2020 Accomplishments

During this challenging year, Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey (GOCCNJ) worked tirelessly to develop and deliver quality public service programming to address end-of-life care in New Jersey and to advocate for New Jersey’s most vulnerable residents, including those living in long-term care and their families. The devastating impact of COVID-19 in these facilities imposed an immediate need for advance care planning services and set our efforts in motion. At the same time, we continued to advance our mission of advocacy to ensure that all patients in New Jersey receive the care they need and no less, and the care they want and no more regardless of race, color and socioeconomic status.
Response to COVID-19

Helped over 8,000 patients, families, healthcare decision-makers and medical/legal professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic learn about advance directives and how to complete POLST forms.

Developed specific recommendations for the NJ Governor and Department of Health to implement in advance of the expected second wave of the coronavirus to help align treatment with patient’s goals of care and improve understanding of and access to palliative and hospice care services.

Called on Governor Murphy to send the National Guard into nursing homes to help care for residents; shaped NJ government and medical community response through regular media outreach, letters-to-the-editor, and coordination with coalition members.
partners with Hollywood legends to increase awareness about POLST.

Advocated for legislation
aimed at improving end-of-life care
by working with state legislators
and public health officials to
pass 3 new laws to improve
awareness and education
about advance care planning
and end-of-life care options.

Developed first in class tool and training program
for hospital chaplains and
community-based clergy
to facilitate goals of care conversations.

Promoted systemic change in medical education
by working with NJ’s medical schools to develop a systematic
needs assessment of the end-of-life and
palliative care skills training.

Created the ONLY certification program in
advance care planning
for clinical social workers.