

Larry Hogan
Governor

Rona E. Kramer
Secretary



Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

We wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity to promote advance care planning in your community and Maryland... **April 16 has been designated a National Healthcare Decisions Day!** The National Healthcare Decisions Day Initiative is a collaborative effort of national, state and community organizations committed to ensuring that all adults with decision-making capacity in the United States have the information and opportunity to communicate and document their healthcare decisions.

For more information, visit <http://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/NHDD.aspx> or <http://www.nhdd.org/>.

The Maryland Department of Aging is proudly participating in this event along with Maryland Office of the Attorney General, AARP Maryland and others to bring awareness about these important issues across the country. If you have not already done so, please sign up your organization at: <http://www.nhdd.org/join/#sign-up> and confirm your participation.

National Healthcare Decisions Day seeks to address the public's misunderstandings about advance healthcare planning and advance directives, including that:

- A living will and a healthcare power of attorney are the same;
- Advance directives are only used for limiting care;
- A lawyer is needed to draft an advance directive and/or that it is hard to do;
- Severe illness or a catastrophic injury will never happen to them.

Ultimately, National Healthcare Decisions Day strives to provide much-needed information to the public, reduce the number of tragedies that occur when a patient's wishes are unknown, and improve the ability of healthcare facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advance healthcare planning to their patients.

--We thank you for joining us in making this initiative a success.