

Goals of Care and Advocating for What Matters Most for Patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In-Person and Virtual

This session is approved for 1.5 SW CE Credits

Summary: Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are a vulnerable population for many reasons, and this can be compounded by multiple factors particularly as they and those that support them navigate the world of health care, advanced illness journeys and end of life care. Join two Northwell Health Social Workers as they share an enlightening education on the rich legacy of this population's historical movement through healthcare, tips and guidance on how to navigate vital legal processes involved in end of life decision making and planning, and lastly how they spread education and awareness for advocacy and elevation of care for these patients served within their health system and how you too can impact meaningful change.

Objectives:

1. Participants will learn about the history of institutionalization, medical abuse and neglect that were inherent in the origins of care of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities which was followed by the deinstitutionalization movement, grounded in self-determination and person-centered care.
2. Participants will gain awareness of the regulatory processes in place to protect this population, the knowledge gaps that can serve as barriers, and walk through general guidelines for meeting these regulations while also achieving timely implementation of person-centered goals of care.
3. Participants will learn of creative progress and resources for supporting and advocating for this vulnerable population as they, their families and support staff navigate advanced illness journeys and end of life.

Bios:

Christine Gallo, LCSW, GC-C is a Clinical Social Worker and Certified Grief Counselor on the Palliative Medicine Team at Peconic Bay Medical Center. Through her role, Christine has the privilege of supporting patients and their families across all facets of advanced illness and loss with a specialized meaning-centered lens and holds a specialized interest and focus on advocacy for health equity and dignified end of life care along the advanced illness journey continuum for patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Christine also coordinates the Palliative Medicine Team's multi-faceted Bereavement Plan of Care utilizing holistic mind, body, and spirit multi-modal interventions to support individuals as they navigate their journey of grief.

Zairia Finch, LCSW-R, MS is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-R), with psychotherapy privilege's by training. She obtained her bachelor of social work degree from Marist College/Poughkeepsie NY, master's degree in social work from Fordham University, New York, and a second master's degree in non-profit leadership from Fordham University, New York. Zairia is currently a-part of the social work service line at Northwell Health, where she holds the title of Advisor and Social work Educator. Prior to this role on the corporate team, Zairia was the Director of Social work at Lenox Hill Hospital, where she has held multiple roles. Zairia was the first senior social worker on the team at Lenox Hill, she was later promoted to supervisor, and senior manager before director. While at LHH she served on numerous committees which include Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Cancer Care, Complex Care, Utilization Review, Revenue Cycle, Readmissions, Health Solutions, Medicine PICG, Psychiatric PICG, Length of Stay (LOS), Psychiatric Department Management, ED Service Line, and Journal Club. Zairia has also been apart of the Northwell Health Educational Affiliation Task Force, Professional Advisory Group, Health Human Trafficking Task Force-Lenox Hill, system wide student intern committee. Zairia is passionate about leadership, and continuing education. Zairia is a Development Dimensions International (DDI) Certified Workshop Facilitator, an Advanced Care Transitions Simulation Trainer (ACTS). Since Zairia has transitioned to her role as advisor and educator, some of the programs I oversee include the social work CEU program, MSW Student Program, in addition to providing general education and support to various sites both inpatient and outpatient. I also make site visits for site support, including onboarding and orienting new frontline social workers and leaders in specific Northwell departments.