

**\*The Dying Child: Bearing Witness to a Family's Journey of Finding Light in the Darkness**

**HYBRID- In-person and Virtual**

\*This session is approved for 1.5 SW CE credits

**Summary:** How can one enhance compassionate care for a child at end of life? This question is challenging not only to families, but medical providers as well. This presentation highlights how the principles of family centered care help guide us in understanding the patient and family's journey. We will also look at how legacy building with patient's siblings can help with anticipatory grief and overall coping as we prepare for end of life. Case study and specific therapeutic interventions, including guidance on how to create a peaceful dying plan for a child, will be discussed.

**Learning Objectives:**

- 1: The learner will be able to discuss the benefits of utilizing a family centered care at end of- life.
- 2: The learner will be able to identify effective communication strategies to facilitate goals of care discussions.
- 3: The learner will be able to discuss and utilize the benefits of legacy building for patient's siblings as end of life approaches.

**Speakers:** **Marianne Muzic, LCSW, APHSW-C, PMH-C** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Palliative Care Program Manager at St. Mary's Healthcare System for Children. Over the past 20 years, Marianne's career has focused on providing support to families with medically fragile and terminally ill children, particularly at End-of-Life. Following completion of her graduate studies at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services in 2002, Marianne worked at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx as the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Social Worker. She transitioned to St. Mary's Hospital for Children in 2004, where she currently serves as Palliative Care Program Manager. Marianne provides support to the patient, family, and interdisciplinary staff throughout a child's disease trajectory, focusing on comfort management and quality of life. In addition, she manages the Doula Volunteer Program as well as the Complementary Care Program. She has mentored Fordham Social Work Graduate students within the Palliative Care Fellowship Program and is passionate about educating students, as well as the community regarding the importance of palliative care. Most recently, Marianne successfully completed the first evidenced based exam for Palliative Care Social Workers, and is now certified as an Advanced Palliative Hospice Social Worker-Certified. She is also an active member of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of N.Y. States (HPCANYS) Children's Advisory Committee and is in private practice.