1-2:00 p.m.  Concurrent Session 2J

*Gabriel’s Courage:
A Perinatal Comfort Support Program For Families

*This session is approved for one (1) hour SW CE credit

Maribeth McKeever, LCSW-R, BCD, Assistant Director of Bereavement, Good Shepherd Hospice and Sheila Felice, LCSW-R, Bereavement Specialist, Good Shepherd Hospice

Description: It can be a devastating event for parents whose unborn child is given a diagnosis that is not compatible with life. These expectant parents face the overwhelming task of having to process complex medical information to make the decision to terminate the pregnancy or continue the pregnancy to full term. For those parents who make the decision to continue the pregnancy the is an innovative compassionate model of support that offers comfort and dignity. This family–centered perinatal model offers a multidisciplinary team approach to care that affirms the role as parents and allows hopes, goals and values to be expressed and respected. The support begins at the time of the diagnosis with a thoughtful approach that allows parents to make important decisions about their labor, delivery, life and remembrance.

Objectives:

- Learn to identify 3 theoretical frameworks that promote understanding of perinatal loss
- Will be able to develop strategies for incorporation of bereavement based model of care for perinatal loss
- Will be able to identify the importance of the relationships between family and staff and of multiple institutions to ensure continuum of care
- Will acquire the tools needed to incorporate Healing Rituals and Memory Making Activities in your own practice.

Speaker Bios –

Maribeth McKeever, LCSW-R, BCD – New York State Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Board Certified Diplomat. Currently holds the position as Assistant Director of Bereavement for Good Shepherd Hospice as well as Coordinator of Gabriel’s Courage Perinatal Support Program. Expertise in complex issues related to bereavement, loss, complicated grief and serious illnesses across the life span, including perinatally. Responsibilities include ongoing planning, development, coordination and evaluation of comprehensive pre-bereavement and bereavement programming for families, adults and children, including Gabriel’s Courage Perinatal Support Program. Also functions as
Sheila Felice, LCSW – Sheila Felice, LCSW-R, Resolve Through Sharing Certified Coordinator, Bereavement Specialist at Good Shepherd Hospice since May of 2012. Professional history includes but in not limited to 20 years of hospice care and programming. Current position responsibilities: Implementation of pre-bereavement and bereavement services to hospice families, adults, children, and the community. Comprehensive programming including individual and group counseling, complicated grief support, crisis response, educational curriculum development, and presentation. Active member of Gabriel’s Courage, a perinatal loss bereavement program since the development and inception in 2013. Resolve through Sharing Coordinator Certified, providing training to Gabriel’s Courage staff. Actively providing care to families with a difficult perinatal diagnosis throughout their pregnancies, birth, care and support following birth, and bereavement care needs.