

MISSISSIPPI CENTER MEMBERS

HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE ORGANIZATION

Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care

2026 Conference July 29 - 31

Welcoming HCLA

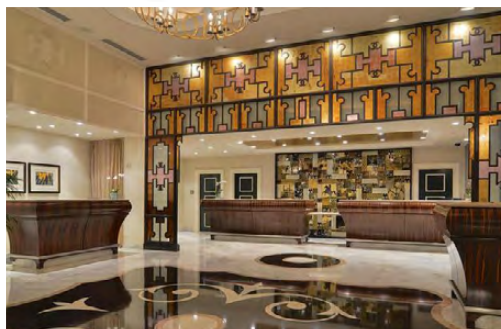


**Silver Threads of Compassion:
25 Years of Care**

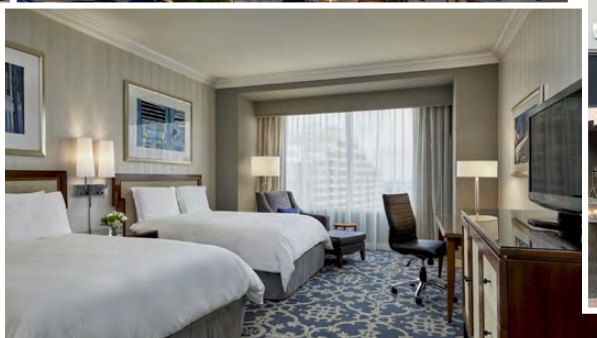
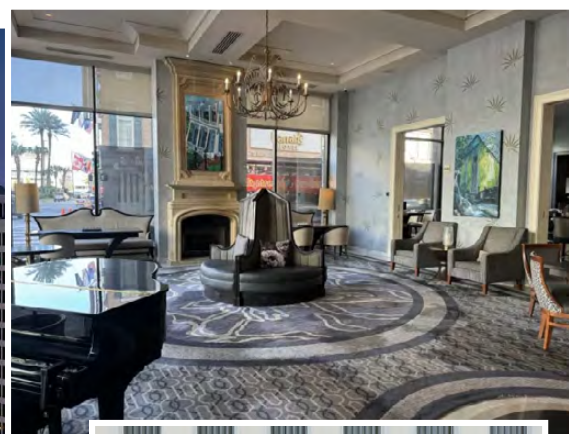


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Registrants can book rooms online or by calling 1-877-877-4941

The LMHPCO Conference Rate of \$114.00 per night is available through June 23, 2026.

Valet parking - \$20 per day.

Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



A Silver Thread of Gratitude from LMHPCO...



As we gather for this year's conference, *Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care*, our hearts are full. For a quarter of a century, our community has woven together knowledge, service, and humanity—thread by thread—into something strong enough to support patients, families, and one another. Our hope is that these days together renew your spirit, deepen your practice, and reminds you of the extraordinary impact you're making in your community. We pray this conference offers connections, clarity, and a shared sense of purpose as we continue weaving compassion into every corner of our work.



This milestone also invites us to look ahead with intention. The next 25 years will call for innovation, courage, and a continued commitment to the values that bring us together year after year. As you move through each session of this year's conference, we encourage you to listen to the threads that speak to you—new ideas, renewing your confidence and competence, and a simple reminder of why you chose this work. Every conversation, every shared story, and every moment of learning strengthen the fabric of your practice in this sacred field. Thank you for showing up with open hearts and open minds. May the work you do here continue to strengthen the fabric of care you bring to your patients and families for years to come.

Respectfully,

Jay
LMHPCO Executive Director

Marquetta
LMHPCO Education Director

2026 Education Committee Members



Tammi Aidt, MHA, LCSW-BACS
ACHP-SW
Director, FMOLHS



Bryan Johnson, BS-BA
Director of Business Management
Southern Grace Hospice



Shannon D. Newton, RN
VP of St. Joseph Hospice



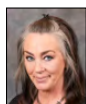
Jamey Boudreaux, MSW, M.DIV
LMHPCO Executive Director
New Orleans, LA



Amiyah King
Death Doula
The Afterwords



Lisa Powers, RN, BSN
Compliance Officer, Sanctuary
Hospice
Tupelo, MS



Andrea Butler, LMSW
Social Worker
Forrest General Hospice



Liz Langley
HCLA Office Manager



Kimberly Taylor, BSN, RN, CHPN
Hospice Director
Forrest General Home Care Hospice
and Asbury Hospice House
Hattiesburg, MS



Arlette Delcham, MD
Associate Medical Director
St. Tammany parish hospice



Marquetta Trice Lipford
LMHPCO Education Director
Committee Chair



Kimberly Smith, M.DIV
Heart of Hospice
Gretna



Emily Dixon, LCSW-BACS, LICSW
Hospice of Light



D' McCoy, RN
HCLA Interim Executive Director



Judy Zeringue, MAPL, VSN, RN,
RTSCBC, CPLC, CHPPN
Manning Family Children's



Elizabeth Harper, BA
Alliance for the
Advancement of End of Life



Kalisa Mickell, RN, MSN, FNP-C, ACHPN
North Mississippi Medical Center



Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

7:00- 7:50

CHECK IN/BREAKFAST

10:30-10:45

BREAK

8:00-8:20

Game Show Opening/Music

10:45-11:45

The Enduring Value of Association in
a Digital Healthcare Era

8:20-9:20

Threads of Compassion:

Care at Home –



An Interactive 25th Anniversary Game Show

Celebrating Leadership, Clinical Excellence,
Innovation, Care and Legacy



Ann Walker, RN MBA

D' McCoy, RN

Cordt Kassner, PhD



This keynote transforms the traditional lecture format into a lively, high-energy game show directly inspired by Family Feud, rebranded as “home Health, Hospice and Palliative Care Family Feud” to perfectly embody the conference theme “Silver Thread of Compassion” while honoring LMHPCO’s 25 -year legacy. Ann Walker, Dee McCoy and Cordt Kassner will co-host as emcees. Teams-through rapid-fire, survey style rounds- will be challenged to weave compassion together with practical, real-world care at home knowledge. Brief educational discussion and reflections accompany each question. The format maximizes audience participation.

9:20-9:30

President Address/Welcome

9:30-10:30

Leadership Through Change



Robyn Tannehill

Mayor, Oxford, Mississippi

In an era marked by rapid change and increasing polarization, effective leadership requires more than authority—it demands empathy, transparency, and a deep commitment to community. In this session, Robin Tannehill shares insights from her years of public service and community engagement, illustrating how leaders can foster trust, navigate conflict, and inspire collective action. Drawing on real examples of civic collaboration, she explores the power of listening as a leadership tool, the importance of inclusive decision making, and the role of resilience in guiding communities through challenge and change. Participants will leave with practical strategies for strengthening relationships, elevating diverse voices, and leading with purpose in their own organizations and communities.



Jennifer Sheets

National Alliance

As health-



**National Alliance
for Care at Home**

care becomes increasingly digitized and corporatized, many providers are questioning the relevance of state and national associations. This session explores why these organizations remain essential advocates, connectors, and resources in a rapidly evolving landscape. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of the unique value associations bring to their organizations and why continued engagement and support matter now more than ever.

11:45-1:00

LUNCH – RECOGNITION OF CHARTER MEMBERS

1:00-2:00

Leading with Purpose: Serving First in Healthcare



Keith G. Myers

Chairman & CEO Emeritus, LHC Group

In today’s rapidly evolving healthcare landscape—marked by rising complexity, workforce strain, and increasing expectations—effective leadership requires more than operational expertise. It demands purpose, clarity, and a deep commitment to people. This presentation explores three essential principles that define high impact leadership in modern healthcare: servant leadership, radical transparency, and a people first culture. This presentation illustrates how leaders can remove barriers for clinicians, build trust through open communication, and create cultures where people feel valued, supported, and inspired. Through practical challenges, real world insights, and moments of reflection, this presentation equips leaders to navigate complexity with integrity—and to build organizations where exceptional care is not just delivered but lived.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

If you need special assistance or accommodations identified in the ADA, please contact LMHPCO office in advance at 888-546-1500.

Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



2:00-3:00

Financial Health is a Vital Sign: Addressing Cost for Patients and Caregivers



Rebecca Kirch, JD

Executive Vice President, Healthcare Quality and Value National Patient Advocate Foundation

Financial hardship ranks top tier among concerns reported by patients and caregivers contending with serious illness. Polling and studies consistently attribute a substantial percentage of bankruptcies in America to skyrocketing health-related and other costs at the same time affordability of coverage and care is shrinking. While palliative care teams may not be able to control the root causes of high out-of-pocket expenses, they can implement strategies to help to hear, understand and alleviate financial burden on their patients. This session will equip participants with the knowledge and tools to be effective advocates for patients and

families struggling with the costs of being seriously ill.

3:00-3:15

BREAK

3:15-4:45 Advocacy Panel: Current public healthcare policy across Louisiana and Mississippi

A 90-minute discussion about legislation and public policy directly impacting homecare, hospice and palliative care patients and providers in this part of the country with state officials. Attendees will have the opportunity to offer ideas and solutions for solving challenges in the delivery of community-based home services. Panel members will be composed of state officials.

5:00-6:00

SILVER SOIREE AND SILENT AUCTION

Thursday, July 30, 2026

7:00-7:50

BREAKFAST

7:50-8:00

LMHPCO Address

8:00-9:00

Hospice Regulatory & Quality Update



Jennifer Kennedy, EdD, MA, BSN, RN, CHC VP
Quality Standards & Compliance, CHAP

The hospice regulatory and quality landscape is evolving rapidly, from Program Integrity measures to the HOPE tool shaping the way providers deliver care. During this session, attendees will gain insight into the FY 2027 Hospice Payment Update proposed rule, best practices for compliance, and demonstrating your quality beyond the HQRP. Stay ahead of the curve and ensure your organization is prepared for the future of regulatory compliance and quality in hospice care.

resources and additional supportive care structures for interventions.



Igniting the Truth:

Top OASIS Myths That Burn Outcomes



Lisa Selman-Holman, JD, BSN, RN, HCS-D, COS-C McBee

OASIS myths continue to smolder in home health agencies—undermining accuracy, compliance, and outcomes. This high-energy session will ignite clarity by confronting the most common and costly misconceptions surrounding OASIS data collection and interpretation. Attendees will separate long-held beliefs from CMS reality, walk away with practical corrections, and gain renewed confidence in applying OASIS guidance correctly to improve quality scores, reimbursement, and survey readiness.

A3

Cultivating Success: Growing Your Brand Through Company Culture



Tara Bridges, BSW

This session is a true coaching discussion for current leaders in post-acute care. We dive into just how important your work culture is not only for recruiting the right team members but retaining your best employees. Having a strong brand, culture, and leadership team builds growth internally and you can watch your census soar. This session is a true coaching discussion for current leaders in post-acute care. We dive into just how important your culture is not only for recruiting the right team



CONCURRENT SESSIONS A 9:00 - 10:00am

A1

Veteran Trauma Informed Care



Amanda Anderson, MSW, LCSW

The goal of the presentation is to help any discipline to create a space of safety at the end of life for Veterans who are suffering combat or other styles of trauma. This presentation will include updates on



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members but retaining your best employees. Having a strong brand, culture, and leadership team builds growth internally and you can watch your census soar.

A4

ELNEC-Ethics



Lisa Sigsworth, RN

ELNEC training for ETHICs in hospice. This training is set up for beginners, intermediate and advanced professionals wanting to outline Ethics program and identification of ethical issues in hospice.

A5

Following the Symptom Management Cues in CAHPS and HOPE



Caren McHenry Martin, PharmD

Clinical Liaison, Dragonfly Health

Somi Arthur, PharmD, BCGP

Clinical Liaison Dragonfly Health



The CAHPS Hospice Survey and the Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation (HOPE) tool can provide cues to hospices about opportunities for improving ways to manage patient symptoms at end of life and communicate with patients/caregivers.

This presentation discusses optimal symptom management of the common end-of-life symptoms included in these tools, timelines for assessing medication effectiveness and providing follow-up, and strategies for straightforward communication with patients and caregivers.

A6

Revitalizing Gulf States Pediatric Palliative Care Consortium: A Look into Our Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Workforce in Louisiana and Mississippi



Ashley Autrey, MD FAAP

Service Line Chief, Palliative Care, Manning Family Children's

There is a growing community of pediatric palliative and hospice care experts in our state. Future goals will focus on providing perinatal and pediatric education for both GSPPCC and more adult focused LMHP-CO members, building accessible pediatric resources, advocating for formalized interdisciplinary teams and expansion of services into the outpatient and perinatal setting, and supporting each other with a focus on sustainability and resilience.

A7

Bereavement, Grief & Grace: Incorporating Good Self Care in the Journey



Judy Zeringue, MAPL, BSN, RN, RTSCBC, CPLC, CHPPN

Incorporating information, insights and some personal experiences through a lens of nursing and spiritual care. I hope to bring an awareness of bereavement, grief and yes, even moments of grace in

the journey. Sharing insights into bereavement and grieving. Reinforcing, Good self-care in the journey for ourselves and for those entrusted to our care and compassion!

10:00-10:15

BREAK



CONCURRENT SESSIONS B 10:15 - 11:15am

B1

Beyond Moral Injury: Restoring Identity, Meaning, and Integrity After Ethical Trauma



Kimberly Smith, MDiv

Moral injury occurs when individuals experience profound psychological, spiritual, or ethical distress after actions that violate deeply held moral beliefs. This session explores the definition of moral injury, how it differs from PTSD, common causes in military and civilian settings, and emerging approaches for healing and treatment.

B2 **HCLA**
HOME CARE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

Preparing for 2027: What the Home Health Proposed Rule Means for Agencies



D' McCoy, RN

HCLA Interim Executive Director

The Home Health Proposed Rule doesn't operate in a vacuum—and along the Gulf Coast, neither do we. Between tight margins, workforce shortages, rural access challenges, and disaster-prone environments, providers in this region face a level of pressure that demands more than a surface-level understanding of regulatory change.

This session delivers a direct, strategic breakdown of the latest Proposed Rule through a Gulf Coast lens. From payment implications under Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM) to performance pressure tied to the Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP) Model, and evolving requirements within the Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HHQRP) and Home Health CAHPS (HHCAHPS), we'll break down what's proposed—and what it actually means for agencies operating in high-risk, high-demand markets.

This isn't a passive review of policy updates. We'll connect proposed changes to real operational pressure points across the region, including hospitalization rates, functional scoring accuracy, patient experience performance, and survey vulnerability. Special attention will be given to how regional factors—such as storm disruption, access disparities, and staffing instability—can amplify both risk and opportunity under the rule.

Attendees will leave with more than insight—they'll leave with a plan. This session equips leaders with actionable strategies to align QAPI initiatives, protect reimbursement, and

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position their organizations for success before the final rule takes effect.

Because along the Gulf Coast, waiting to react isn't a strategy, it's a liability.

B3 **Beyond the Boardroom: Human Lessons for Resilient Leadership**



Kellye Smith

Ross & Yerger

There are two certainties in life above all else: we have no control over what life throws our way and we have 100% control over how we choose to respond. In this heartwarming and inspirational keynote, Kellye shares the gut-wrenching story of how her life changed in an instant and how it taught her more about effective leadership than anything else ever could. Attendees will walk away inspired to take better care of themselves, check their egos at the door, and develop a refreshing mindset to better serve those in their care today.

B4 **The Waiting is the Hardest Part: Reflections and Discussion on OUR Waiting with Patients at the End of Life and Implications of Care**



Jeffrey Pate, M.Div./ ACPE CPE

Our cultures shape us, and it seems we live in an increasingly fast paced and immediate world. Waiting is hard enough in the best of times. How about in stressful times? To take a quote from Tom Petty, "the waiting is the hardest part." What is it like for us to wait with our patients for them to die? And does the quality of our patience impact on our patients? In this presentation, we will learn from each other on how to better wait with our patients and their families during the dying process. We'll explore what's happening inside of us as we wait with them, and how secondary stress affects things. Through group discussion, and some didactic teaching, we will discuss best practices, challenges, and opportunities in waiting well with our patients and their families. While this presentation looks at waiting in the context of the dying process, it will have implication for patient care across the palliative care and hospice spectrum.

B5 **Live Discharges in Hospice Practice: Challenges and Opportunities**



Kristin Nelson

DME & Pharmacy Services

As more patients "graduate" from hospice, organizations face growing complexities in managing live discharge and care transitions. This session will explore best practices for transitioning patients from hospice, including how to evaluate equipment coverage during and

after discharge to ensure continuity of care. Attendees will learn how thoughtful live discharge management can reduce risk, improve patient and family experience, and protect operational performance. The discussion will also highlight how effective transition processes support stronger Star Ratings and enhance overall hospice reputation.

B6 **What a Death Doula Can Do for You: Expanding care, Capacity, and Continuity in Hospice and Palliative Settings**



Amiyah King

Death Doula

Death doulas provide holistic support that complements hospice and palliative care, addressing emotional, cultural, and practical needs for patients, families, and care teams. This session highlights the scope and boundaries of death doula practice, strategies for effective interdisciplinary collaboration, and guidance on when and how to make appropriate referrals.

Participants will gain practical tools to enhance team communication, support caregiver resilience, and integrate doula-informed practices into patient-centered, culturally responsive care.

B7 **Occupational Therapy's Role on the Hospice Team: Supporting Function, Dignity, and Quality of Life at End of Life**



Rebecca Callais, DrOT

OTR/L



Alanna Glapion, EdE

OTRL

This presentation provides an overview of occupational therapy's role in hospice and palliative care, with emphasis on how OT interventions support activities of daily living (ADLs), safety, symptom management, and patient-centered goals. The session highlights OT's collaborative role in preserving function, reducing caregiver burden, and promoting dignity within daily routines. The presentation focuses on three key areas of OT intervention in hospice care: Durable medical equipment selection, caregiver education related to common medical equipment and infection control, and body mechanics. The session concludes by reinforcing occupational therapy's role in supporting dignity, autonomy, and quality of life at the end-of-life while strengthening interdisciplinary hospice care.



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS C 11:15am - 12:15pm

C1 Care Planning for Veteran Trauma Informed Care



Amanda Anderson, MSW, LCSW

This presentation is intended to provide an extensive understanding of interventions related to trauma informed care for veterans. Building forward from the beginner interdisciplinary position, this will cover additional options for intervention, deep dive into care planning, and developing appropriate supports. This is the bridge from beginning level to understanding appropriate care planning.



2026 Medicare Regulatory Updates: Reimbursement Impacted by OASIS & Outcome Programs



Melinda Gaboury, COS-C

Chief Executive Officer
Healthcare Provider Solutions

Numerous factors contribute to the calculation of Medicare reimbursement under the Patient-Driven Groupings Model (PDGM), as well as several additional programs that can influence reimbursement for home health agencies. This presentation will address the most recent clarifications regarding the Home Health Face-to-Face Encounter requirement and its impact on compliance and payment. In addition, programs such as Home Health Value-Based Purchasing (HHVBP), the Home Health Care Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HHCAHPS), and the Home Health Quality Reporting Program (HHQRP) all play a role in determining reimbursement outcomes and this session will review key updates and highlights of these programs and explain how they directly affect reimbursement of home health agencies.

C3 HOPE & CAHPS Creating a 5 Star Organization



Jeryn Laengrich, SP

With the implementation of the HOPE (Hospice Outcomes and Patient Evaluation) assessment tool, it is increasingly clear how its new and refined data elements can directly influence Hospice CAHPS® survey outcomes—particularly in elevating patient and family responses from bottom-box to top-box performance. The enhanced precision and consistency of HOPE assessments enable clinicians to more accurately identify and address patient needs in real time. This proactive, data-driven approach supports more personalized, responsive care, a core driver of higher satisfaction scores. Improved documentation of the core elements within updated HOPE tool aligns closely

with CAHPS® question domains. By leveraging these insights to guide care planning, staff education, and workflow refinement, agencies can ensure that patients and families consistently experience high-quality, compassionate care throughout the hospice journey.

C4 Integrating End of Life Doulas into Hospice



Anna Adams

Founder & CEO, End of Life Doulas; Educator

This presentation explores the integration of End-of-Life Doulas into hospice interdisciplinary teams, highlighting how their support can enhance patient and family care by strengthening communication, improving family satisfaction, and positively impacting Hospice CAHPS domains. Participants will also gain insights into hospice-aligned doula training models and learn how collaboration between clinicians and trained doulas can promote holistic end-of-life care while upholding scope of practice and ethical standards.

C5 Spiritual Care for the 'Nones': Serving the Unaffiliated and Spiritual-But Not Religious at End of Life



Russell Van Hoose

Chaplain

Twenty-eight percent of Americans are religiously unaffiliated — the largest single group in the country — yet most hospice spiritual care still assumes a religious framework. What do you say to someone who doesn't believe in God but clearly needs transcendence? How do you assess spiritual needs when "I'm not religious" shuts down the conversation? This session equips interdisciplinary hospice team members with practical tools: assessment language that doesn't presuppose faith, non-religious meaning-making resources, and approaches that honor how people live — and die. Participants will leave ready to recognize that "no religious preference" never means "no spiritual needs."

C6 Improving the Approach to Deprescribing Conversations



Caren McHenry Martin

PharmD Clinical Liaison, Dragonfly Health

Somi Arthur, PharmD, BCGP

Clinical Liaison Dragonfly Health



Deprescribing potentially inappropriate medications can improve patient safety and quality of life and decrease hospice medication costs. However, engaging patients, caregivers, and sometimes even other hospice staff in deprescribing conversations can be challenging. This session discusses the evidence base for deprescribing numerous medication classes and a framework for facilitating discussion. Participants will leave this

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session feeling more confident in their ability to initiate and support these conversations that can be difficult.

C7 Ethics and Legal Considerations for Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care



Caitlin Creel, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Hospice and Palliative Care

This session provides a focused overview of the ethical and legal issues that shape pediatric palliative and hospice care. Participants will be able to: Expand their knowledge of ethical considerations in pediatric palliative and hospice care. Participants will also gain resources and knowledge concerning legal considerations throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. Develop and approach to documentation of pertinent legal considerations of pediatric palliative and hospice care.

12:15-1:30

LUNCH/PLENARY

Gravestone Recipes, Food Memory, and Meaning-Making at the End of Life Book Signing



Rosie Grant

Author

Across cemeteries in the United States and beyond, families have chosen to memorialize their loved ones not only with names and dates—but with recipes. From biscuit instructions to holiday desserts, these gravestone recipes offer intimate insight into how people want to be remembered: through nourishment, care, and shared meals. This session introduces Ghostly Archive, a digital archive of gravestone recipes, and explores how food functions as a powerful tool for meaning-making, cultural continuity, and grief processing at the end of life. Drawing from archival research, storytelling, and real-world examples, the presentation invites hospice and palliative care professionals to consider how everyday practice such as cooking, sharing meals, and recipe preservation—can support patients and families navigating loss. Participants will examine how food memory intersects with social determinants of health, culture, ethics, and legacy-building, and how these insights can be ethically and gently integrated into hospice, palliative, and bereavement care. The session balances professional tools with personal reflection, acknowledging the emotional labor carried by care providers themselves.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos will be taken throughout the entire conference. Registration implies consent to be photographed and permission for LMHPCA to use the photos in its printed materials.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS D 1:30 - 2:30pm

D1

From Compassion Fatigue to Combat Resilience: A Leadership Model for Sustaining Hospice and Palliative Care Teams



Renard Dominique, EdD

This session presents a leadership model adapted from small military unit leadership, tailored for healthcare teams. Attendees will examine how trust, shared responsibility, and peer engagement can enhance team cohesion, communication, and reduce burnout. Research shows that team cohesion, psychological safety, and supportive leadership are key protective factors against burnout and moral distress in healthcare (West et al., 2016; Edmondson, 1999).

D2



Referrals on Purpose: A Framework for Continuum Partnerships Your Referral Sources Have a Preferred Partner. Is It You?



Melanie Stover, OT, MBA, MS/ISM

Home Care Sales

You hired a rep. You are paying a rep. And you are still not sure what they are doing every week. If your sales strategy right now is activity plus hope, this session is for you. This is a working session, not a lecture. Whether you are an owner, administrator, or clinician who influences referrals and care partnerships, you will walk away with tools you can use immediately. You will learn how to position your agency as the most trusted partner across the care continuum, build referral relationships grounded in clinical credibility, and implement a simple accountability system that drives consistent execution without micromanagement. This session works for both home health and hospice agencies and is designed so that every attendee, from the owner in the back of the room to the clinician on the care team, leaves with a clear role in building a referral strategy that works.

D3 Emotional Intelligence (EQ) & Growth Mindset in Leadership



Kellye Smith

Ross & Yerger

High stress emotionally charged environments make EQ essential for hospice and palliative care leadership. This session explores how Emotional Intelligence and Growth Mindset can reduce burnout, strengthen relationships, and enhance leadership effectiveness. Attendees will learn practical tools for improving self-awareness, empathy, adaptability, and resilience.



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D4

Ageism in Healthcare: The call for healthcare professionals to address and act against this accepted form of discrimination



Gina Rossi, LCSW-BACS, MHSA

Ageism is the last accepted discrimination. In healthcare settings it is dangerous and has life altering results. This workshop reviews ageism as it is imbedded in our society, and how healthcare professionals may be reinforcing this discrimination. This workshop is applicable to all healthcare professionals as it identifies how unrecognized ageism can also negatively affect the realization of 4 M's of healthcare.

D5

End of Life Planning Beyond Medical Directives



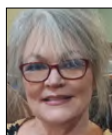
Penny Clement

End of Life Doula

This presentation outlines the comprehensive role of End-of-Life Doulas, emphasizing their support in legacy projects, memorial planning, and guiding individuals and families through a variety of post-death decisions. It highlights the importance of early planning, honoring personal and cultural values, and providing education on options ranging from funerals and celebrations of life to green burial alternatives and eulogies. The document stresses holistic end-of-life planning, covering essential directives, meaningful tributes, and ensuring informed choices for both medical and personal matters.

D6

TPE and ADRs: Taking the pain out of Submissions



Lisa Sigsworth, RN

ADRs and TPEs are hot again this year for CMS. Make sure that you are submitting what is requested in the correct fashion, order and in a timely manner.

D7



Home Health Regulatory & Quality Update



Jennifer Kennedy, EdD, MA, BSN, RN, CHC VP

Quality Standards & Compliance, CHAP

Home health is challenging, and providers are asked to do more with less in this health care environment. During this session, attendees will gain insight into the CY 2026 Home Health Payment Update proposed rule, best practices for compliance, and demonstrating your quality beyond the HHQRP. Now is the time to ensure your organization is prepared for the future of Home Health care.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS E 2:30 - 3:30pm

E1

VA Policy Updates and Benefits Impacting End of Life Care



Amanda Anderson, MSW, LCSW

The Goal of this presentation will be to provide not only understanding for interdisciplinary teams to assist with providing veteran support but also recognize ways in which to activate VA supports for both caregiving and veteran support. This will include analysis of recent changes due to multiple policies within the last few years that have impacted hospice care.

E2



Fueling the Fire or Burning It Down? The PDGM Myths Holding Home Health Back



Lisa Selman-Holman, JD, BSN, RN, HCS-D, COS-C McBee

Years into PDGM, misinformation continues to spread, quietly shaping care decisions and operational strategy. This presentation sparks a candid discussion about the most damaging PDGM myths still circulating in home health and the unintended consequences they create. Discover how replacing outdated assumptions with PDGM reality can reignite clinical effectiveness, financial performance and organizational confidence.

E3

LGBTQ+ Lives at the End of Life: How to Show Up Better for Queer and Trans Patients and Partners



Russell Van Hoose

Chaplain

Nearly one quarter of hospice professionals have witnessed discriminatory care toward LGBTQ+ patients — and most don't know what to do about it. We miss the partners standing right in front of us. Our intake forms erase chosen families. And we rarely address the faith-based anxiety that keeps patients from trusting us. This session names what's going wrong and gives interdisciplinary team members practical tools to fix it: inclusive language that works, intake procedures that honor all family structures, and care practices that signal safety from first contact to final hours. Participants will leave knowing how to see their LGBTQ+ patients fully and protect their dignity at life's end.

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E4

Strengthening Hospice Admissions, Recertifications, and GIP Justifications



Arlette Delcham, MD

Accurate, thorough, and clinically meaningful documentation is essential in hospice care—not only for regulatory compliance, but for ensuring patients receive appropriate levels of care. This session will provide hospice nurses and providers with practical strategies to improve documentation for hospice admissions, recertifications, and General Inpatient (GIP) level of care.

E5

Navigating Hospice Excellence – AI, Data, Innovation, and Ethical Imperatives



Cordt Kassner, PhD

Hospice Analytics

This dynamic workshop equips hospice leaders with actionable insights to thrive in an era of heightened scrutiny and opportunity. Drawing on current trends in artificial intelligence (AI), Medicare data trends, utilization patterns, and quality benchmarks, Dr. Kassner will demystify key metrics while exploring the role of media narratives and AI in shaping public perception and operational efficiency. A spotlight on Dr. Ira Byock's recent article, "A Strategic Path Forward for Hospice and Palliative Care: A White Paper on the Potential Future of the Field", will ground discussions in ethical imperatives, urging leaders to align data-driven strategies with compassionate, high-integrity care. Participants will leave with a roadmap for leveraging analytics to enhance referral networks, mitigate risks, and advance equitable end-of-life care.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Hospice, Home Health and Palliative Care Professionals, inclusive of physicians, geriatricians, nurses, nurse practitioners, clinical managers, social workers, chaplains, volunteer and bereavement coordinators, administrators and owners, community liaisons and educators, healthcare futurist and visionaries regarding serious illnesses and terminal conditions, as well as any healthcare provider dedicated to improving care and outcomes metrics across the healthcare continuum, especially with special populations inclusive of veterans, pediatrics, minorities and corrections.

E6

Advance Directives: Issues and Access



Laurie Dietrich, BS

Wake

Elizabeth R. Carter

Professor of Law at LSU Law Center



Advance Directives are the actionable documents that record a person's wishes for medical care at end of life or in periods of incapacity. They are one component of a complete advance plan for end-of-life care, but they are critical in that their execution is time-limited, they are well correlated with improved patient outcomes, and they are subject to requirements of form that are often not well understood.

This presentation will place advance directives in the historical context of evolving law on informed consent, dive deeper into requirements of form for advance directives in Louisiana and Mississippi, explore how to educate patients and families about the importance of these forms and the decisions they document, and provide participants with a comprehensive advance directive template enforceable in their state and designed to make advance care planning more easily accessible for hospice and palliative care patients.

E7

Strategies for Growth & Profitability



Paige Parker

CHAP

This session presents a practical, zero-cost framework for accelerating growth in community-based healthcare organizations by addressing the core barriers that consistently impede performance leadership gaps, cultural challenges, talent issues, and the absence of strategic planning. Participants will learn how to leverage agency differentiators and apply a lead-measure approach centered on reach, frequency, and high-quality consultative messaging to drive reliable referral growth. The presentation also outlines how to build a culture of accountability through clear goals, routing, documentation, and data utilization. Finally, the session equips attendees with a blueprint to diagnose underperformance, optimize sales activity, and resolve the most common root cause of stagnant results: ineffective or inconsistent messaging that fails to differentiate the agency in competitive markets.

3:30-3:45

BREAK

25



Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



CONCURRENT SESSIONS F 3:45 - 4:45pm

F1

Weaving Meaningful Threads: Transforming End-of-Life Conversations



Kimberly Taylor, BSN, RN, CHPN

Hospice Director
Forrest General Home Care Hospice and Asbury Hospice House
Hattiesburg, MS

Despite the well-documented benefits of hospice care, many patients are referred far too late—often in the final days of life—limiting the full impact of comfort-focused care. One of the most significant barriers to timely hospice referral is not clinical eligibility, but communication. This presentation explores how healthcare professionals can confidently and compassionately introduce end-of-life care conversations earlier in the patient journey. Drawing from real-world experience as both a hospice nurse and director, this session will provide practical language, strategies, and insights that help reduce fear, build trust, and support informed decision-making.

F2 **HCLA**
HOMECARE ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA

Enhancing the Quality Culture of Your Organization



Melinda Gaboury, COS-C

Chief Executive Officer
Healthcare Provider Solutions

This interactive session provides a guide to developing a sustainable culture of quality. Participants will discover moving beyond mere compliance to a state where excellence is a shared value and a natural part of everyone's day-to-day. We will explore the critical elements of a strong quality culture, including bought-in leadership, transparent communication, and continuous improvement. Through practical hands-on exercises, attendees will gain actionable insights for assessing their current culture and creating a strategic action plan. This workshop is designed for leaders, managers, and quality professionals who are ready to transform their organization and build a sustainable advantage through quality.

COMFORT:

Bring a jacket/light sweater for your comfort
as the temperature of the rooms can vary.

F3

The 2026 Legislative Playbook for Hospice and Palliative Care



Elizabeth Duncan Harper, BA

Louisiana State Director Alliance for the Advancement of End of Life

John Morgan Hughes, MBA

Mississippi State Director Alliance for the Advancement of End of Life



Join Alliance for the Advancement of End-of-Life Care's Louisiana and Mississippi Governmental Affairs Directors for a fast-paced, behind-the-scenes breakdown of the 2026 legislative sessions. This

session will unpack the moments that mattered most for hospice and palliative care. You'll get the real story behind the headlines, what passed, what failed and what's quietly gaining traction. More importantly, we'll connect the dots to what it all means for your organization, your patients, and your day-to-day operations. Expect practical takeaways, a few insider stories and clear direction on how YOU can be part of the advocacy action moving forward.

F4

Avoiding Wrongful Termination



Kellye Smith

Ross & Yerger

Termination is difficult in any industry, but especially in mission driven care environments. This session breaks down the essentials of legally sound and ethically grounded termination practices. Attendees will learn how to document effectively, maintain compassionate communication, and avoid the missteps that lead to liability and organizational harm.

F5

Elevating Hospice Practice: Demonstrating the True Value of Our Care



Katherine Morrison MSN, RN, CHPN, CCS-HH

WellSky

Cindy Campbell, MHA-Healthcare Informatics, BSN, RN

WellSky

Assure best practice clinical competence in how your practitioners recognize, assess and respond to clinical needs, representing the best in Hospice care delivery to CMS. Data scrutiny will be high as the HOPE instrument teaches regulators who we are as an industry, and how we serve. Let's leverage innovation and lift practice higher as we teach CMS the value of our industry.

Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



F6

Multigenerational Speak, Teach, and Culture



Jennifer Kennedy, EdD, MA, BSN, RN, CHC VP
Quality Standards & Compliance, CHAP

Healthcare is seeing its most diverse environment due to the aging of the Babyboomer generation. Not only do we have an aging patient population, but we are also dealing with generational diversity within the healthcare workforce. Every generation thinks, communicates, and learns in different ways. Organizations that master generational culture are better equipped to retain staff and satisfy patients and caregivers. Staffing and meeting patient needs and expectations are a priority for all healthcare providers, so understanding generational differences is key to successful operations and quality outcomes.

F7

Seen and Supported: Caring for Children on their Journeys



Bridget Perry, CCLS MHA
Clinical Lead Manning Family Children's



Judy Zeringue, MAPL, BSN, RN, RTSCBC, CPLC, CHPPN
Children's perception of death will change across developmental stages.

Discussion of Grief Awareness Day to share our support to children who grieve to remind them they are not alone. Age-appropriate communication strategies discussed and how to utilize supportive interventions. Hands on memory making to honor a loved one.

4:45-5:15

GIVEAWAYS

Friday, July 31, 2026

7:00-7:50

BREAKFAST

7:50-8:00

LMHPCO ADDRESS



CONCURRENT SESSIONS G
8:00 - 9:00am

G1

Pearls of Communication in Palliative Care and Hospice: Five F's, Goals of Care, and NURSE



Rodney Tucker, MD
Director, UAB Center for Palliative and Supportive Care

This session will highlight a few pearls of communication in working with patients and families with serious illness. Starting with a conversation about how and what factors are considered by patients when making serious decisions, moving to a practical way to introduce the key aspects of a goals of care conversation and ending with practice at NURSE statements that validate patient concerns. Participants will leave with practical ideas, phrases, and new ways to approach communication in the palliative care and hospice settings. Session is geared for all member of the interdisciplinary teams.

G2

Cybersecurity for Hospice Professionals



Beverly Henshaw, CISSP, CCSP, PMP
Cybersecurity Advisor (LA)

The session will discuss cybersecurity, define common cyber-attacks, and provide best practices to start your cybersecurity program.

G3

Advanced Care Planning in the Incarcerated Population: The Role For Palliative Care Providers



Sara Prudhomme, MSW, MSCJ, LCSW, BACS, ACHP-SW
Trina Yvette Mason, DNP, APRN, FNP-C
Margaret Redmond, MN, APRN, ACNS-BC



Incarcerated individuals face disproportionately higher rates of chronic illness, mental health conditions and accelerated aging, yet rarely have access to advanced care planning (ACP), due to systemic mistrust, restricted healthcare and complex legal barriers. This presentation will examine the need for ACP in correctional health as both an ethical obligation and practical necessity. From literature, case examples and innovative models, participants will explore barriers, ethical tensions, and leadership strategies. Palliative medicine providers can play a transformative role in ensuring dignity, voice and compassionate planning for one of society's most marginalized populations.



Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



CONCURRENT SESSIONS H 9:00 - 10:00am

H1

Relief, Dignity, and What Matters Most: Practical Symptom Management in Serious Illness



Susan E. Nelson, MD, FACP, FAAHPM

Mark Kantrow, MD, FAAHPM

System medical Director of Palliative Care, Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health



Focuses on mastering foundational skills—opioids, bowel regimens, dyspnea management, and delirium care—to deliver high-quality, consistent symptom control.

H2

Silver Threads and Green Horizons: Navigating the Reimbursable Future of Alternative Cannabinoid Therapy

Ivory Davis, RN

This session provides a roadmap for administrators to navigate this “Nursing Titration” intersection. By analyzing the pioneering “Hands-Off” protocols of the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, the “Awakenings” reported at Lincolnshire Place, and the standardized documentation of the Saskatoon Health Region, attendees will learn how to turn these new laws into a proactive business strategy. We will specifically address how to use technology-supported care to monitor pain while maximizing Medicare billing feasibility. Join us to ensure your facility is ready for the “Green Wave” redefining the next 25 years of hospice care in the Gulf South.

H3

How to increase family satisfaction from admission through 13 months of Bereavement



Cara Abbott, CEO

Betterleave

Family caregiver communication is one of the most powerful drivers of quality outcomes.

Here's the most common family engagement strategy we see today:

- 1) An ad-hoc phone call is made to a family member
- 2) 2/10 phone calls are answered
- 3) A coordination note is then added to an open text field

Here are the challenges with this strategy:

- 1) Lacks consistency and scalability
- 2) Only a small % of family members are receiving timely communication

3) Feedback is documented, but not analyzed

In this session we'll share our data and F.A.M framework that elevate CAHPS outcomes, strengthen referrals, boost retention and improve overall care quality.

10:00-10:15

BREAK



CONCURRENT SESSIONS I 10:15 - 11:15am

I1

Medicine's Lost Art: Navigating Prognostication with Confidence



Jess Anderson, MD

Medical Director of Palliative Care, Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center

Assistant Faculty, Internal Medicine, LSU Health Baton Rouge

Assistant Medical Director, Clarity Hospice

Prognostication is the action of foretelling future events. This is a core clinical skill in palliative medicine, yet it is often underutilized and clinicians often feel poorly trained. This lecture is designed to discuss the role of prognostication in commonly seen disease processes. It will explore barriers and key factors influencing prognosis in addition to examining some evidence-based tools and prediction calculators. This lecture will also review how to integrate and communicate prognosis effectively for both patients and members of the medical team while trying to also remain goal concordant.

Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care



12

Psychosocial Trauma Interventions at End of Life: Blending Evidence-Based Practice With Compassionate Clinical Adaptation



Christopher R.L. Parkinson, ABPP

Psychology Program Manager, Department of Veteran Affairs

Allison Dornbach-Bender, Ph.D.

PTSD team lead and Military Sexual Trauma (MST) coordinator at SLVHCS



People who are diagnosed with a serious medical illness are significantly more likely to be diagnosed with PTSD. Studies have also indicated that 9 to 17% of Veterans, have reported combat-related distress in the last month of life. Serious illness can function to exacerbate preexisting symptoms of PTSD in individuals who have otherwise well-controlled symptoms. Symptoms such as pain or dyspnea can elicit feelings of vulnerability or helplessness which may trigger intrusive thoughts, hyperarousal, irritability, dissociation, and social isolation.

In the current session, presenters will review current literature with respect to the landscape of trauma presentation and expression in those diagnosed with severe medical illness. We will address current clinical guidance regarding proper screening and assessment of trauma and discuss how the application of differential diagnosis can be utilized to accurately triage patients to the most appropriate medical or psychological intervention. To this end, we will address best practices regarding psychological interventions for trauma and explore the stepwise psychosocial palliative care (SPPC) approach to management of trauma symptomology at the end of life.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS J 11:15am - 12:15pm

J1

Slipping into darkness: An ethical comparison of Voluntary stopping eating and drinking, medical aid in Dying, and Euthanasia



Michael Rolfsen, MD

Quality Medical Director, Baton Rouge Clinic

Many patients suffering from terminal illness choose to hasten death by voluntarily stopping eating and drinking. Palliative and hospice participation in this journey frequently involves managing symptoms resulting from this decision. By doing so we are actively participating in what was formally called assisted suicide, now often called medical aid in dying? Is this a potential pathway and transition to voluntary euthanasia? This discussion will analyze the ethical issues involved and what differentiates and connects these actions.

J2

Assessing Veteran Needs - Identifying ways to serve those who have served



Bryan Johnson, BS

Bereavement Coordinator, Southern Grace Hospice

This presentation explores the assessment of veterans' needs and strategies to enhance support for those who have served. By examining social, health and logistical factors including housing, mental health, employment, and access to benefits, we identify barriers and gaps in current services.

12:15

CLOSING REMARKS, CONFERENCE ENDS

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

Participants attending this conference will be able to:

1. Strengthen executive leadership and management skills
2. Identify regulatory and quality requirements/changes that impact hospice and palliative care
3. Identify ways to provide better palliative and end-of-life care



Silver Threads of Compassion: 25 Years of Care

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION [CLICK HERE](#)

For registration questions contact Marquetta at 888-546-1500, ext 1.

Registration/Cancellation Policy Information:

All cancellations must be submitted in writing.

A \$50 processing fee will apply to ALL cancellations.

Cancellations made on or before June 30, 2026 will receive a full refund, less a processing fee.

Cancellations between July 1, 2026 and July 18, 2026 will receive a 50% refund.

No refunds will be made in registration cancellations postmarked/date stamped after July 18, 2026.

Substitutions are welcomed and apply to this conference ONLY.

Please submit your substitutions in writing.

All refunds will be processed within 30 days after the 2026 Leadership Conference.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

To receive continuing education credit, the person must be a duly registered attendee of the conference AND complete an electronic conference evaluation for each session attended. Certificates will be available online to attendees requesting continuing education who register for the session, remain in attendance throughout the session and complete an on-line evaluation form. Persons who leave early will receive credit proportional to their actual attendance.

Social Worker Continuing Education Credit

Social Worker Continuing Education Credit Application for up to 19 hours (for full conference) has been submitted and approval is pending NASW – LA Chapter. LMHPCO is approved as a provider for continuing education by the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers.

Nursing Continuing Education Credit

Up to 19 hours (for full conference) Nursing Continuing Education approved through Louisiana Mississippi Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (LMHPCO), an approved provider of nursing continuing education by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing. CE Provider number 46.

Physician Continuing Medical Education

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of Ochsner Clinic Foundation and LMHPCO. The Ochsner Clinic Foundation is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Designation

The Ochsner Clinic Foundation designates this live activity for a maximum of 19.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

General Attendance Education

A general attendance certificate will be awarded to each contact hour participants are in attendance, up to 12.5 hours for Clinical/Professional Track, 13 hours for Administration Track, 19 hours for full conference.



LMHPCO 2026 CONFERENCE RATES

MEMBERS

EARLY BIRD

(received by June 30, 2026)

MEMBER

(received on/after July 1, 2026)

MEMBER ON-SITE

Full Conference: per individual/no sharing (Wednesday-Friday)

\$599

\$649

\$699

Wednesday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$449

\$499

\$549

Thursday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$449

\$499

\$549

Friday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$249

\$299

\$349

Corporate GOLD Badge (Full Conference)

Allows for one attendee at a time but corporation can hand off to any person throughout the three days

\$1050

\$1150

\$1250

NON-MEMBERS

NON-MEMBER EARLY BIRD

(received by June 30, 2026)

NON-MEMBER

(received on/after July 1, 2026)

ON-SITE

Full Conference: per individual/no sharing (Wednesday-Friday)

\$849

\$899

\$949

Wednesday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$649

\$699

\$749

Thursday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$649

\$699

\$749

Friday Only: per individual/no sharing

\$399

\$449

\$499

Corporate GOLD Badge (Full Conference)

Allows for one attendee at a time but corporation can hand off to any person throughout the three days

\$1650

\$1750

\$1850

QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTRATION CAN BE DIRECTED TO
MARQUETA TRICE LIPFORD AT 888-546-1500, EXT. 1

CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Members
must log in
to receive
member
rates