



## Quarterly Newsletter

April 2026

### President's Message

It's hard to believe that April has already arrived, and with it the fast-approaching National POLST Collaborative Conference, *Convening to Improve Serious Illness Care!* This year's gathering promises to be an energizing and meaningful opportunity for all of us committed to advancing high-quality, person-centered care for individuals living with serious illness. If you haven't yet done so, now is the perfect time to complete your conference and hotel registration so we can finalize plans for what is shaping up to be our best event yet.



Throughout the conference, attendees will experience a full day of camaraderie, connection, and learning with colleagues from across the country. We will begin with an in-depth look at **The State of the National POLST Collaborative**, including highlights of 2025 accomplishments, an overview of current initiatives, a preview of 2026 goals, and key updates on ongoing advocacy efforts.

Participants will also receive **Review and Guidance for the New POLST Form**, ensuring clarity, alignment, and practical understanding for those implementing the updated structure and standards.

A **Portability Progress Roundtable Discussion** will invite multiple perspectives on how to strengthen interstate and inter-system POLST transfer. Additionally, **Regional and Special Interest Tabletop Discussions** — alongside poster exhibits — will offer opportunities for interactive dialogue and shared learning tailored to your areas of focus.

We will explore how to use POLST to **Improve Care and Performance on the 4M Metrics**, supporting work that matters deeply across serious illness care settings. Brief, high-impact **POLST Points** sessions will provide take-home updates and ideas you can immediately put into practice.

### Upcoming Events

2026 In-Person  
National POLST  
Collaborative  
Conference

*NPC - Convening to  
Improve Serious  
Illness Care*

**Date:** April 16, 2026  
Time: 10:00 a.m. –  
3:30 p.m., followed by  
a networking event

**Location:** Ochsner  
Campus, Benson  
Tower, New Orleans,  
Louisiana

***Virtual option now  
available!***

**Register Now**

We will wrap up with a Q&A session and conclude the day with a lively **Networking Event**, offering time to reconnect, build relationships, and celebrate the work we do together.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Committee Updates

### Research and Quality Assurance Committee

The Research and Quality Assurance Committee has updated the National POLST form Guidance (available [here](#)). Thank you to the committee members and to Jennifer Ballentine, who provided editorial and content assistance. New elements include a table to more simply explain how POLST orders translate into treatment, and an explanation of the process to void POLST orders.

### Technology Committee

The technology committee has been working on a “White Paper” on *Developing Effective POLST Registry Systems: A White Paper for States and Health Care Systems ~ Overview of Strategies for Implementation, Integration, and Optimization* and a series of webinars to get all of us up to date on the evolution of state registries. Perhaps we can influence the Legacy Act and Reps. Suozzi/Murphy?

First look at the NPC conference in NOLA - join us!

### Education Committee

The Education Committee continues to advance national education initiatives, with a key focus on the development of new POLST educational modules designed to strengthen serious illness communication and support effective POLST implementation. The five-module curriculum, currently piloted in Massachusetts, is being reviewed to assess opportunities for broader national adaptation. The committee is also discussing tailoring educational materials to accommodate state-specific POLST forms and policies, emphasizing the importance of flexible resources that can be used across diverse programs.

To support this work, the committee is organizing several focused subgroups to move priority projects forward. These groups will concentrate on nursing home education, reviewing and prioritizing existing National POLST resources, and coordinating the development of POLST education modules. In addition, the committee is exploring learning management system (LMS) options to host educational content and improve

access to training materials nationwide, helping strengthen the National POLST education infrastructure and expand high-quality learning opportunities for programs across the country

## Committee Interest

### *Interested in getting more involved?*

Expressions of interest in committee or future Board service are welcome. Types of committees are Education, Forms Consultation, Technology, Research and Quality Assurance, Federal & State Policy Education.

## Committee Interest Form



## NPC Membership Renewal

Membership to the National POLST Collaborative (NPC) runs from June 1 to May 31. State Program Membership renewal invoices will be sent by April 1, 2026.

If you are new and are interested in joining NPC, there are three member categories:

- State Program Membership: Designed for official POLST programs at the state or territory level.
- Organizational Membership: Ideal for health systems, academic institutions, national partners, or regional programs.
- Individual Membership: For healthcare professionals, advocates, and champions of person-centered serious illness care.

To learn more about member benefits, prices or to fill out an application, please go to the [POLST website](#).

## Federal Policy Update

The **Improving Access to Advance Care Planning Act (S.2865)** aims to expand Medicare-covered advance care planning (ACP) by eliminating cost-sharing and allowing additional clinicians, including clinical social workers, to provide and bill for ACP services. It also promotes better provider education and reporting to increase appropriate ACP use.

The **Medicare Advance Planning for Care Act (S.3473)** encourages Medicare beneficiaries to voluntarily adopt advance directives by supporting conversations that help ensure future medical decisions reflect patient values and documented preferences.

The **Legacy Act (H.R.5861)** addresses the frequent inability to locate end-of-life documents. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the National Academies to develop a secure, national system for storing and retrieving "last-wish documents," (they obviously didn't read the serious illness messaging toolkit that NPC participated in to get this and we have asked for improvement!) such as advance directives, proxies, and living wills, ensuring patient wishes are accessible when needed.

**All Member Meeting Quarter 1 Summary**

The National POLST Collaborative brings together members and the larger POLST community once per quarter to share news, updates and insights. The first 2026 quarterly meeting focused on updates for the April 16 in-person conference, a walkthrough of the new NPC website, and a lengthy advocacy update and discussion.

Future meetings include: April 16, September 17 and December 17. *Information on how to join will be sent out prior to each meeting.*

Please join us!



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