



Strength in Connection:

Facing Change as a Community

Virtual Conference

AGENDA

PRELIMINARY AGENDA: MAY 7, 2026

WELCOME

7:30am PT/10:30am ET – 7:45am PT/10:45am ET

KEYNOTE:

7:45am PT/10:45am ET – 9:15am PT/12:15pm ET

IMMIGRATION-RELATED DISPARITIES IN SERIOUS ILLNESS AND END-OF-LIFE CARE :

SPEAKERS: Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, MA; Fabiola Hamdan, MSW.; Maria Fernanda Amado Cordova, LMSW

BREAK

9:15am PT/12:15pm ET – 9:30am PT/12:30pm ET

SESSION 1:

9:30am PT/12:30pm ET – 10:30am PT/1:30pm ET

BRIDGES TO HOME:

Innovating Pediatric Step-Down Care Through Relational Continuity and Real-World Community Preparation

SPEAKERS: Aimee Lybbert, MSW, LSWAIC; Julianna Allison, MSW, LSWAIC

SUBSCRIBE:

Navigating Grief and Social Media

SPEAKER: Eleanor Frechete, LICSW

INNOVATIVE PROJECT LEADERSHIP:

How Palliative Social Workers Create Impact Within and Beyond Their Teams

SPEAKERS: Heather Menzer, DSW, LCSW, APHSW-C; Jennifer DiBiase, DSW, LCSW-R, APHSW-C

NAVIGATING COMPLEXITY:

Palliative Care Social Work Approaches to Supporting People and Families Impacted by Lewy Body Dementia (LBD)

SPEAKERS: Sarah Mitchell Chen, LCSW, APHSW-C; Brandi Hackett, LCSW

LUNCH BREAK

10:30am PT / 1:30pm ET – 11:00am PT / 2:00pm ET

SESSION 2:

11:00am PT/2:00pm ET – 12:00pm PT/3:00pm ET

MY LIFE, MY GRIEF:

Using activity books to support children and families living with serious illness and death

SPEAKERS: Ceilidh Eaton Russell, PhD, CCLS

ADVANCING LEADERSHIP IN PALLIATIVE CARE SOCIAL WORK:

An Ecological Systems Framework:

SPEAKERS: Sarah Lee, MSS, MS, LCSW-C; Laura Holloway-Cunningham, MSW, LCSW-C, APHSW-C; E Cameron Hartofelis, MA, MPH, LCSW-C, LICSW; Arlen Gaines, PhD, LCSW-C, LICSW, APHSW-C

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COMPASSION IN COMPLEXITY:

Team-Based Care at the Intersection of Palliative Needs and Substance Use.

SPEAKERS: Fiona Bullock, LCSW, APHSW-C, DAAETS; Tina Allen, SUDCC

BREAK

12:00pm PT/3:00pm ET - 12:15pm PT / 3:15pm ET

KEYNOTE:

12:15pm PT/3:15pm ET - 1:15pm PT / 4:15pm ET

HOLDING DEATH IN A DYING WORLD: SECONDARY TRAUMA, RECEPTIVE-AFFECTIVE CAPACITY, AND COLLECTIVE RESISTANCE

SPEAKER: DR. ABIGAIL NATHANSON, DSW, LCSW, APHSW-C, ACS

BREAK

1:15pm PT/4:15pm ET - 1:30pm PT/4:30pm ET

PEER-TO-PEER

1:30pm PT/4:30pm ET - 2:30pm PT/5:30pm ET

These sessions are designed for all attendees to participate in small groups using voice and video for interactive discussion.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA: MAY 8, 2026

SESSION 3:

7:30am PT / 10:30am ET - 8:30am PT / 11:30am ET

HOW RACE, GENDER & CLASS COMPOUND SDOH IN PALLIATIVE CARE

SPEAKERS: Lauren Parks, MSW, LSW, APHSW-C

THE ROLE OF HOSPICE SERVICES FOR PATIENTS THAT HAVE A (LVAD)

SPEAKER: Kayla Bailey, BSW, CTSW-MCS

CREATING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY:

The impact of group support for people, and their families, living with a terminal diagnosis

SPEAKER: Laura Geilenfeldt, LCSW

A GUIDE TO COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR PATIENTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS

SPEAKERS: Laura Goodman, LCSW, APHSW-C

BREAK

8:30am PT/11:30am ET - 8:45am PT/11:45am ET

SESSION 4:

8:45am PT/11:45am ET - 9:45am PT/12:45pm ET

SLIDING DOORS:

Transitions in Health Care as Opportunities

SPEAKERS: Vickie Leff, MSW, LCSW, APHSW-C; Terry Altilio LCSW

SORROW, UNPERMITTED:

Illuminating unseen grief in chronic liver disease

SPEAKER: Rennie Bimman, BSW, MSW, LICSW, RSW

WHEN SELF-DETERMINATION MEETS MEDICAL ETHICS:

A Case at the Intersection of Palliative Medicine and Psychiatry.

SPEAKERS: Shelly Barnard, LISW-S; Abby Vander Ven, MSSA, LSW

HELPING PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH HAPPEN:

Navigating gatekeeping and advancing access

SPEAKER: Iris Fineberg, PhD, MSW

COMMUNICATION AS CARE:

Digital Equity in Hospice Websites and the Social Work Mandate

SPEAKER: Lauren Gil Hayes, LCSW, LISW, CGP

BREAK

9:45am PT/12:45pm ET - 10:00am PT/1:00pm ET

PRELIMINARY AGENDA: MAY 8, 2026

SESSION 5:

10:00am PT/1:00pm ET – 11:00am PT/2:00pm ET

CARING FOR CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD) PATIENTS

SPEAKER: Aadya Bhatia, LMSW, OSW-C

FINDING THE DOOR:

Using Metaphor for End of Life Education and Building Initial Grief Narrative

SPEAKER: Keri Rankin Scalet, MSW, LCSW

LAYING THE FOUNDATION:

Integrating Spiritual Self-Awareness into Hospice Social Work Training and Supervision

SPEAKER: Mikayla Mina, MSW

BEYOND PAIN RELIEF:

Strengthening Psychosocial and Spiritual Care in Sri Lanka's Palliative Practice

SPEAKERS: Dinithi Amarapala, BSW

LUNCH BREAK

11:00am PT/2:00pm ET – 11:30am PT/2:30pm ET

KEYNOTE:

11:30am PT/2:30pm ET – 12:30pm PT/3:30pm ET

FROM PRACTICE TO POLICY: LEGISLATIVE KEYNOTE

SPEAKER: Dr. Melody Cunningham, MD

BREAK

12:30pm PT/3:30pm ET – 12:45pm PT/3:45pm ET

PEER-TO-PEER

12:45pm PT/3:45pm ET – 1:45pm PT/4:45pm ET

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CLOSING

1:45pm PT/4:45pm ET – 2:00pm PT/5:00pm ET