

Hospice and Palliative Care Association
Of New York State
46th Annual Conference
1980 - 2026

*"To promote the availability and accessibility of Quality Hospice & Palliative Care
for ALL persons in New York State, confronted with a life-limiting illness"*

November 10-11, 2026 | Rivers Casino, Schenectady, NY

*honored to be
a part of the journey*



Conference Outline Summary

November 10, 2026

7:30a – 8:15a – Check In Conference Area | Vendors Set Up | Breakfast in Main Room

8:20 – 8:40a – Welcome to HPCANYS' 46th Annual Conference – Jeanne Chirico, CEO/President of HPCANYS

- Legislative Champion Award

8:45a – 9:45a - Session One | GENERAL SESSION

Updates from the Center for Hospice and Palliative Care | Kara Travis, Director, Center for Hospice and Palliative Care | OALTC| NYSDOH

10:00a – 11:00 – Session Two Breakouts

- A. The New Reality for Hospice: What Leaders Need to Know | Chris Comeaux, TCN
- B. Following the Symptom Management Cues in CAHPS and HOPE | Caren McHenry Martin, | Dragonfly Health
- C. Strong Foundations: Setting Expectations to Drive Avg. Daily Census
Teresa Holstein, RN, BSN, CHPN, AFC-CP and Pricilla Kraut, RN, MSN, CHPN | Hudson Valley Hospice
- D. MOLST/eMOLST Statewide Implementation Team Updates | Allison Stark, MD, MBA and Christine Wilkins, PhD, LCSW
Montefiore Health System & Sloan Kettering

11:15a – 12:15p – Session Three Breakouts

- A. Audis, Audits and More Audits - It's the Song that Never Ends!
Rachel Hold-Weiss, JD, PA-C| Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan and Aronoff LLP
- B. Reducing Revocations: the new NYS EMS Hospice | Mary Crosby, RN, MPH, CHPN, EMT and CEO | East End Hospice
- C. Adopting the Dyad Leadership Model in Hospice Palliative Care Organizations | Sonali Wilborn, MD, MBA| VNS Health
- D. NYS Hospice Underutilization – Beyond the Numbers | Nick George, CEO | High Peaks Hospice

12:20p – 1:55p - LUNCH | Annual Business Meeting | Awards | Networking with Vendors

- o Presidents Report / Year In Review
- o Slate of Board of Trustees/Elections
- o Selinske Award
- o Volunteer of the Year Award

2:00p – 3:00p - Session Four | KEYNOTE | Cordt Kassner, PhD, CEO- Hospice Analytics

3:00p – 3:15p BREAK

3:20p – 4:30p – Session Five | General Session | Judi Lund Person, Principle- LundPerson & Associates, LLC & Senior Advisor on Fraud & Abuse, NPHI

“Spending Outside The Hospice Benefit”

November 11, 2026

7:30a – 8:15a – Registration / Breakfast in Main / Vendor Mingle

8:15a – 8:30a – Welcome & Announcements | Jeanne Chirico, CEO/President

8:30a – 9:30a - Session Six | KEYNOTE | Judi Lund Person, LundPerson & Associates/NPHI

Inspirational History & The Future of Hospice

9:45a – 10:45a – Session Seven | BREAKOUTS

A. Medication Considerations for MAiD in New York State | Elizabeth Miles | Fuze Care Services

B. Transforming Pediatric Hospice: Expanding Access Through Concurrent Care
Lacy Rugaber-Williams, Dir of Peds & Clinical Svces | United Hospice

C Understanding Suicidal Ideation in Hospice and Palliative Care | Jordyn Raysor, LMSW, APHSW-C | Hospice of Chenango County

D. Improving the Approach to Deprescribing Conversations | Caren McHenry Martin, PharmD, BCGP | Dragonfly Health

11:00a – 12:00p - Session Eight | GENERAL SESSION | Mandi Zucker, Executive Director - End of Life Choices, New York

Making Choice a Reality: Implementing Medical Aid in Dying

12:00 – 12:15p – BREAK / Vendor Mingle

12:15p – 1:10p - LUNCH BUFFET

1:15p – 2:15p – Session Nine | Breakouts

A. Where Magic Happens: Building a Culture of Interdisciplinary Hospice Care
Dianne Wojciechowski, MSW, LCSW & Jeanine Kiehl, MBA, BSN, RN | Hospice Support Specialists

B. Beyond the Basics: Advanced Pain Management Strategies in Hospice Care | Jerry Ewancio, RPH, ACHC| IV Solutions

C. Caring for the Caregivers: Using Data to Strengthen Retention and Workforce

Wellbeing | Sybil Aumick, SHRM-CP | CareFirstNY Hospice
D. Implementing Gamified Training to Reduce Hospice Nurse Burnout and Improve Competency
Karen Panaciulli MSN-Ed RN CHPN and Deborah Walker, ANP-BC, ACHPN, NPD-BC | Hospice Care Network @ Northwell Health

2:30p – 3:30p - Session Ten | CLOSING KEYNOTE | Rosie Grant, MLIS, Author | ***To Die For. A Cookbook of Gravestone Recipes.***

DRAFT