



Bonnie Brooks Dudley

The Home Care, Hospice & Palliative Care Alliance of New Hampshire recently hosted a 3-part Hospice Volunteer Education Series, culminating in an in-person conference on October 15, 2026: *Navigating Complexity, Special Populations, and Evolving Roles in End-of-Life Care*.

Hospice volunteers offer their time and support to patients and families facing end-of-life care, a deeply sensitive and emotionally challenging experience.



A group discussion of a sample case study

This educational series provided these special volunteers a chance to build confidence and share challenges and solutions.

Bonnie Brooks Dudley, a Family Caregiver Coach and founder of Brooks Coaching, began the day with a presentation titled: *Navigating Complex Family Dynamics*. She discussed tools and insights for supporting



*Nancy Kendrick, Angela Sakakeeny, and Michele Bograd*

patients while also engaging family members who have differing needs, emotions, and expectations.

Laurie Desgroseilliers of Lakes Region VNA and Jayme Thibeault of Cornerstone VNA brought a sample toolkit and discussed how to create legacy

projects with

hospice patients. These projects can begin with simple prompts or open-ended questions. They said that “story doors” can be invitations for volunteers to follow the patient’s lead on a subject that interests the patient.

In addition, Michele Bograd, Nancy Kendrick, and Angela Sakakeeny described the role of death doulas on a patient care team. A death doula – also called death midwife or end-of-life guide – can provide emotional and psychological support; non-clinical advance care planning; vigil planning and active dying support; practical and logistical guidance; and cultural and spiritual facilitation.

Lisa Challender of Granite VNA and Tanya Prather of Home Health & Hospice Care wrapped up the day by dividing the room into groups and providing case studies for discussion.

*A special thank you to our planning committee, who curated an exciting day of meaningful speakers, interactive sessions, and thought-provoking case studies, and to Delta Dental for providing a free conference space.*



*Tanya Prather and Lisa Challender*