

2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Concurrent Session 3D

***Siblings Do Matter: Supporting and Empowering Siblings of Medically Fragile Children**

*One (1 hour) for Social Work CEU's will be given for this session.

Katie Haas, LMSW, Sheena Mathew, LMSW, Christine Pedersen, MT-BC. All 3 speakers are from St. Mary's Hospital for Children.

What is the impact of having an ill sibling or a sibling with a life limiting illness? This is a question that is often overlooked by families and medical professionals. The unmet emotional needs of siblings are almost always unspoken and can have a profound impact on the family and the lifelong coping of the sibling. This presentation will highlight the St. Mary's Sibling Support Program. Included will be a review of our Sibling Support Group, case examples, programmatic challenges, and an experiential music therapy component.

Objective #1: The learner will be able to identify the impact on children of having a chronically ill sibling.

Objective #2: The learner will be able to identify 4 therapeutic group interventions identified as essential components of the St. Mary's Sibling support group.

Objective #3: The learner will be able to identify 2 challenges and solutions to running a sibling support group.

Speaker Bios:

Katie Haas, LMSW graduated from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work in 2012 with a specialization in Children and their Families. Upon graduation Katie began working at St. Mary's Hospital for Children in their Pediatric Day Healthcare Program. In the program Katie provided supportive services to children living in the community with medical complexities. In addition, Katie ran therapeutic groups with the children which focused on developing the member's thinking, feelings, as well as behavioral skills. In 2014 Katie transitioned to St. Mary's inpatient as the social worker on Children's unit 4. Using a patient and family centered care approach Katie provides support to both the residents as well as their families in regards to either palliative care services, a new inpatient stay/diagnosis, transitioning from short term care to long term care or discharge planning.

Sheena Mathew, LMSW has been working as a social worker at St. Mary's Hospital for Children for the last 5 years working with the medically fragile children and their families. Following her completion of her graduate studies at Adelphi University in the School of Social Work, Sheena worked at Ozanam Hall Nursing Home for 5 years working with long term and short term care adults. She transitioned to St. Mary's Hospital for Children in March 2014, where she is currently a Toddler Unit Social Worker. She provides support to the inpatient residents and their families in various capacities whether it is for transition to long term care placement and the adjustments for the resident and the family, short term rehabilitation and discharge planning, and/or support given to the families and the resident around palliative care services.

Christine Pedersen, MT-BC, is a Board Certified Music Therapist who earned her undergraduate degree in Music Therapy from Molloy College, with a minor in Psychology. She is currently working as a Music Therapist at St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Bayside, NY. Her primary focus at St. Mary's is working collaboratively with interdisciplinary team members to provide comfort and support within musical experiences to children on palliative care and their families.