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## POLST Update

### Statewide POLST Conference Draws Large Attendance

On March 30, more than 265 health care professionals and others from across the state participated in the California's statewide POLST conference.

Speakers included Senator Lois Wolk (author of AB 3000); Kathleen Billingsley with the Department of Public Health, Emergency Medical Services Authority Director Steve Tharratt, MD, and other leading experts. Participants shared their experiences with and expertise about POLST to help educate each other about best practices.

To download conference materials, visit <http://finalchoices.org/events.html>.

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### POLST Model Policies & Procedures Now Available

Model policies and procedures for [acute care hospitals](#) and [skilled nursing facilities](#) are now available on the CCCC website. Model policies for hospice providers are in development.

The model policies were developed by the POLST Task Force model policy committee, led by Lori Dangberg with the Alliance of Catholic Healthcare.

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### New Report on POLST Activities in California

Collaborative, multi-organizational coalitions are leading local POLST implementation efforts in communities throughout California. [POLST in California Communities: First-Year Experience and Lessons Learned](#) provides an overview of the first-year experience of the initial eight POLST communities and offers ideas for others interested in bringing POLST to their locale.


Kathy Glasmire with the Center for Healthcare Decisions authored the report.

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### New POLST Project Manager Joins CCCC

Erin Henke has joined CCCC as POLST Project Manager. She will work closely with the local POLST coalitions and serve as the central person for coordinating POLST communication and education.

Before joining CCCC, Erin worked as Director of Communications &



Community Relations at Hospice by the Bay. In addition, she co-chaired the community-based San Francisco End-of-Life Network for many years. Prior to moving to the Bay Area, Erin worked for the American Medical Association conducting market research regarding physicians and fostering relationships with state and local medical societies.

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### **Federal Legislation on POLST Introduced**

US Representatives (Blumenauer, Boustany, Davis of Kentucky, Kind, Tiberi, and Yarmuth) have introduced federal legislation to recognize POLST nationally. [HR 1898: "The Life Sustaining Treatment Preferences Act of 2009"](#) would facilitate payment for POLST conversations.

For information or to submit a letter regarding the legislation, contact Congressman Blumenauer's aide at [christa.shively@state.or.us](mailto:christa.shively@state.or.us)

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