

Session 3: Ethical Considerations in Expanded Social Work Billing

Presenters:

Stephanie DePiano, LCSW, APHSW-C, Social Work Manager, Palliative Care Services at Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH)



Stephanie is a Rutgers University alumna (MSW, 2003) with over 25 years of healthcare experience, including 18 years with Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH). She currently serves in a dual leadership and clinical capacity within the palliative care service line, providing specialized outpatient and home-based palliative care to patients living with serious illness. She is an advocate for the role of Social Work in healthcare and elevating interprofessional knowledge of the skills and contributions of social work to patient care.

A dedicated advocate for patient-centered care, Stephanie specializes in advance care planning (ACP) and goals of care co conversations with patients and families as well as from a clinical education perspective. Her expertise has been recognized on a national stage through presentations for the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN), the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM), and the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC).

As an accomplished speaker and educator, Stephanie provides training both within and outside HMH on topics including serious illness communication, goals of care, advance care planning, and Medical Aid in Dying.

Jen Hirsch, Social Work Doctoral Candidate at Michigan State University(they/them)



Jen is a social work doctoral candidate at Michigan State University whose two streams of research are rooted in their clinical practice as a hospice and palliative care social worker. The first focuses on adults' lived experience of serious chronic illness, the psychosocial dimensions of illness especially related to grief and loss, and the experiences of patients and families in encounters with the healthcare system. Their second focus is on the social work profession from an equity and anti-racist perspective. They are engaged in policy advocacy at the state and federal level around issues



related to social work licensure and billing.

Eve Escalante, LCSW, Manager of Program Innovation at Rush Social Work and Community Health



Eve Escalante, LCSW is a Clinical Social Worker and Manager of Program Innovation with Social Work and Community Health at Rush University Medical Center. Eve has provided oversight of expansion of evidence-based care models into communities with significant social needs, participates in trauma-informed transformation efforts, interdisciplinary and social work education and curriculum development and provides direct clinical care. Eve has experience in providing care to adults, older adults and caregivers with chronic disease, disability and/or terminal illness. She also has experience in providing clinical supervision and consultation in individual and group formats. She has participated in the NASW Supervisory Leaders in Aging program. She received her BSW from Loyola University Chicago in 2005 and her MSW from Loyola University Chicago in 2007. Eve has lived experience with chronic illness/disability which informs her professional interests and practice.

Michael Polisso, LCSW, APHSW



Mike Polisso, LCSW, is the lead palliative care social worker at Stanford Health Care, where he supports the development and delivery of interdisciplinary palliative care services across inpatient and outpatient settings. He has more than a decade of experience in clinical social work, mental health, program development, and healthcare leadership. His work focuses on advancing psychosocial care, strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration, and developing sustainable models of social work practice. Mike is a graduate of UC Berkeley's Master of Social Welfare program, an NYU Palliative Care Social Work Leadership Fellow, and the incoming Chair of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine's Psychosocial and Mental Health Special Interest Group. He is passionate about elevating the role of social workers in serious illness care through clinical innovation, education, research, and professional advocacy.