bar Foundation** are providing the opportunity to invest in more instructors and facilitators in Respecting Choices® in Dallas/Fort Worth. **Historically, CQEC has reached 600-700** people annually in D/FW and with added instructors, this will further our reach focusing on “at risk” populations.

Jaime Cobb, President of CQEC, “Our goal is for **every adult over 18 to express** their wishes for care through advance care planning. CQEC is dedicated to reaching our underserved populations; those segments of society that are at risk for not being heard or understood. Collaborating with and training ACP facilitators in organizations like the **Union Gospel Mission** and congregations will help in leading a change in our culture. Other collaboratives are possible and with the funding from the **Texas Bar Foundation; they are helping us train and develop future leaders in ACP.**”

A virtual **tsunami of aging** is occurring. The 2013 U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 44.7 million people 65 years and more. Currently, 1 in 7 Americans is over 65 years of age; **in 2033, for the first time** in the US citizens **65+ will outnumber those under 18**. In 2060 there will be about 98.2 million Senior Citizens and almost 20 million of those Americans will be 85+.²

As we face an aging population, the need for our services becomes even more critical. Because healthcare status can change in an instant, and we have all seen catastrophic injury or illness even sideline the healthiest among us, **all adults over the age of 18 should have Advance Care Planning education** and decisions made regarding healthcare planning should be readily known by their loved ones.

Respecting Choices® was created and first implemented in **La Crosse, Wisconsin which has approximately 95%**³ of their population with advance directives. However, and in **stark contrast to those statistics**, we estimate that only **10-15% of the Dallas-Fort Worth** area population has completed advance directives. CQEC is out to change that statistic for DFW!

We know that collaboration and training with legal, medical and other professionals, we 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 its inception in 1965, the **Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$19 million in grants** to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the **nation’s largest charitably-funded bar foundation.**”

For **over 18 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 passionate about working with “at risk” communities go to <http://www.coalitionqec.org>

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¹ <https://respectingchoices.org/about-us/>

² <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2015/cb15-109.html>

³ <https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2014/03/05/286128451/living-wills-are-the-talk-of-the-town-in-la-crosse-wis>