



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***The Carolinas Center & the SC Coalition for the Care of the Seriously Ill (CSI) Announce Community Recipients of BlueCross® BlueShield® of South Carolina Foundation Grant***

*Columbia, SC – June 1, 2018*—The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care, along with the South Carolina Coalition for the Care of the Seriously Ill (CSI), is pleased to announce the five community recipients of funds provided through the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation Grant for the SC Advance Care Planning (ACP) Initiative. Community Outreach Partners are: Agapé Senior Foundation, West Columbia; AnMed Health, Anderson; HospiceCare of the Piedmont, Greenwood; Palmetto Health, Columbia; and Tideland Health, Georgetown.

The five recipients were selected through a RFP (Request for Proposal) process, during which they submitted evidence of the demographics of the residents in their communities that meet the criteria for this project—communities characterized by predominantly low income, underserved, uninsured and/or rural populations.

The overall purpose of the grant is to improve the quality of and accessibility to advance care planning conversations through shared health care decision making for all South Carolinians, through awareness, education, collaboration and establishing a statewide repository/directory to allow access and retrieval of advance care planning documentation.

The BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is committed to improving healthcare for all South Carolinians, particularly the economically disadvantaged. Executive Director Erika Kirby said, “We are excited that the first phase of this grant is complete, and your efforts towards this goal are encouraged and commended.”

“CSI partners are excited as well” said Marisette Hasan, President & CEO for The Carolinas Center. “We are grateful to BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation for this exciting opportunity for these five Community Outreach Partners to make a positive difference for the residents of South Carolina.”

Dr. John Ropp, CSI Chair and Advance Care Planning Initiative Medical Advisor, agrees that this is a wonderful opportunity to further the reach of the advance care planning process in these particular communities. "We are thrilled that the Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina Foundation recognizes that advance care planning is a critical need for all citizens of our state," he adds. "ACP is truly about taking care of ourselves and one another."

*BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.*