

### ***Supporting Family Decisions for Patients in Medical Crisis***

As Florida cases of COVID-19 exponentially increase, family member decisions on behalf of ICU/CCU patients will also increase, as will the need for social work services to help unprepared family members struggling to make critical decisions about their loved ones' care. This session presents key elements of the decision-making process framed through Florida statutes, decision influences, and post-decision follow-up services.

**Framework:** Florida Statute §765, Health Care Advance Directives

- Overview: History of Health Care Advance Directives Statute
- Explanation of Roles: Preplanned v. Unplanned: Patients, Family Members, Social Work Proxy
- Legal Decision Requirements: Written, Verbal

**Decision-Making Processes:** The Medical Environment, Communications, Client/Self-Care

- Work Within Facilities and With Medical Teams
- Medical/Environmental Processes/Stressors: Informed Consent Process, Family Dynamics
- Assessing Decision-Makers: Who Decides? How to Prepare? (*HSPS*, Buckey & Abel)
- Working Within Western Medicine: Spiritual and Cultural Influences

**Post-Decision Events:**

- "What Do I Say? How?"
- Follow Up: Services and Referrals
- Clinicians and Self-Care

### **Articles/Resources**

Buckey, J. W., & Molina, O. (2012). Honoring patient care preferences: Surrogates speak. *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*, 65(4), 269-292. doi: 10.2190/OM.65.4.b10.2190/OM.65.4.b

Li, L., Nelson, J. W., Hanson, L. C., Cox, C.E., Carson, S. S., Chai, E. J., Keller, K.L., Tulskey, J. A., & Danis, M. (2018). How surrogate decision-makers for patients with chronic critical illness perceive and carry out their role. *Critical Care Medicine*, 46(5), 699-704. <https://doi.org/10.1097/CCM.0000000000003035>

Cohen, S. M., Lee, R.Y., Engelberg, R. A., Curtis, J. R., Hough, C. L. et al. (2017). Psychosocial impacts on respiratory health and critical illness: Surrogate decision-making roles and psychological distress in families of patients surviving critical illness. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 195, A6732.