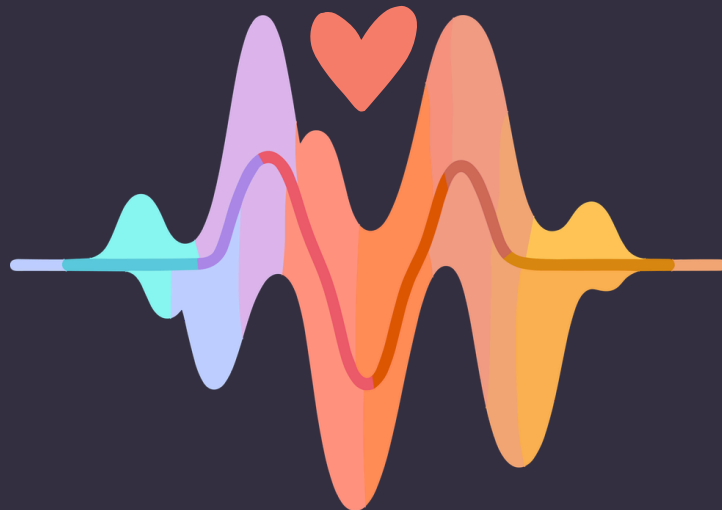




LISTENING WITH PURPOSE:

CENTERING VOICES THAT SHAPE
COMPASSIONATE CARE



SWHPN GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

Please read this guide in its entirety for requirements and helpful tips
before submitting your abstract.

SWHPN Guidelines FOR SUBMITTING AN ABSTRACT

Please read this guide in its entirety for requirements and helpful tips before submitting your abstract.

The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN) Conference Committee invites you to submit an abstract for our Annual Forum, which will take place in **Denver, Colorado** this year from **June 22-24, 2027**.

Conference Schedule

- **June 22, 2027:** Registration & Welcome Reception
- **June 23, 2027:** Educational Sessions
- **June 24, 2027:** Educational Sessions

The 2027 theme is **"Listening with Purpose: Centering Voices That Shape Compassionate Care."** This conference aims to bring together palliative and hospice social workers to explore the power of connection, resilience, and shared purpose. In a care landscape shaped by systemic inequities, shifting policies, and ongoing challenges in service delivery, this forum provides a space to reflect, learn, and grow together. Through expert-led sessions and engaging dialogue, we seek to empower participants and strengthen our collective commitment to equitable, compassionate, and person-centered care.

SWHPN'S MISSION

SWHPN enhances hospice and palliative care social work through mentorship, education, community building, and advocacy as change agents committed to equity and anti-racism. We start with ourselves to dismantle harms perpetuated within the systems in which we exist.

Call for Abstracts

We encourage submissions from both new and experienced hospice and palliative care professionals. We especially welcome proposals from presenters whose voices, perspectives, or experiences have been historically underrepresented. We seek presentations that reflect diverse populations, cultures, workplaces, identities, and care settings. Consistent with SWHPN's commitment to accessibility and inclusion, approved presenters will receive discounted registration for the Annual Forum.

If travel to the forum is a barrier for you, please reach out to us at info@swhpn.org to explore additional assistance opportunities.

Abstracts should clearly demonstrate alignment with one or more of the following aims:

- Critically examine and integrate diverse cultural and structural perspectives in palliative and end-of-life care to promote inclusive practice
- Identify innovative strategies, interventions, programs or models that promote and sustain psychosocial care
- Foster interprofessional collaboration, effective communication and teamwork within hospice and palliative care teams, and between social work and other disciplines
- Analyze the impact of different social work models within hospice and palliative care
- Identify metrics for evaluating the impact of psychosocial care
- Advance psychosocial and spiritual knowledge and skills for social workers and interdisciplinary palliative care professionals
- Present new research or case studies on the effects of chronic illness, medical treatment and palliative care on individuals, families, and communities
- Identify risk factors for psychosocial or spiritual distress among patients and families in hospice or palliative care
- Explore policies, legislation, and ethical issues affecting social work and related disciplines in hospice and palliative care
- Integrate research findings and practice interventions across palliative care settings and populations

We are accepting proposals for the following formats:

- 60-minute Presentation (includes time for Q+A)
 - We will have a limited number of spots for 90-minute Symposia - please indicate when submitting your abstract if you would be willing to extend your presentation to 90 minutes if asked
- Poster Presentation

How to submit an abstract:

Before submitting, all presenters must complete the SWHPN Presenter Self-Reflection Tool to ensure their abstract aligns with SWHPN's mission and values. This tool helps presenters thoughtfully integrate antioppressive frameworks into their content.

Abstracts are to be submitted via the [Online Form](#)

You may submit **up to two abstracts** as primary author for consideration. All abstracts must be submitted by **11:59 pm PST on January 11th, 2027**.

Completing the Online Abstract Submission Form

Registration Information

Enter your name, address, email, phone number, and organizational information. (Note: You do not need to be a SWHPN member to submit an abstract).

Presentations & Posters

Provide the following information for each presenter:

- Name
- Professional title
- Highest degree earned
- Relevant professional licenses or credentials
- 2-3 sentence professional biography
- Photo/headshot
- Resume/CV in PDF or Word document

Identify the corresponding author if applicable and include their email and phone number.

Presentation Type

Select your presentation type for each submission:

- 60-minute Presentation
 - Please indicate if you would be willing to extend to a 90-minute Symposium if asked
- Poster Presentation

Presentation Title

The title of your abstract. (25 words maximum)

Brief Description

Include a 2-3 sentence overview of your presentation. This description will be used in the program to help participants decide which presentations to attend. (50 words maximum)

Length

Maximum abstract length: 300 words (excluding title and learning objectives)

Format

Format your abstract based on the type of presentation or poster. Use the bold headings below for the format you choose. Do not include citations in your abstract.

Results of a Research Study

1. Purpose: State the purpose of the study.
2. Methods: Include study design, sampling plan (with N), and measures (if not obvious in Results). Describe the intervention, if applicable.
3. Results: Present the main findings. Be specific. Include selected data for quantitative studies.
4. Conclusion: Describe the practice and/or policy implications.

Practice and/or Policy

1. Purpose: State the purpose of the presentation or poster.
2. Description: Describe the project.
3. Conclusion: State the practice and/or policy implications
4. Create your own...

Case study

1. Purpose. State the purpose of the case study.
2. Case Narrative. Briefly describe the case.
3. Conclusion. State the practice and/or policy implications.

Symposium

- Purpose: State the purpose of the symposium or workshop.
- Speaker 1: Provide the information listed above for an individual research, practice/policy, or case study presentation.
- Additional Speakers: Follow the same format as for Speaker 1.
- Conclusion: For the symposium or workshop.

Learning objectives

Identify 3 learning objectives for your presentation. Learning objectives are not required for poster submissions. Learning objectives should be specific and measurable. Please refer to [NASW's CE Content Development Guidelines](#) for further guidance.

Identifying Keywords

Keywords help attendees identify presentations that best match their interests, practice settings, and learning needs

When submitting your abstract, you'll be prompted to choose three keywords that clearly communicate the population, topics and practice areas addressed in your presentation. You'll also have the option to add a custom keyword if none of the listed options fit your presentation.

Options include:

- Pediatrics
- Geriatrics
- Addressing anti-racism and/or equity
- LGBTQ+
- Social determinants of health
- Leadership/administration/management
- Program development
- Clinical practice
- Caregiving/caregivers
- Ethics
- Vulnerable populations
- Grief and bereavement
- Hospice
- Inpatient palliative care
- Outpatient palliative care
- Long-term care
- Billing/Reimbursement
- Research
- Metrics/Data
- Education and training
- Policy and advocacy
- Professional well-being and self-care
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Technology

Abstract Review Process

Abstracts will undergo double-blind review by members of the SWHPN 2027 Conference Committee. Abstracts will be evaluated on alignment with SWHPN's mission, clarity of content and learning objectives, and anticipated interest and relevance to attendees.

Additional Notes

Presenters will be notified by February 21st, 2027 regarding the acceptance of their presentation or poster for the Annual Forum.

Inclusion in the program depends on confirmation from the presenter within two weeks of acceptance notification. Presenters are required to register for the Forum. If travel is a barrier for you, please reach out to us at info@swhpn.org to explore additional assistance opportunities.

Please note: Scheduling decisions and presentation types are at the discretion of the SWHPN 2027 Conference Committee and are final. The Committee and SWHPN Board reserve the right to request modifications to presentation format or length to create the best possible forum schedule.

While we value and welcome the richness of diverse languages and cultural perspectives, submissions must be prepared in English to ensure accessibility for all reviewers and attendees.

All authors must identify and resolve any conflicts of interest before presenting papers or posters. Any speaker with a commercial interest related to their presentation is considered to have a conflict of interest.

The deadline for submission is 11:59 pm PST on January 11th, 2027.

For tips on preparing an abstract, we recommend the following resources:

- [How to Submit a Conference Proposal video by SWHPN Member Suzanne Marmo, PhD](#) (details may vary by year)
- [Writing Abstracts and Developing Posters for National Meetings by Gordon J. Wood and R. Sean Morrison](#), Journal of Palliative Medicine, March 2011, 14(3): 353-359, doi:10.1089/jpm.2010.0171

Pre-submission Abstract Q&A

In order to amplify the voice of those who have not presented in the past, SWHPN would like to offer a pre-submission session to help with abstract preparation. We will be hosting an open question and answer forum via Zoom on **November 3rd, 2026 at 4PST/ 7EST** for potential presenters to ask questions about abstract creation to a panel of social workers with experience in crafting abstracts. If you are interested in joining the session, please reach out to us at info@swhpn.org with your contact information and any questions or comments you would like our abstract experts to address during the session. We will also be accepting questions live during the session as time allows. You do not need to be a SWHPN member to take advantage of this opportunity.

Questions

Please send questions via email to: info@swhpn.org

Thank you!

We look forward to your submission and hope to see you at the Annual Forum.