Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

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The Dream of a Common Language

Newport Beach, California
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9:15-9:20: Welcome and Introduction
9:20-9:50: Keynote
9:50 to 10:15: Discussion
10:15: Book-signing in Lobby
Active Living

Cure

Gray Zone

Active Dying

Hospice
Phases of the Grey Zone

Decline and Disability

House of Cards (Frailty)

Prelude to Dying

Rehabilitate

Reduce Risk

Comfort Care

Preserve

Protect

Plan

Credit: © 2016 Katy Butler, author, *Knocking on Heaven’s Door*
The Arc of Physical Life

- Birth (0)
- Youth (5, 15, 25)
  - Infections & Broken Bones
  - Car Accidents & Violence
  - Drugs
- Middle Age (35, 45, 55)
  - Lifestyle Diseases
  - Curative Medicine
  - Surgery
- Old Age (65, 75, 85, 95, 100)
  - Threshold To Old Age
  - Physical Decline
  - House of Cards
  - Prelude To Dying And Death
  - Hospice
  - No ER
  - ER
  - ER
  - ER
  - ER
  - ER
  - ER
  - Surgery
  - ER
  - ER
  - ER
The Arc of Meaning

MAKING A SELF
- Making
- Effort
- Independence
- Learning
- Working
- Persistence

GROWING UP
- Dependence
- I - Thou with Mother
- Ground of Being

BUILDING A LIFE
- Striving
- Achieving
- Coupling
- Impressing
- Mentoring

CREATING A LEGACY
- Understanding the Meaning of One’s Life
- I - Thou with Caregivers
- Letting Go
- Generosity
- Acceptance

PERSON OF NO RANK
- Status

SUBORDINATE
- Ground of Being

MAKING MEANING
- Death
Non-Kitchen Table Language

Progressive
Prognosis
Advanced

Goals of Care
Multiple organ systems failure
Chart the Future

• You are approaching the end of your life.

• I wouldn’t be surprised if your mother died within a year.
Language of Commitment

I will do my best to make sure that your mother is comfortable and pain free to the end.

Language of Abandonment

Are you willing to withdraw care?
Barriers to a Common Language

Time
Fragmentation
Reimbursement
Lack of Training
Fear

Everyone waits for someone else to speak.