



# Strength in Connection:

Facing Change as a Community

*Virtual Conference*

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# 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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## **TAUSI MATUA- PACIFIC AND SAMOAN CAREGIVING PRACTICES FOR LOVED ONES WITH A LIFE LIMITING ILLNESS**

Presentation of research

**SPEAKER:** Michelle Niukini Hendrikse, MSW

## **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