



ELEVATING PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE IN PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY

**SALT LAKE CITY, UT
APRIL 17-19, 2023**

46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ASSOCIATION OF PEDIATRIC
ONCOLOGY SOCIAL WORKERS

WELCOME TO SALT LAKE CITY

We invite you to the 46th Annual Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers Conference: Elevating Psychosocial Care in Pediatric Oncology in Salt Lake City, Utah. Prepare to embrace the challenges we face as pediatric oncology social workers and learn more about how we can better meet the needs of patients and their supports. We look forward to your participation in this innovative and inclusive conference. Your perspective is needed, so register today! All of us at APOSW look forward to seeing you in April.

-Michelle Fritsch, LMSW-ACP, APOSW President

Welcome to Salt Lake City and the Intermountain West!

Salt Lake is where “the mountains meet the metropolitan.” Our towering Wasatch mountains embrace the Salt Lake valley and provide a dramatic backdrop to our vibrant, active, urban environment. Salt Lake is where you will find hiking trails, family history resources, Olympic venues, the Great Salt Lake, and culture and nightlife – all within easy reach.

Bring your comfy shoes and stroll our downtown. Hop on our light rail system and go anywhere in the valley. Sports fans can check out our Triple A baseball team, the Bees, our hockey team, the Grizzlies, and our major league soccer team, Real Salt Lake! Culture mavens must see the Utah Symphony and Opera, the Eccles Theater, and amazing contemporary dance companies. Robert Redford’s Sundance Resort and Park City with its mountain culture, ski resorts, and beloved Main Street are both within a 30-40 minute drive.

Utah is also home to five national parks within a few hours drive of Salt Lake City. We recommend that you plan some extra time to visit Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches, Canyonlands, and Capitol Reef. We promise you will be inspired by our red rock landscapes!

Get your adventure on in Utah!

Conference Site Committee:

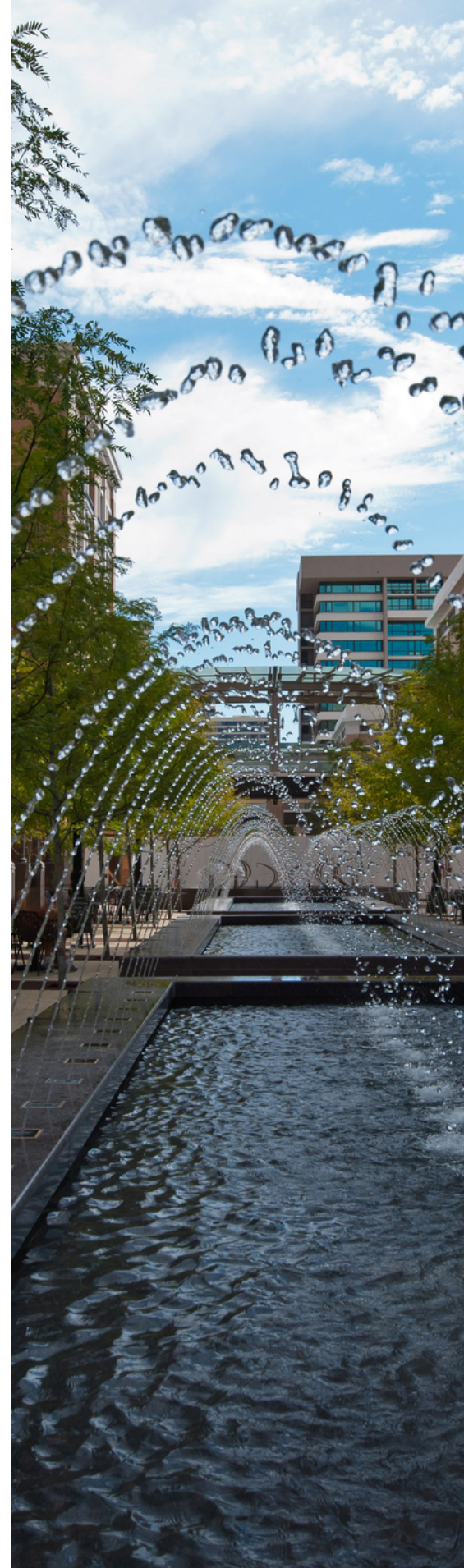
Leah Forster Gauvin, LCSW, OSW-C

Kameron Leon, LCSW, OSW-C

Jo Ann Gettig, LCSW

Barbie Robinson, LCSW

Jessica Curtis, LCSW





HOTEL

HILTON SALT LAKE CITY CENTER

APOSW has secured a rate of \$199/night*, which will be available until the room block sells out.

Book at room online at <https://book.passkey.com/e/50364547>.

**Cancellations made within 3 days of arrival will forfeit one night's room and tax.*

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Packages* for meetings may be delivered to the Hotel five (5) working days prior to the date of the function. The packages should be addressed as follows:

Assoc. of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers

Guest Name

Attn: Nancy Brown, Events

4/17/2022 - 4/19/2022

255 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

**Package handling fees will be assessed*

**All deliveries will be made through the loading/unloading area*

LOST AND FOUND

The hotel will not assume or accept responsibility for damages to/loss of any merchandise/articles in the hotel prior to, during or following event.

CE INFORMATION

Application for program CE contact hours has been made by APOSW (Provider #886400741) through the National Association of Social Workers (national office). Attendees are responsible for reviewing whether their state accepts these CE contact hours. APOSW is also recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers (#SW-0441). Social workers will receive up to **18.5** clinical CE contact hours for this activity. Upon completion of this program and submission of the CE activity evaluation, a certificate of completion will be issued to attendees **via email within 30 days**.

Contact education.profdev@aposw.org with questions.



CONFERENCE GOAL

To provide a collaborative learning opportunity for oncology social workers to address the needs of families impacted by childhood cancer.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this conference, participants will be able to:

- Explain and apply social work theory, evidence-based practice, interventions, and techniques to address psychosocial care, barriers to care, and programmatic needs of pediatric patients and family members from diagnosis through survivorship, and into the bereavement process.
- Describe evidence-based practice to support pediatric cancer patients and their families through discussions of research studies, outcomes, and recommendations in the field of pediatric oncology social work.
- Identify and discuss the psychosocial needs of children diagnosed with cancer and their families toward compassionate end of life care, healing and future positive growth.
- Evaluate methods for professional development through leadership in the field of pediatric hematology/oncology and blood and marrow transplantation.

IMPORTANT DATES



APOSW SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

2/17/2023



EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSES

3/1/2023



CANCELLATION DATE*

**must be submitted in writing to receive a refund less a \$100 processing fee*

3/31/2023



ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

APOSW strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals, including those with disabilities, to engage fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact conference@aposw.org.

APOSW believes that no person should be excluded from association programs, services, or volunteer participation on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, or for any other discriminatory reason.

CONFERENCE FEES

**REGISTER BY MARCH 1ST TO RECEIVE A \$100
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT!!!**



FULL REGISTRATION

FULL MEMBER	\$500
ASSOCIATE MEMBER	\$575
STUDENT MEMBER	\$280
STUDENT NON-MEMBER	\$330
RETIRED MEMBER	\$310
NON-MEMBER	\$700

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION

MEMBER	\$260
NON-MEMBER	\$325



PRE-CONFERENCE

Sunday, April 16th**1:30PM - 5:00PM**
(3.5 CE)**Standing at the Crossroads of Art & Practice:**
Narrative Medicine Approach to Transforming Clinical Work**Nancy Cincotta, LCSW, MPhil**, *Psychosocial Consultant***Kathy Riley, MPH, CHES**, *Cancer Support Community Los Angeles*

Pediatric oncology social workers witness firsthand the hard-fought victories and stories of pain, loss, suffering and death daily. Learning how to be an eyewitness of both beauty and sorrow in literature and art and then writing about the experience can help providers reflect on the narratives which become embedded in our memory and part of what we process as we reflect on the unthinkable in our work.

This pre-conference intensive introduces a Narrative Medicine approach to care combined with workshop experiences that explore self-care and enhance observation and listening skills through the close reading of texts and prompted writing. Through the workshop experience, social workers connect to our own narrative in ways that allow us to connect to those of the families we serve. We learn to be uncomfortable, to feel pain, to feel joy, to sit with no answer, to find power in being physically present with someone who is healed, feels marginalized, is wounded, or is dying.

New Social Worker Workshop**Caley Nelson, LMSW, OSW-C***Phoenix Children's Hospital*

Regardless of how long you have been a social worker, there are aspects unique to the role of a Pediatric Oncology Social Worker. This session is designed for social workers new to the field of pediatric oncology (3 years or less). Topics reviewed will include: the role of social work within an interdisciplinary team, relapse-related issues, palliative care/end of life, ethical issues, and case examples raised by participants in the session. Participants will have opportunities to network and engage in dynamic small group discussions. This is a great opportunity to interact and network with others new to APOSW and new to pediatric oncology social work.

5:00PM - 7:00PM**EARLY REGISTRATION**

Retrieve your schedule, name badge, and connect with other attendees.

7:30AM - 8:45AM

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:45AM - 9:00AM

WELCOME

Michelle Fritsch, LMSW-ACP, APOSW President*Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center*9:00AM - 10:30AM
KEYNOTE (1.5 CE)**The Science and the Art of Resilience:**

Lessons Learned from Patients, Clinicians & Communities

Abby Rosenberg, MD*Boston Children's Hospital**Dana Farber Cancer Institute*

Dr. Rosenberg has been studying resilience for nearly 2 decades. In this plenary lecture, she will share what she has learned from patients, clinicians, and communities before, during, and after the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, Dr. Rosenberg weaves patient and clinician stories with her and other investigators' scholarship, asks questions about how we can apply that scholarship to our daily lives, and finally suggests some new directions for research, clinical care, and caring for ourselves.

10:45AM - 12:00PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (1.25 CE)

**1A: Responding to the Unarticulated Needs of Caregivers of Children with Cancer with Web & Mobile Resources****Christina Salley, PhD***Courageous Parents Network**Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone***Amy Graver***Courageous Parents Network*

In this presentation, a pediatric psychologist will partner with a mother bereaved by pediatric cancer. They will discuss the importance of preemptively supporting parents through: Orientation, Navigation & Moving Forward, and demonstrate how a free, web-based media library, available 24/7, can meet the needs of caregivers at their own time and pace.

**1B: "I Miss My Life Before Diagnosis:" Understanding Illness and Treatment through the Lens of Loss and Grief****Erica Sirrine, PhD, LCSW, FT***St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*

When a child is diagnosed with a catastrophic illness, patients and families experience significant life disruptions. Unfortunately, their losses and accompanying grief reactions are not always acknowledged by clinicians. This gap in care may lead patients and caregivers to cope with their burdens of loss in silence, increasing their risk of disenfranchised grief. Social Workers are uniquely positioned to engage in grief-informed practice, providing psychoeducation about diagnosis-related losses and normalizing grief reactions throughout the treatment trajectory.

**1C: Professional Career Paths of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers: An Exploratory Study****Elyse Levin-Russman, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C***Massachusetts General Hospital for Children*

Pediatric oncology social work offers rich opportunities to develop skills and engage in meaningful work. However, there are inherent challenges in the work and at times, organizational environment. This session will explore those issues through presenting the results of a survey of current and former APOSW members. The data will provide insights into who our members are, where they work, and what keeps them engaged in the field. It will review how social workers have developed career paths and pivoted their skills to related areas of practice. Suggestions for APOSW in supporting members current work and career aspirations will also be shared.

**1D: Through The Eyes of our Survivors: A Photovoice Group Experience with Childhood Cancer Survivors and Elevating the Importance of Self-Care and Mental Health Needs of Survivors****Alistair Robertson, MSW***Valley Children's Hospital***Savannah Gomes, MSW, ASW, PPSC***Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara*

Photovoice is a process of using the art of photography to help empower, advocate, and express one's story. A group of five young adult survivors of childhood cancer met for a six-week Photovoice group to share stories of their photos, each relating to their cancer journey. They experienced a profound awakening surrounding themes of fear, struggle, hope, love/beauty, and why. Review of the literature, program development, photographs/narratives, short video, and taking care of the mental health of survivors will be presented.

12:00PM – 1:30PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30PM – 3:00PM
INTENSIVE 1 (1.5 CE)

Safer Ukraine at SickKids:

A Psychosocial Perspective on Supporting Evacuated Pediatric Cancer Patients

Wendy Shama, MSW, RSW

Sonia Lucchetta, MSW, RSW

Angela Yohan, MSW, RSW

The Hospital for Sick Children

The Safer Ukraine Initiative at SickKids evacuated patients to Canada for cancer treatment. We will share our experience in helping families navigate this difficult transition, which includes logistical, practical, emotional, and cultural issues. Exploring cases through a trauma-informed lens, a discussion of the challenges of coping simultaneously with war and cancer, in addition to the impact of displacement, grief, loss, security, and guilt. An interactive discussion will reflect on the impact of moral distress on our professional self and social work practice.

3:00PM – 5:00PM

CONFERENCE EXPO

Exhibitor Fair and Silent Auction

Meet with exhibitors to learn about programs and resources for pediatric oncology patients and families, network with conference attendees and raise money for the APOSW scholarship via the silent auction.

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and raffle & door prizes.

Must be present to win.



46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



DAY 2

Tuesday, April 18th

7:00AM - 8:00AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

8:00AM - 9:00AM

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Special interest groups (SIGs) provide an opportunity for social workers to meet in smaller groups to discuss specific topics of interest

- **Adolescent/Young Adult**
- **Blood and Marrow Transplant**
- **End of Life/Palliative Care**
- **Survivorship**
- **Community Based Programs**
- **Neuro-Oncology**

9:15AM - 10:45AM
INTENSIVE 2 (1.5 CE)

Antiracist Intersectional Social Work:

Practices to Champion Health Equity and Justice

Christabel Cheung, PhD, MSW

University of Maryland School of Social Work

Dr. Cheung is an embodied BIPOC AYA patient scientist and two-time cancer survivor and bone marrow transplant beneficiary. Her research lab at the University of Maryland strives to eliminate unnecessary suffering by centering patient wisdom. Dr. Cheung will introduce antiracist intersectional practice to help social workers identify and be better prepared to address complex psychosocial problems.

11:00AM - 12:15PM

**BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (1.25 CES)**

2A: Psychosocial Effects of Pediatric Brain Cancer: How Social Workers Help Alleviate the Toll on Patients and Families

Paige Falcon, LCSW

Hayle Lopez, LMSW

Nicole Kirsner, LMSW

MD Anderson Cancer Center

This presentation will discuss pediatric brain cancer diagnoses, treatment effects and prognosis. It will dive into the psychosocial barriers to care amongst patients and families including implications of socioeconomic status, intellectual development, behavior patterns and changes, and caregiver coping. The presenters will share how a pediatric social worker's unique supporting role alleviates some of the above stressors that patients and families navigate.



2B: Implementing Family Psychosocial Risk Screening to Achieve Health Equity in Pediatric Oncology

Anne Kazak, PhD

ABPP Nemours Children's Health

Rebecca Ruck, LCSW, OSW-C

Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters

Susanna Baldwin Vargo, LCSW

Lamia Barakat, PhD

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Screening of psychosocial risk for children with cancer and their families can help achieve the psychosocial standard of systematic assessment of psychosocial health care needs. Striving to screen all families promotes health equity by assuring that the risks and resiliencies of all families are recognized. This workshop reviews family psychosocial screening and its role in addressing and improving health equity. The Psychosocial Assessment Tool (PAT) will be presented as an example of an evidence-based screener that can be integrated into clinical workflows to plan treatment collaboratively with families and their healthcare teams.



2C: The Art of Silence: Being Present at the End of Life

Laura Moynihan, LICSW, OSW-C, APHSW-C

Hasbro Children's Hospital

Tara Brown, DNP, CPNP-AC/PC, ACHPN, CCRN

Levine Children's Hospital

When patients die in a hospital, pediatric oncology social workers are often the psychosocial clinicians in the room providing support and care to patients and their families. This presentation will focus on roles within the interdisciplinary team in these situations, how to be present while navigating clinical situations that may arise (including transference and counter-transference, anticipatory grief, and other ambiguous losses), and ways to handle our own emotions while doing this work.



2D: Having the Sex Talk: Sexual Health Conversations for AYA Patients in Pediatric Oncology Settings

Devon Ciampa, LCSW-C, OSW-C

Johns Hopkins Children's Center

Sexual health is an important topic of conversation for any adolescent and young adult (AYA). However, what if that person is also facing a life-threatening disease? A conversation on the physical and emotional aspects of sexual health as a cancer patient is an integral part of care for this population as physical and emotional changes can occur within the body during and after cancer treatment. A discussion led by a patient's medical team should occur to address any concerns or questions, yet this topic is not always addressed, especially when patients are being treated in a pediatric setting. Why is this and how can we be a part of changing it?

12:15PM - 2:15PM

CELEBRATION LUNCH

Network, learn about the business of APOSW and celebrate the Social Workers of the Year!

2:15PM - 3:30PM



BREAKOUT SESSION 3 (1.25 CES)

3A: The Power of Team: Bridging Social Skills Gaps for Children Affected by Cancer

Rebecca Meyer Carr, MSW

Molly Lane, MSW, LICSW

Team IMPACT

Children in cancer treatment and post-treatment frequently have a need for social skills coaching beyond what their support systems can provide. Come learn about a program where college athletic teams spend two years forging a relationship and working on social skills with their young friend. We will examine the social skills gaps of the children and share creative, fun interventions utilized in this therapeutic program which has shown great success in combatting illness-related social isolation.



3B: An Epic Climb: Integrating the Psychosocial Standards of Care into the Electronic Health Record

Spencer Moorman, MSSW, LCSW, DSW Candidate

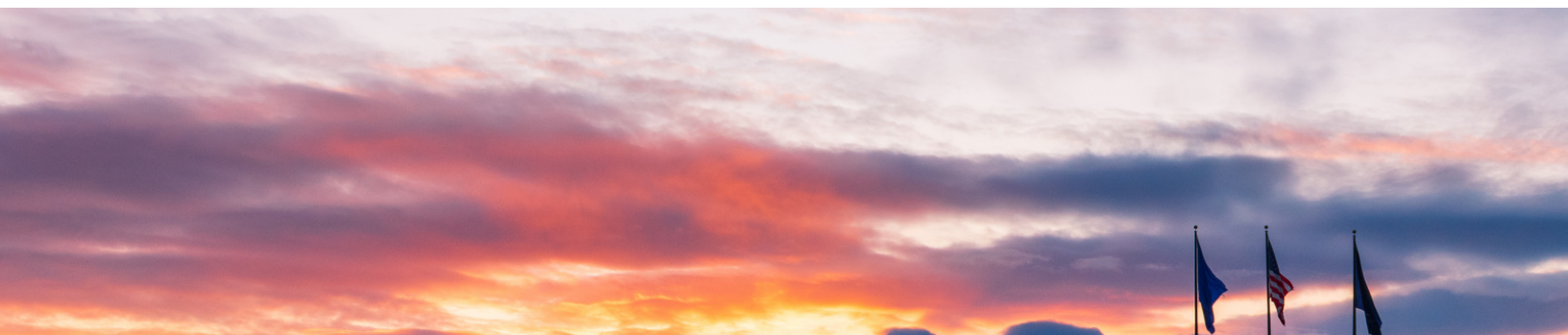
Corey Moran, BS

Norton Children's Cancer Institute affiliated with University of Louisville

Lisa Guitini

Norton Healthcare

To narrow gaps in psychosocial care delivery, a comprehensive Electronic Health Record (EHR) platform was constructed via the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund, including all standards and phases of care. While lack of concise data visualization (Bruns et al., 2016) is an EHR barrier in other fields, this platform presents an updated summary for real time rapid reviewing during busy practice settings. With hundreds of embedded discreet data points, the electronic tracking of psychosocial services can help inform care and expose gaps to address in future efforts. This presentation outlines this novel EPIC downloadable construct from infancy to maturation.





3C: After the Celebration: Helping Parents Adapt to Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms After a Child's Successful Cancer Treatment

Elyse Levin-Russman, MSW, LICSW, OSW-C

Massachusetts General Hospital for Children

While the psychological distress of parents is expected to lessen as a child's treatment progresses, there is a subgroup of parents who continue to report high levels of anxiety, depression, and/or overall psychological distress even after a child successfully completes cancer therapy. For these parents, emotional struggles may not come to light until their child's treatment is completed, reporting feelings of post-traumatic stress or PTSD. This interactive session will describe the development of a group for parents, *After the Celebration: Adjusting and Coping after a Child's Cancer Treatment*, share themes from the group, and clinical insights from interactions with parents.



3D: Improving Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers Through Family-Centered Care

Rebecca Jacobs, LCSW

Kira Andersen, LCSW

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

The Family Centered Care for Infants and Toddlers (FIT) initiative was established to develop and implement resources and interventions to address the needs of children, ages 0-3, and their families admitted to the hospital. The initiative addresses concrete, educational, emotional, and developmental needs and utilizes an interdisciplinary approach. FIT promotes comprehensive and family-centered care to improve coping and increase caregiver empowerment throughout the child's treatment course.



3:45PM – 5:00PM
(PENDING CE APPROVAL)

LIGHTNING TALKS: **SYSTEMS, STANDARDS & SCREENING TOOLS**



Harnessing the Power of Partnerships: Lessons from 25 Years of Innovative Collaborations Between Social Workers & Community Organizations

Kathy Riley, MPH, CHES

Cancer Support Community Los Angeles

This presentation characterizes how social workers and community organizations create innovative and effective partnerships. Both pediatric oncology social workers and community organizations witness firsthand hard-fought victories and stories of pain, loss, or even death. When they partner together, their collaborations can lead to innovative and effective strategies to address these complex needs that neither party could achieve alone.



Social Determinants of Health Screening Tool for Pediatric Oncology: Increasing Visibility of Unmet Needs & Interventions to the Medical Team

Juliet Galton, LCSW

Emily Riordan, LCSW

Tara McAteer, LCSW, ACSW, OSW-C

Levine Children's Hospital

As part of an ongoing quality improvement project, a pediatric oncology social determinant of health screening tool was created and implemented to quickly identify barriers that impact patient care and to communicate unmet needs or interventions to the medical team.



A Review of Changes to the Board of Oncology Social Work Certification: Elevation of Program Rigor, New Program Requirements & Candidate Platform

Christina Bach, MBE, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C, FAOSW, Penn Medicine

Lisl Schweers, MSSW, LMSW, OSW-C, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Amanda Trout, LMSW, LCSW, OSW-C, Children's Mercy

Tony Ellis, MEd, CAE, ICE-CCP, Board of Oncology Social Work Certification

The Board of Oncology Social Work Certification (BOSWC) was established in 2003 to ensure excellence in biopsychosocialspiritual care for individuals impacted by cancer. This mission is accomplished by allowing candidates to earn and maintain the Certified Oncology Social Work (OSW-C) credential. BOSWC has committed over one year of work to review, refine, and enhance the purpose, scope, and requirements for the OSW-C. This presentation will demonstrate the processes employed by BOSWC and will describe the revised requirements to obtain and maintain board certification in oncology social work.



Implementation of an Oncology Financial Screening Tool

Leah Forster Gauvin, MSW, LCSW, OSW-C

Dulce Gorostieta, BS

Primary Children's Hospital

Sarah Rabideau, BA, MSW Candidate

Angelea Panos, PhD, LCSW

Utah Valley University

Financial toxicity associated with cancer treatment can be catastrophic. Early assessment and intervention around the financial aspects of cancer treatment may improve outcomes. The use of financial navigators in oncology teams, and especially the use of financial screening tools, is novel. Social workers and the financial navigator created a financial screening tool to further assess a family's financial situation and to prompt additional financial navigator and social work intervention(s).



"I Can't Handle One More Change": Promoting a Psychologically Safe Environment Amid Change and Chaos

Erica Sirrine, PhD, LCSW, FT

Kaylee Raggio, LCSW

Kasey Wyrick, LCSW

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Healthcare providers have experienced significant personal and professional changes and losses throughout the past three years. These lasting stressors may impact our ability to adapt to new or ongoing changes in the workplace. Using a case example from one hospital, three social workers with different roles and scopes will share how they navigated complex and impactful changes. We will explore the concept of psychological safety and provide practical strategies to foster a culture of safety, resilience, and adaptability amid significant stressors.



Standard of Care Implementation: A Pediatric Cancer Center's Baseline Reality

Spencer Moorman, MSSW, LCSW, DSW Candidate

Sunnye Mayes, PhD

Corey Moran

Norton Children's Cancer Institute affiliated with University of Louisville

With support from the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund, standard of care delivery across diagnosis, phase of care & provider was tracked. Initial findings indicate that patients with brain tumors (BTs) and their families receive less access to psychosocial services than AML/ALL patients by 4/1 and 96% of services received for these children occur in the diagnosis phase. Furthermore, 40% of patients with BTs did not receive even one psychosocial assessment. Reasons for these disparities and strategies for improvement are discussed.

DAY 3

Wednesday, April 19th

7:00AM - 8:00AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION

8:00AM - 9:15AM
(PENDING CE APPROVAL)

LIGHTNING TALKS: BUILDING YOUR TOOLBOX



"Non-Medical Decision-Making in Adolescents and Young Adults with Life-Limiting Illnesses

Laura Moynihan, LICSW, OSW-C, APHSW-C

Hasbro Children's Hospital

Over the past few decades, a substantial amount of clinical research has emerged about the concept of shared decision-making (SDM). This research describes how and why patients make decisions about their medical care. Currently, however, limited knowledge exists about which factors contribute to non-medical decision-making for AYA patients with life-limiting illnesses. This poster will summarize some of the underlying concepts from a literature review that may influence non-medical decision-making for patients with poor prognosis.



The Stories That Stay With US

Nancy Cincotta, LCSW, MPhil

Psychosocial Consultant

The "stories that stay with us" will be the catalyst to exploring a path of greater understanding of pediatric oncology practice on a personal and existential level. This session will provide an opportunity for interactive discussion, acknowledging the gifts, challenges, and burdens we all carry given that we have chosen this particular professional journey.



The Psychosocial Effects of Matched Sibling Donors on the Donor, Patient, and Family

Sydney Stupp, MSW

Lizette Sotelo, MSW

Deborah Marino, MSN, RN, CPON

Amanda Cleary, CLS

Children's Hospital Los Angeles

The purpose of examining the psychosocial effects of all parties involved in a bone marrow transplant (BMT) is to ensure the best care between donor and recipient. ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experience) can be linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance abuse in adulthood. ACEs can be prevented if acknowledged and addressed. In wanting to address the possibility of negative ACE scores for sibling donors, our BMT team collaborated to create a new program for matched sibling donors



Beyond the Diagnosis: How Cancer Treatment Could be a Catalyst for a Co-Occurring Mental Illness in the Adolescent Population

Hayley Feuchs, LMSW

CancerCare

Eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any other mental illness. This diagnosis disproportionately affects adolescents and young adults between the ages of 12 and 25. (American Psychological Association, 2022). Adolescent oncology patients are at high risk for developing a feeding or eating disorder due to the side effects of cancer treatment on their weight, body image, and nutritional intake (De Benedetta et al., 2011). Early assessment of a feeding or eating disturbance is critical in diagnostics and treatment; however, a nationwide screening tool is not currently utilized in adolescent oncology practices. Overall, there is limited research on the prevalence of this diagnosis in the adolescent oncology population, despite the strong impact that cancer treatment can have on this population's relationship with food and body image. By bringing education and awareness to this topic, oncology social workers can identify, screen, diagnose and support their adolescent patients in their recovery and survivorship.



Invisible Children: The Shifting Power Dynamics within a Sibling Relationship

Shannon Coon, MSW, LMSW

Cassie Spector, MSW, LMSW

Cancer Care

Every 3 minutes worldwide, a family must hear that their child has a cancer diagnosis. Families who are impacted by this must have access to support and education that can help guide them through this journey. Siblings of cancer patients face a unique set of challenges that often go unaddressed due to family and healthcare professionals focus being on the cancer patient. Because sibling relationships are often the longest relationship of one's life, it is crucial to provide the necessary services to allow siblings a space to cope and receive support that is tailored to their needs. This workshop will provide information on the importance of access to education through webinars, publications, and workshops for both families and healthcare professionals that can help strengthen the gap to these services. It will also address how providing clinical supports including individual, family and group counseling to the siblings of cancer patients will allow them the space to cope based on their developmental stage.

9:30AM - 11:00AM INTENSIVE 4 (1.5 CES)

ENGAGEMENT IN THE CHILDREN'S ONCOLOGY GROUP: ELEVATING SOCIAL WORKERS' CONTRIBUTION TO PSYCHOSOCIAL CARE AND RESEARCH

Wendy Pelletier, MSW, RSW

Alberta Children's Hospital

Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Description coming soon...

11:15AM - 12:30PM

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 (1.25 CES)



4A: It's All in your Mind...and Brain...and Body: Using Mind/Body Skills to Improve Resiliency

Denise Velazquez, LCSW

Children's Hospital at Montefiore

This presentation will focus on how stress impairs wellness and on the physiology & benefits of Relaxation Response activation. We will discuss the health benefits of mind-body medicine for clinicians and patients and families. An experiential exercise to activate the Relaxation Response will be facilitated. The presentation will also include an overview of the Stress Management and Resiliency Training Program that was developed by the Herbert Benson Institute affiliated with Harvard Medical School.



4B: Interpreting Sibling Grief: Parent & Sibling Perspectives

Stacia Wagner, MSW

Jessical Elder, LCSW

Regina Karcher, LCSW

Children's Brain Tumor Foundation

Kevin Morrison

Graduate Student

A pediatric brain tumor diagnosis impacts the entire family, forever. The demonstrated lack of professional, family, and peer support for siblings can impact effective family communication, especially when a sibling dies or moves into survivorship. Utilizing information from the literature, bereavement support groups, and bereaved parent and sibling focus groups, the differences between parent and sibling coping and emotional perspectives will be examined and clinical implications and next steps will be discussed.



4C: Speaking Up: Helping Cancer Survivors Being Bullied Find Their Voice

Jeanette Lavecchia, LCSW, OSW-C

Mary Gatlin, LCSW

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Pediatric oncology social workers often observe the impact of bullying on childhood survivors of cancer. Bullying experiences may contribute to decreased self-esteem, sadness, social isolation, or thoughts of suicide. Children with physical disfigurement or cognitive challenges from cancer treatment are often at an even greater risk for bullying. Parents and other caregivers may be unaware of bullying or unsure of how to intervene. To address this critical need, social workers at one pediatric oncology survivorship clinic conducted a two-phase quality improvement (QI) project consisting of a literature review, patient focus groups, and the development and publication of bullying prevention resources for pediatric oncology survivors and their caregivers. This session will discuss the QI process from idea to completion, present survey results and action steps, including the "Speak Up!" and "Helping Your Child Speak Up" resources, and implications for practice.



4D: S'mores, Campfire & Chat: AYA Perspective on the Impact of Social Connection

Michelle Fritsch, LMSW-ACP

Anastasia Deeter, LCSW-S

Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center

This presentation will showcase, from the AYA perspective, why camps and the relationships/support attained from them are impactful. The second half of the presentation will be video clips of teens describing what support looks like to them and how they want the healthcare team to provide it. Social workers will be able to submit questions for the teens via the conference app! This will be an opportunity for social workers to get insight into what teens want and how they would like their health care team to interact with them.



12:30PM - 2:00PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:00PM - 3:15PM

ETHICS INTENSIVE (1.25 CES)

Lori Wiener, PhD, DCSW, LCSW

National Institute of Health

Description coming soon...

3:15PM - 3:30PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Michelle Fritsch, LMSW-ACP, APOSW President

Texas Children's Cancer and Hematology Center

