

LEGACY

MINNESOTA NURSING HOME
SOCIAL WORK ASSOCIATION
2025 CONFERENCE



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

WELCOME



Hi There!

We're excited to have you with us for this year's conference, centered around the theme of "Legacy." Whether you're a social worker, student, nursing home administrator, or anyone working with older adults, we hope you find inspiration and valuable insights.

A special welcome to our new members—we're so glad you're here! For our current members, your free registration this year is our way of saying thank you for your continued support. If you're not yet a member, we encourage you to join MNHSWA to enjoy future benefits, including discounted rates for upcoming conferences.

By attending the entire conference, you'll earn 13.5 CEUs, so be sure to take full advantage of this opportunity.

Let's build a lasting legacy together in the care of older adults!

Enjoy the conference!

MNHSWA EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REGISTRATION

PRICING

- Member and Speaker: FREE (must be a paid member for 2025 by August 1st- this will be verified)
- Non-Member: \$100.00
- Student: \$20.00 (Must be enrolled as a student during the time of the conference)

Note: No refunds for missed sessions

REGISTRATION

To register for the 2025 Virtual Conference, complete the [Google Registration Form](#). After registration, you'll be directed to Square for payment. Registration is required — paying online alone does not count.

For questions or changes, contact Lisa Martin at martinl66@hotmail.com. Do not submit a second registration.

DEADLINE

Registration closes at 5:00 PM on 9/09/2025. No late registrations will be accepted.

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- Online: [Pay here](#). Include attendee names in the "Notes to seller" box. You will only need to complete this step if you are a non-member or student.
- By Check: Mail to Lisa Martin, 1965 25th Street, Slayton, MN 56172 (Payment must be received by 9/15/2025).



CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

We're pleased to announce that this year's Virtual Conference has been approved for 13.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) by both the Minnesota Board of Social Work and the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

To earn your CEUs, be sure to log into each session. At the end of each conference day, you'll receive an email with a link to complete a short survey for each session you attended. Once completed, you'll receive your certificate. This must be done for each session.

Complete your surveys by January 1, 2026, or you won't be able to claim your CEUs. If you don't receive your certificate, check your spam folder or firewall settings. We use Google Forms and Certify'em to issue certificates.

Questions? Contact the MNHSWA Education Team at mnhswa@mnhswa.org

AGENDA

Thursday September 18, 2025

8:00-8:30	Welcome	
8:30-10:00	Silent Histories: Recognizing Trauma in Long Term Care	●
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-11:15	SUDS - Substance Use Disorder and Stigma	
11:15-11:30	Break	
11:30-12:30	Estate Planning Issue Spotting at End of Life, Legal Ethics Considerations	●
12:30-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-1:15	Trivia	
1:15-2:45	The Intricate Landscape of Medical Aid in Dying	●
2:45-3:00	Break	
3:00-4:30	No One Recovers Alone: Strengthening Family Engagement	
4:30-4:45	Trivia	
4:45-6:00	Dinner	
6:00-7:00	Presentation by Nick Mezacapa	
7:00-7:15	Closing	

Tuesday September 23, 2025

8:00-8:15	Welcome	
8:15-10:15	Understanding the Unique Needs & Barriers of the Older LGBTQ Population	●
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:30	Housing Security: an Elder Justice Theme	
11:30-Noon	Annual Meeting	
Noon-12:30	Lunch	
12:30-12:45	Trivia	
12:45-1:45	AI Guidelines in Health Care (More "Artificial" than "Intelligent")	●
1:45-2:00	Break	
2:00-4:00	Creating a Legacy while Living your Best Professional Life	
4:00-4:15	Closing	

● cultural competencies

● ethics



Silent Histories: Recognizing Trauma in Long Term Care

Laura Hanley, MSW, LICSW, LCSW

Owner, Open Way Therapy and Consulting

Licensed in Minnesota and Iowa, Laura is an experienced clinical social worker specializing in trauma therapy. She began her career in inpatient mental health, working at St. Cloud Hospital and the Mayo Clinic, where she developed a strong foundation in acute psychiatric care. Laura later transitioned to the Department of Veterans Affairs, providing therapeutic services in long-term care. Currently in private practice, Laura focuses on trauma resolution and is trained in Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART) and Brainspotting. She has provided professional trainings for Eosis and the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and she brings a compassionate, culturally informed, and evidence-based approach to her clinical work and education.

Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate trauma-related disorders from other common psychological conditions in long-term care populations.
2. Apply biopsychosocial assessment techniques across the lifespan with a focus on normative development and psychopathology in older adults.
3. Identify and integrate culturally specific considerations when assessing and treating trauma in ethnically, racially, and generationally diverse veterans.
4. Describe the clinical applications of ART and Brainspotting in the long-term care context.
5. Utilize trauma-informed communication strategies to support psychological safety and therapeutic engagement.

SUDS – Substance Use Disorder and Stigma

Dr. Sheila Klemmetsen

Essentia Health Baxter Clinic, Addiction Medicine



Shiela Klemmetsen, a board-certified family and addiction medicine physician, practices in primary care, urgent care, and is the Medical Director of Crow Wing County and provides medical care in the Crow Wing County Jail. She serves on the Minnesota Department of Health Governor's Board for SUD treatment in jails and prisons. Passionate about addressing substance use disorders, she focuses on education, stigma reduction, and harm reduction efforts.

Learning Objectives:

1. Describe presentations and diagnosis of Substance Use Disorders
2. Evaluate the impact of Buprenorphine on treatment outcomes for opioid use disorder
3. Use of patient centered language to decrease stigma
4. Special considerations for those who are incarcerated
5. How to set up community collaboration with stakeholders



Estate Planning Issue Spotting at End of Life, Legal Ethics Considerations

Rachel Schromen

Managing Attorney and Owner of Schromen Law, LLC

This session will provide training to end-of-life care providers regarding how to issue spot common legal concerns that arise in this area — particularly regarding estate planning and elder law — and provide support as to how to help patients navigate these issues effectively and ethically.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand estate planning and elder law considerations that are prudent at end of life
2. Bring up this topic in a gentle and supportive manner with patients
3. Feel empowered to help lessen the financial and legal burden on families

Rachel Schromen is an estate planning and elder law attorney and owner of Schromen Law, LLC, located in St. Paul, MN. Schromen Law has been voted Minnesota's Best Estate Law Firm in Minnesota by readers of the Star Tribune annually from 2021 – 2025, and in 2024 Schromen Law was named Minnesota's Best Law Firm. Apart from her law practice, Rachel is an end-of-life doula and has volunteered in hospice settings in that capacity.

Thursday, Sep 18 1:15- 2:45pm

The Intricate Landscape of Medical Aid in Dying

Rosie Gaston, MSW, LICSW, APHSW-C

Owner, Educator, & Clinician



As Minnesota continues to consider the End-of-Life Option Act, now is the time for social workers across healthcare settings, including long-term care, to deepen their understanding of Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) and its relevance to practice. This session will explore the historical evolution of MAiD in the U.S., the current legislative landscape in Minnesota, and how this option is practiced in other states.

Through a lens grounded in social work ethics, participants will examine diverse viewpoints on this complex topic, consider how MAiD aligns or conflicts with professional responsibilities, and reflect on the values that guide their own end-of-life work. Whether or not this legislation is enacted, nursing home social workers are increasingly being asked to engage in these nuanced conversations. This session will help equip them with the knowledge, insight, and confidence to navigate this evolving landscape with empathy and integrity.

Learning Objectives

1. Describe the historical development and current legal status of Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) in the U.S., with particular attention to the Minnesota End-of-Life Option Act and its potential impact on long-term care settings.
2. Examine how core social work values and ethics, such as dignity, autonomy, and cultural humility, inform clinician responses when patients make inquiries about MAiD.
3. Promote reflection among healthcare workers on their personal and professional beliefs and values related to MAiD, fostering awareness of how these perspectives may influence their professional practice and patient interactions in the context of end-of-life care.

Rosie (she/her) is a passionate and energetic clinical social worker with over a decade of experience supporting individuals, families, and professionals through the intricate journey of end-of-life care. After being inspired by her time as a hospice volunteer, she pursued a Master of Social Work degree. She has since worked in oncology, palliative care, and hospice, leading and collaborating with exceptional interdisciplinary teams. Rosie has contributed to the field through research, speaking at local and national levels, and serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Master of Social Work program. In 2022, she founded A Better Ending to focus on community education and fostering professional development in the end-of-life space, all while continuing to serve part-time as a hospice social worker.



No One Recovers Alone: Strengthening Family Engagement

Kay King

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Many adults with serious mental illnesses experience loneliness. Often their families are both their caregiver and social support system. This class describes the impacts of loneliness and recognizes that no one goes through a serious illness by themselves. Learn the importance of engaging family members and promoting connections to others, and identify strategies to meaningfully engage family members and friends in a person's life.

Learning Objectives

- Understand how mental illnesses affect the family unit.
- Know why it is important to involve the family in their loved one's care.
- Recognize loneliness is a common experience for adults with mental illnesses and their families.
- Understand what goals and dreams families have for their loved ones.
- Know how to involve the family in their loved one's care.
- Identify at least three resources used to support families.

Kay King is a community educator for NAMI Minnesota and is the older adults program coordinator and faith liaison. Each year she teaches about 4,000 families, professionals, community members and people living with mental illness about good mental health, suicide prevention and mental illness. She is a former executive director of a retirement community with independent and assisted living and a general manager of large hotels and resorts nationally and internationally. Kay is a family member and has worked for NAMI Minnesota for 15 years.

Thursday, Sep 18 6:00 - 7:00pm

Topic to be Announced

Nick Mezacapa



This session will be a memorable part of our "Legacy" theme.

Presentation title and description will be provided soon.

Please check our conference website for updates.

Nick Mezacapa has been ordained to the Episcopal Priesthood for the last 31 years. He has served as the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, across the street from Mayo Clinic, for the past 27 years. Before coming to Minnesota he served various churches in Iowa, Michigan, and New York. A graduate of Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio, he was trained as a teacher and athletics coach and worked in the field for seven years. It was after his teaching career that he attended Colgate/Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York to receive his Master's in Divinity (M. Div) Degree and subsequent ordination to the Episcopal Priesthood.



Understanding the Unique Needs & Barriers of the Older LGBTQ Population

Paul R. Blom

Owner and CEO of Right at Home Twin Cities

Whether you know it or not, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults are your clients or residents. Learn the unique issues facing these populations and how they affect their willingness to seek out services. This session will outline LGBT aging, describe the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities, present findings from a recent needs assessment, and identify actions you can take to make your practice more LGBT culturally competent.

Learning Objectives:

1. Explain biological sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression
2. Trace the historical experiences that shape LGBT older adults' lives
3. Describe the unique barriers faced by LGBT older adults
4. Identify opportunities to support welcoming services for LGBT older adults

A locally and nationally known advocate for older adults, Paul received his Bachelor of Arts from Luther College and coursework toward his Master of Divinity at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Since 2001 Paul and his husband, Bob, have owned and operated Right at Home – In Home Care & Assistance for seniors in the Twin Cities. Paul was among the founding board members of Training to Serve, the curriculum to train senior service providers on the unique needs and barriers of the aging LGBT Community. Paul is also a member of the boards of Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association, Fall Aging Conference and Avenues for Youth. Paul actively participates in the MN Leadership Council on Aging activities around creating an Age-Friendly Minnesota.

Tuesday, Sept 23 10:30 - 11:30am

Housing Security: an Elder Justice Theme

Marit Peterson

Minnesota Elder Justice Center



Many older adults experience challenges related to housing: it can be insecure, unaffordable, and/or unavailable in certain settings. Join me to discuss housing as a significant variable in older adults' experience of safety. We'll survey legal and advocacy strategies to preserve housing and prevent homelessness, and explore the way housing decisions intersect with certain legal tools, such as guardianship/conservatorship, health care agency, and power of attorney.

Learning Objectives:

Following the session attendees will:

1. recognize ancillary impacts housing insecurity has on older adults' health and quality of life
2. be more familiar with housing information resources available to advocates and supporters of older adults
3. understand that legal decision making roles regarding housing are complex, and may require legal counsel.

Marit Anne Peterson is the associate director for the Minnesota Elder Justice Center. Prior to joining the Elder Justice Center in 2015, Marit practiced estate planning and elder law in the twin cities metro area. Marit is a past chair (2019-2020) and current member of the governing council of the Minnesota State Bar Association's Elder Law section. She has taught ethics at Augsburg University, has served on the Minnesota Olmstead Specialty Committee for the Prevention of Abuse and serves on the steering committee for Minnesota's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS).



AI Guidelines in Health Care (More “Artificial” than “Intelligent”)

Robert Rodè and Monte L. Cook Jr.
Rodè & Coffin, LLC

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in health care continues to grow, and it offers some inviting support and efficiency in practice for providers and patients alike. But it also brings legal, compliance, and ethical implications and considerations that have yet to be fully resolved. In fact, almost every state introduced at least one AI-related piece of legislation in the first quarter of 2025; and a potentially conflicting federal initiative was announced July 23, 2025, which suggests many of these regulations may come under attack in the very near future. In this session, attorneys Robert Rodè and Monte Cook will cover where we are at with AI laws and regulations in Minnesota and what is being seen across the county. They will also discuss strategies, considerations, and best practices for providers as they navigate this changing landscape.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the rapidly evolving (and potentially very contradictory) regulatory landscape of AI use in healthcare.
2. Learn what standards are currently being used in other states/sectors and what they're attempting to safeguard against.
3. Discuss how these requirements could be met by providers and/or contractors.
4. Create a plan on how you and your organization can identify and implement effective and ethical use of AI.

Robert Rodè is the President of the law firm Rodè & Coffin, LLC and practices in the areas of health law, civil litigation, employment law, and administrative law. Rob has a special emphasis on care providers including nursing homes, assisted living, home health, rehab, adult day, hospice and housing and licensed professionals in all settings. Rob represents and advises clients on issues including regulatory/legal compliance, surveys/appeals, complaint investigations, behaviors, discharges/evictions, contracts, dispute resolution, employment, CHOW and start-ups, licensing, ethics and accounts receivable. Rob is a frequent speaker, arbitrator, adjunct professor, active with various state and national provider and legal associations, has been designated a “super lawyer” and named as one of the “50 for the next 50” innovative leaders in older adult services.

Monte L. Cook Jr. is an Associate Attorney at Rodè & Coffin, LLC working in areas of civil and administrative litigation, compliance, health care and housing, contracts, reimbursement, and accounts receivable. He is a graduate from The University of Minnesota Law School and joined the firm having practiced in presenting claims before the Social Security Administration and its appellate bodies. He is also a military veteran with a background in regulatory compliance, data analysis, and operations testing.

Tuesday, Sept 23 2:00 - 4:00pm

Creating a Legacy While Living your Best Professional Life

Janice Ziebart, LICSW
Zumbro Valley Health Center



Exploring how to connect our roots (where we come from) with our core beliefs and with our professional life in order to create a legacy you will be proud to make.

Learning Objectives:

1. Connect with attendees as a way of reminding you as a social worker, the central importance of human relationships, by looking at where we come from or the roots of Social Work
2. Challenge you as a Social worker to behave in a trustworthy manner and to continue to respect the inherent dignity and worth of each person you serve, by understanding your own core values and living them on a daily basis.
3. Inspire attendees to continue to develop and enhance your professional expertise, knowing that you are creating a legacy.
4. Motivate attendees to help people in need and to address social problems, as you enhance the belief that you are making a difference and leaving a legacy.

Janice graduated from the University of Tennessee, Memphis branch with her MSSW in 1993 and her BA in Psychology from Hope College in 1984. Janice has been with Zumbro Valley Health Center since 2013. She currently works as an Outpatient Psychotherapist. She works with a wide range of clients aged 18 to 80 plus, as well as couples, and facilitates a grief group throughout the year. When she is not seeing individuals, she is working with clinical trainees as their clinical supervisor as well as interns during their graduate program. Her passions outside of work include traveling with her two daughters and husband. You can usually find her walking her silly dog, Alfie, on a daily basis getting their exercise. Besides with family, you can usually find her reading a book or heading to Pilates class.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

01 WHAT PLATFORM IS BEING USED FOR THE CONFERENCE?

Zoom Webinars will be used for live webinars. Test your system in advance by joining a test meeting.

02 IS ZOOM ACCESSIBLE?

Zoom Webinars is accessible for people with various visual and physical disabilities; visit [Zoom's Accessibility FAQs](#) for details.

03 LOOKING FOR CONFERENCE MATERIALS?

Conference materials will be posted on our [website](#) as we receive them from speakers. Please check back regularly for updates.

Note: Some presenters may choose not to provide materials.

04 DO I NEED TO USE MY MNHSWA MEMBERSHIP EMAIL?

No. You can use any email address—just make sure it's entered correctly, as all conference details will be sent there.

CONFERENCE CHECKLIST



REGISTER ONLINE

Registration closes at 5:00 PM on 9/09/2025.



CHECK OUR WEBSITE

Find vendor details and the latest updates.



PRINT OR DOWNLOAD SPEAKER INFO

Access session materials in advance.

MEET THE EDUCATION TEAM



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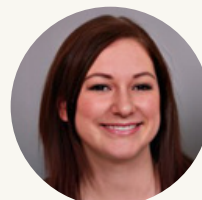
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Conference Vendors

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If you're interested in taking on the vendor coordination or helping with the speaker coordination role for future conferences (and having some serious fun along the way) let us know! It's a great way to get involved, meet amazing people, and help keep the spirit of MNHSPA going strong.



THANK YOU!

We hope you've enjoyed exploring this year's brochure and are excited about all that the 2025 MNHSWA Conference has to offer.

Whether you're a social worker, student, nursing home administrator, or anyone working with older adults, your presence here reflects a shared commitment to honoring the legacy of care and shaping the future for older adults.

To our MNHSWA members— thank you. Your dedication, compassion, and continued support are what keep our mission alive. The work you do every day leaves a lasting legacy in the lives of the individuals and communities you serve.

If you work with older adults and are not yet a member of MNHSWA, we invite you to join us. Together, we can continue building a strong network of professionals committed to advancing the care and well-being of Minnesota's aging population.

For conference vendor information and updates, please visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#).