



The *EthicsLab Essentials* provides a core curriculum designed to enrich ethics committee members through a podcast and website format. A podcast format was chosen due to its easy accessibility and learning schedule flexibility for the listener.

Episode: Traction: Innovative Practices Honoring Patient Wishes.

Description:

Health care professionals, patients and family members could all agree that patient wishes about their care are important and need to be respected. Why then, nationally, do only 30 percent of adults have an advance directive that documents those wishes? Given that statistic, how could the town of La Crosse, Wisconsin, achieve the surprising goal that 96% of people who die there have an advance directive or similar documentation...such a difference from the national average? Some wonder how to begin such a conversation while others ask what the best systems to put in place are? Yes, there are better tools, practices and systems that can help us.

Process:

Have your ethics team members listen to this podcast prior to your regular ethics committee meeting. Then, at your meeting facilitate a discussion and application of the episode around the following questions.

Facilitation Questions:

1. What are the biggest pattern of challenge to honoring a patient's wishes that you have identified through your ethics consultation service?
2. What is your current method for honoring patient wishes through advance directives/POLST or other formats within your entity? How might that process be improved in the next 3 to 6 month timeframe?
3. Given the approaches discussed in this episode (*The Conversation Project* and *Respecting Choices*) what advice or tools could your ethics committee champion and utilize in your entity?