

# NH CANCER PLAN COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE

## FILM GENERATES DISCUSSION ABOUT PERSONAL END-OF-LIFE PREFERENCES



Hospice Foundation of America coordinated a nationwide public awareness campaign on the importance of talking about end-of-life preferences and goals with loved ones and medical professionals.

Community screenings of the documentary, “Being Mortal”, are a way to start the conversation about advanced care planning.



### NH Cancer Plan Objective

- Objective 3: Increase access to quality end of life care.
  - Reduce the percentage of late referrals to hospice care.
  - Improve completion of and accessibility to Advanced Care Directives.

### Background

- About 33% of the general public have valid advanced directive documents in place.
- Having the conversation before a crisis allows each of us to consider and give voice to our wishes for medical care, if we could not speak for ourselves.
- Having advance care planning documents and conversations before a crisis allows the family and/or caregivers to know what you would want and not have to guess.

### Results

- Quality of Life Task Force members partnered with colleagues within their communities to host screenings of the film, “Being Mortal”, followed by panel discussions at:
  - Rivier University, Nashua
  - UNH Manchester
  - Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon
  - Portsmouth Hospital.

- Close to 200 people from community and healthcare settings attended.
- Panel discussions included questions about treatment options that might compromise quality of life.
- Participants expressed positive feelings about providers who ask their seriously ill patients, “What gives meaning to your life?”.

