



## June 15 Community Advisory Council Summary

By Grace Martin, Founder of Lexington Writing Firm

On June 15, the Minnesota Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) hosted a statewide forum for patient/resident and family advisors serving in health systems. Believing that patient, resident, and family input is critical to safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, MAPS launched this innovative Council for virtually sharing concerns, perspectives, and insights.

Catherine Hinz (Executive Director), Lisa Juliar (Engagement Specialist/Patient Partner), and Megan Daman (Project Manager) led the meeting, which focused on creating a deliverable with the Council's insights and recommendations for healthcare organizations regarding "care partners."

In an effort to elevate patient, resident, and family perspectives and experiences, the MAPS team encourages anyone with a story about safety during COVID-19 to contact [chinz@mnpatientsafety.org](mailto:chinz@mnpatientsafety.org). MAPS hopes to share and amplify patient stories.

**Council research:** Prior to the discussion, Council members reviewed "[Person-Centered Guidelines for Preserving Family Presence in Challenging Times](#)," a document published by Planetree International. The Council also reviewed statements made by Midwestern hospitals about evolving visitor guidelines.

**Discussion of care partner deliverable to Minnesota healthcare leaders:** This week's energetic discussion focused on finalizing a resource to share the Council's insights about care partners and evidence that an in-person care partner is essential to patient safety. Council members evaluated and assessed the Planetree document, and all members agreed that the document is insightful and valuable. In addition, MAPS and the council members are creating a more concise, actionable description of care partners that focuses on Minnesotan healthcare systems and long-term care facilities.

Council member Beth W. explained the overarching goal, "We really need to hone in on the importance of an in-person care partner." The document is being written specifically for healthcare leaders, but will also be useful for healthcare providers, patients, residents, and loved ones.

**Key takeaways for health systems:** MAPS and the Council are working together to finalize the document for healthcare leaders in Minnesota. Understanding that healthcare is rapidly changing and evolving to meet the needs of patients/residents and ensure safety during COVID-19, participants are working to deliver a useful resource soon.

For more information about the MAPS Community Advisory Council weekly conversations and the upcoming deliverable, email [info@mnpatientsafety.org](mailto:info@mnpatientsafety.org).