FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF) Partners with Roaring Fork Family Practice to Launch Advance Directives Support Campaign


As the world acts to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, there has perhaps been no better opportunity to engage in conversation about care preferences and end-of-life wishes. Hospitalized COVID-19 patients are on ventilators, and visitors are not allowed inside hospitals, the combination of which makes it almost impossible to engage in conversations about health care preferences and decision-making, highlighting the importance of having advance directives.

In advance of that scenario, now is an important time to bring up a difficult but critical conversation topic with loved ones — advance care planning and advance directives. According to the Mayo Clinic, advance directives “guide choices for doctors and caregivers if you're terminally ill, seriously injured, in a coma, in the late stages of dementia or near the end of life.”

Carbondale’s Emergency Task Force and Roaring Fork Family Practice aim to assist the community in bringing this issue to the forefront, and encourage individuals, no matter what stage of life, to talk with family and complete the necessary steps to capture health preferences in writing. The CETF has trained a team of volunteers who are available to provide support for crafting a written document of advance directives outlining suitable directions for medical and health care at the point of critical care. Community members who need support will be connected with a trained volunteer to review information and talk through possible plans.

“The Task Force is determined to have Carbondale emerge from this crisis stronger than when we entered it. Our partnership with Roaring Fork Family Practice on the advanced directives campaign is a great example of how we are doing that,” said Dan Richardson, mayor of Carbondale. “The Carbondale community is fortunate to have Dr. Gary Knaus and Dr. Chad Knaus offering their assistance in helping people make well-informed healthcare decisions. I am grateful for their service.”

“One of the most important conversations we can have with our families and our physicians is about what we believe and value around making decisions about medical treatment. It is easily put off till tomorrow but much of what we see now is very sobering and we hope it will prompt some to begin think more about this, young and older,” said Dr. Gary Knaus MD, senior
practitioner at Roaring Fork Family Practice. “Your physicians are always willing to help with this conversation and the task force has volunteers available to help begin the process. Be safe/stay healthy/love those around you.”

The following documents below can be downloaded at the Task Force webpage: https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/


Members of the community who would like guidance on creating their own advance directives can arrange a support phone call by calling or emailing the Task Force health lead, Ryn Calhoon RN: (970 510- 6053/ Carbondale.tf@gmail.com

The Town of Carbondale has established the Carbondale Emergency Task Force (CETF), a collective group of volunteer and organizational expertise from across the community that will provide support and guidance to the town in key areas of the potential impact from the COVID-19 global pandemic public health crisis. The community is encouraged to visit the CETF webpage and the English and Spanish language CEFT Facebook pages for all public announcements and updates from the task force, including news alerts and direction on public health from the state and county:
https://www.carbondalegov.org/government/emergency/
https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleETF
https://www.facebook.com/Grupo-de-Trabajo-de-Emergencia-de-Carbondale

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