St. Mary’s Healthcare System for Children is dedicated to providing care for children with complex medical needs and their families. Over 30 years ago, St. Mary’s Palliative Care Program became a pioneer in providing treatment to infants, young children, and adolescents with life-limiting illnesses. The first of its kind in the country, it is designed for children whose disease process is non-responsive to curative treatment. This session will describe the components St. Mary’s Palliative Care Program and discussion will include: 1) the philosophy and benefits of integrating the practice of family centered care 2) communication tools needed during end of life conversations with children and families 3) family education and 4) the idea of creating and communicating goals of care. Focus will rest upon the dignity and quality of life for the child. Examples of courage by children will provide inspiring insight, and serve as a platform for matters of family and professional support and intervention.

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