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Alameda County Care Alliance

April 2021

Faith & Health Caring for the Community



Welcome to our first ACCA e-Newsletter!

This is such an exciting time for the Alameda County Collaborative Care Alliance. This year will mark the 8th year since our inception, born out of a needs assessment with faith leaders of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds, regional health system leaders, community partners and national representation from C-TAC (Coalition to Transform

Advanced Care).

Our local faith leaders clearly articulated a need for more assistance around care navigation and resource support for Caregivers and those persons in our communities who are dealing with chronic and serious illnesses. It was at the initial gathering that the ACCA was born! Since that time we have expanded not only in Alameda County but also to cohorts in both Contra Costa County and San Francisco County.

Thank you all for your support on so many levels to Bridge the Gaps in holistic care so that our communities can truly feel supported. We are grateful and proud to share that communities of color in our region are being empowered by the work of our Care Navigators and are completing advance care planning far above the national average.

Join us in the movement to *Tell Your Story*. There could be no better time than Now!

Rev. Cynthia Carter Perriliat, MPA
Executive Director
Alameda County Collaborative Care Alliance

April 16th is National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) is an annual event that exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and health care providers about the importance of advance care planning.

Advance care planning is the process of thinking, discussing, and ultimately documenting your wishes, values, and preferences for your future care in the event you are unable to speak for yourself. This includes selecting a health care agent to carry out these wishes.

Founded in 2008, NHDD's purpose was to provide clear, concise, and consistent information on healthcare decision-making. Today, NHDD is recognized through a series of independent events held across the country on or around **April 16th**, to bring attention to this important and often

uncomfortable topic.

*Empower yourself and your family by
Engaging in Conversation around advance care planning.*

According to a recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation, only 1/3 of Americans have their wishes documented. Rates are far lower for African American adults over 65, where only 19% have their wishes documented.

In 2018 and 2019, the ACCA participated in NHDD through our “I Choose to Prepare - Tell Your Story” community event, that encouraged the discussion of advance care planning preparation in a positive, empowering and joyful manner through music, dance, spoken word, and the other creative expressions from our churches and community.

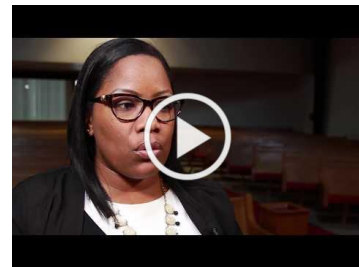
This year, what will you do?

Tell Your Story

Watch these short videos of our own Care Navigators, **Rev. Jesse Land** and **Alexis Owens**, as they tell their story about the importance of advance care planning.



These videos were submitted to the inaugural **Sharecare Awards competition** and were selected as a finalist in the Caregiving/End of Life category. The Sharecare Awards is in association with The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, New York Chapter, which fosters creativity and inspires artistic and technical excellence through the renowned Emmy® Award.



ACCA's Care Planning Workbook



We are excited about our newly designed Care Planning Workbook!

This advance care planning guide was originally developed in 2019 by the ACCA, specifically for the faith-based African American community. ACCA Leadership, Care Navigators and Pastors were all lead contributors to this effort. In 2020, the Care Planning Workbook received a professional makeover thanks to funding provided through the UC Davis School of Nursing and Research. Dr. Jill Joseph, longtime partner of the ACCA and lead developer for the workbook, was instrumental in securing these necessary funds.

We are so proud to be able to provide this important workbook to our program participants. Our Care Navigators are specially trained to walk participants through the 3 easy-to-follow steps of **Think, Plan** and **Do**. Care Navigators help guide participants in thinking through what is important to them, what makes their life meaningful and how they can document those wishes on the included forms. The workbook also features information on what treatments are available at the end-of-life, how to have discussions with family, friends, and their

clinicians and how to select a health care agent.

As one of the Five Cornerstones of our Advanced Illness Care Program, Advance Care Planning is an integral part of our work with participants. And the COVID-19 pandemic has helped to bring a greater awareness to our community on the importance of documenting your wishes.

If you would like to learn more about how to get a copy of our Care Planning Workbook, please contact us at info@care-alliance.org.

Recognizing Our Churches

In 2013 the Alameda County Care Alliance was formed by 5 hub churches – Allen Temple Baptist Church, Center of Hope Community Church, Family Bible Fellowship, Glad Tidings COGIC, and Greater St. John MBC. Today, the ACCA’s network of churches includes more than 42 churches in Alameda County, Contra Costa County, and San Francisco, and we continue to add to the list!

Our churches are the backbone of the work we do, enabling us to expand outreach not only to people within our churches, but to the broader community as well. People dealing with advanced illnesses and their Caregivers of all backgrounds should know we exist to serve you!

In many of our churches appointed champions help identify and refer congregation members to a designated Care Navigator for possible program enrollment, referral to helpful resources and personal empowerment. We are grateful for the involvement and support of our partner churches. Please let us know if you or your church would like more information on ACCA or to be part of this movement. Contact: info@care-alliance.org

Alameda County Churches

- Acts Full Gospel
- Allen Temple Baptist Church
- Bay Area Christian Connection Church
- Beebe Memorial CME
- Berkeley Mt. Zion MBC
- Beth Eden Baptist
- Canaan Covenant
- Center of Hope
- Church by the Side of the Road
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Church Without Walls
- Covenant Church
- East Bay Church of Religious Science
- Faith Fellowship
- Family Bible Fellowship
- First AME
- Friendship Christian Center
- Glad Tidings COGIC
- Greater New Mt. Hermon Baptist Church
- Greater St John MBC
- McGee Avenue
- Miracles of Faith
- Solid Rock COGIC
- South Bay Community Church
- St. Paul AME
- Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
- Taylor Memorial
- Word Assembly

Contra Costa County Churches

- Bethlehem MBC
- Diane Avenue Church of Christ
- First Baptist Church Pittsburg
- Garden of Peace
- Greater El Bethel MBC
- Parchester First Baptist
- Second Baptist Church of Martinez
- Sojourner Truth Presbyterian
- St. John MBC
- St. Peter CME
- True Faith Baptist
- True Fellowship

San Francisco Churches

- First Friendship Institutional Baptist Church
- Third Baptist Church

Where the ACCA Works

In Partnership With Health Systems

We are working closely with health care

Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Senior Housing

systems to pilot a partnership with the ACCA Advanced Illness Care Program and work directly with referred patients.

Thanks to funding by the Stupski Foundation, we are close to launching a 3-year pilot with Kaiser Permanente Oakland. A designated Care Navigator will be working closely with Kaiser patients referred through this pilot to provide services and resources across our Five Cornerstone Holistic Approach to Care.

And for the past year we have worked closely with LifeLong West Berkeley and now AHS Palliative Services through small pilots that we hope to continue to build upon.

Bringing faith, health and community partners to the table will allow us to walk alongside those persons dealing with advanced illness and their devoted Caregivers.

The work of the ACCA also extends to Nursing Homes, Assisted Living and Senior Housing facilities. Wherever support is needed for those dealing with advanced illness and Caregiver collaboration we are here to serve.

We work alongside Administrators and Social Workers in facilities to not only provide additional resources and empowerment for residents and family members but also trainings for staff on Caregiver support, Grief and Loss, Advance Care Planning, Palliative Care and other relevant topics.

ACCA Is Hiring!!

We are currently recruiting for an Assistant Director to support the ongoing program and expansion work of the ACCA. The position is currently funded at half-time, and is anticipated to increase to a full-time position as additional funding is secured.

Please see the [job posting](#) for more information.

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Contact Us



Alameda County Care Alliance is a program of Public Health Institute