

## Sensory Sanctuary: Redefining Pediatric Palliative Care with Sensory Innovation

- **In-person only**

**Description of Presentation:** "Sensory Sanctuary: Transforming Pediatric Palliative Care with Technology" dives into the intricate realm of pediatric palliative care, unveiling innovative approaches to address the unique needs of children facing life-limiting illnesses. Through this presentation, participants will embark on a journey to explore the challenges that conventional therapeutic methods encounter in meeting the distinctive needs of pediatric patients. Attendees will uncover the transformative potential of technology in pediatric palliative care, particularly in enhancing communication, fostering empowerment among young patients, and creating more accessible means of authentic connection. The session delves into the therapeutic realm of sound, offering insights into novel avenues for exploration and compassionate care. By exploring these key areas, participants will gain valuable insights and practical strategies to advance pediatric palliative care through sensory innovation.

### **Objectives**

1. Participants will be able to identify innovative technologies and their potential to enhance communication and empowerment for young patients in palliative care.
2. Participants will explore new approaches to utilizing sound and music therapy in pediatric palliative care that are culturally sensitive and logistically accessible to a diverse clientele.
3. Participants will examine the therapeutic benefits of sound and music as a medium for enhancing the well-being and quality of life for children in palliative care.
4. Participants will examine the ways in which sensory innovation holds potential for increased accessibility across a variety of therapeutic contexts.

### **Speakers Bio:**

**Michael Matos**, a licensed Massage Therapist (LMT) with expertise in Pediatric Massage, joined St. Mary's Hospital for Children's Palliative Care Team in 2021. Working closely with patients, families, and the interdisciplinary team, he provides compassionate care throughout their hospital stay.

With an extensive background in multi-media art, Michael specializes in interactive video and sound synthesis. In 2022, he spearheaded the creation of the Sensory Lab, transforming the hospital experience for pediatric patients by immersing them in therapeutic sensory environments.

**Francesca Miller** is a board-certified music therapist (MT-BC) who received her B.S. in Music Therapy at Molloy University in 2016. She is currently writing her Master's thesis in Music Therapy and Counseling from Slippery Rock University. Francesca has worked in a variety of settings, spending the majority of her career working with autistic and/or developmentally disabled children and adults. She has spent the past 4 years working in inpatient pediatric settings who specialize in caring for children with complex medical needs. Francesca is passionate about advocating for systemic changes that create more equitable and inclusive environments for her patients and the people that work with them. Community-care, expanding opportunities for accessibility and centering disability justice are some of the core tenants of Francesca's therapeutic practice.