



**PUTTING THE  
PIECES TOGETHER**

# **MNHSWA FALL CONFERENCE BOOKLET**

**September 23 & 29, 2026**

# WELCOME

*Hi There!*

Welcome to this year's MNHSPA Conference! We're delighted you're joining us as we explore our 2026 theme, Putting the Pieces Together. Whether you're a social worker, student, nursing home administrator, or another professional dedicated to serving older adults, we hope you'll leave with new ideas, meaningful connections, and practical tools to strengthen your work.

A special welcome to those attending for the first time, we're excited to have you with us. To thank our members for their continued support, conference registration was offered at no cost to MNHSPA members whose membership was active before August 1. If you're not yet a member, we invite you to join MNHSPA and take advantage of future member benefits and professional opportunities.

Participants who attend the full conference are eligible to earn 12.5 CEUs, so we encourage you to make the most of everything the conference has to offer.

Thank you for being part of this year's conference. Together, we're putting the pieces together to strengthen our profession and enhance the care and support we provide to older adults.

*Enjoy the conference!*

**MNHSPA EDUCATION COMMITTEE**



# REGISTRATION

## PRICING

- Member and Speaker: **FREE** (must be a paid member for 2026 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 2026 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.

## DEADLINE

Registration closes at 5:00 PM on 9/14/2026. No late registrations will be accepted.

## PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

- Online Payment: [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.
- Payment By Check: Make checks payable to MNHSWA.
  - Please include:
    - A copy of your registration confirmation email
    - Attendee name(s)
    - Facility name
    - Contact information
- Mail payment to: Lisa Martin at 1965 25th Street, Slayton, MN 56172

## QUESTIONS?

For registration questions or to update an existing registration, contact:

Lisa Martin

[martinl66@hotmail.com](mailto:martinl66@hotmail.com) (lowercase "L," not the number "1")

Please allow up to 24 hours for a response. If you need to make changes to your registration, do not submit a second registration form.

For complete conference details and session descriptions, visit [www.mnhswa.org](http://www.mnhswa.org).





## CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

We're pleased to announce that this year's virtual conference has been approved for 12.5 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, 2027, 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](mailto:mnhswa@mnhswa.org)

# AGENDA

### Wednesday, September 23, 2026 6.5 hours CEUs

|             |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-8:30   | Welcome                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8:30-9:30   | Lessons from the Bedside: What the Dying Teach the Living                                                                                                        |
| 9:30-9:45   | Break                                                                                                                                                            |
| 9:45-10:00  | Trivia                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:00-Noon  | Engaging in Conversations about Race, Power, and Privilege in Social Services  |
| Noon-12:30  | Lunch                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12:30-12:45 | Trivia                                                                                                                                                           |
| 12:45-1:45  | The Power of Words: How Language Shapes Care, Connection, and Clinical Outcomes                                                                                  |
| 1:45-2:00   | Break                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2:00-2:15   | Break                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2:15-3:45   | Courageous Conversations: How to Say Hard Things Well                                                                                                            |
| 3:45-4:00   | Break                                                                                                                                                            |
| 4:00-4:15   | Trivia                                                                                                                                                           |
| 4:15-5:15   | Fire Safety for Seniors at Home                                                                                                                                  |
| 5:15-5:30   | Closing                                                                                                                                                          |

### Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6 hours CEUs

|             |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00-8:30   | Welcome                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8:30-10:30  | A Deeper Dive into and Update on AI in the Health Care and Senior Housing Arenas  |
| 10:30-10:45 | Break                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 10:45-11:00 | Trivia                                                                                                                                                                |
| 11:00-Noon  | Beyond the Diagnosis: A Deeper Dive into Trauma-Informed Care for Nursing Home Residents                                                                              |
| Noon-12:30  | Annual Meeting                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12:30-1:00  | Lunch                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1:00-1:15   | Trivia                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1:15-2:45   | Staying Energized and Compassionate in the Midst of This Difficult Work That We Do                                                                                    |
| 2:45-3:00   | Break                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:00-3:15   | Trivia                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3:15-4:45   | Title to come (Topic on de-escalation)                                                                                                                                |
| 4:45-5:00   | Closing                                                                                                                                                               |

 cultural competencies

 ethics



Wednesday, Sept 23 8:30 - 9:30am



## Lessons from the Bedside: What the Dying Teach the Living

Kelly Grosklags, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC, FT

### Learning Objectives:

1. Recognize the profound life lessons shared by individuals at the end of life, including the importance of relationships, presence, forgiveness, purpose, and living with intention.
2. Explore how caring for those who are dying transforms healthcare professionals personally and professionally, fostering resilience, compassion, and a deeper understanding of what matters most.
3. Identify practical ways to integrate bedside wisdom into everyday life and clinical practice, enhancing compassionate communication, meaningful connections, and whole-person care

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

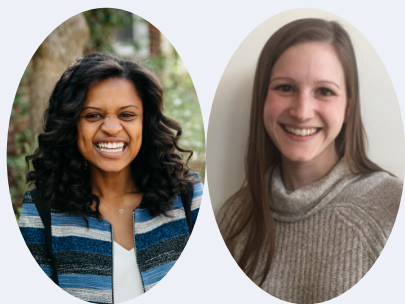
**Kelly Grosklags**, LICSW, BCD, FAAGC, FT, is a respected clinical psychotherapist, author, and public speaker whose work sits at the intersection of grief and end-of-life care. With three decades of experience, she has devoted her career to supporting patients, families, and healthcare professionals through some of life's most vulnerable moments.

A two-time author and co-executive producer of the award-winning documentary *Dying Is Not Giving Up*, Kelly brings both clinical depth and human insight to conversations surrounding death, dying, hope, and healing. She is an international speaker known for translating complex emotional experiences into meaningful and accessible teachings across palliative care, hospice, oncology, and grief.

Kelly holds dual fellowships in grief counseling and thanatology. Her clinical specialties include palliative care, hospice, oncology psychotherapy, and grief therapy, where she is known for her compassionate presence and skill at the bedside.

Deeply committed to shaping the future of care, Kelly works with both emerging and seasoned medical professionals, as well as funeral directors. She focuses on the art of difficult conversations while guiding providers toward greater attention to their own mental well-being and self-care.

At the heart of Kelly's work is a profound respect for those she has served. She often reflects that her greatest teachers have been her patients, both at the bedside and in her office, who have shown her, through their vulnerability and courage, what matters most in life.



**Wednesday, Sept 23 10:00 - Noon**

## **Engaging in Conversations about Race, Power, and Privilege in Social Services**

Raevhann Rush, MSW, LICSW and  
Katie Ticho, MSW, LICSW

Conversations about race, power, and privilege are essential in social work. Our identities shape how we see the world, engage with clients, and respond to their experiences, yet bringing these conversations into practice can be challenging. This session invites participants to explore their own cultural identities and the dynamics of power and privilege within client relationships. Through reflection, dialogue, and practical tools, they'll build skills to approach these topics with humility, awareness, and transformative care. Whether just beginning or deepening their practice, participants will find a supportive space to engage, reflect, and grow.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Reflect on and articulate one's own intersectionality with race, power, and privilege.
2. Identify key strategies for initiating and sustaining conversations about race, power, and privilege with clients.
3. Understand how intentional preparation fosters effective racial conversations and how lack of preparation can lead to defensiveness, emotional shutdown, or unintentional harm.

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTERS**

**Raevhann Rush**, P-LICSW, serves as the Family Services Director at Jeremiah Program's Minneapolis campus, bringing over a decade of experience in mental health and racial equity work. Previously, she worked as a Mental Health Practitioner and Statewide Race Matters Coordinator at Lutheran Social Service of MN, where she led anti-racism trainings and initiatives across the state. Raevhann's approach is rooted in equity, inclusion, and social justice, with a focus on bridging mental health access gaps for BIPOC communities and honoring each client's cultural identity.

**Katie Ticho**, LICSW, serves as the Family Services Director at Jeremiah Program Rochester, SE-MN. She brings over a decade of experience in trauma-informed clinical practice and supervision. Previously, she worked at the YWCA of Metro Chicago as a bilingual Spanish-speaking therapist, Clinical Supervisor, and Coordinator of Clinical Services, working with children, teens, and adults who identified as survivors of sexual violence. Katie is passionate about advancing social justice through trauma-informed practice and strong, reflective leadership and supervision.



**Wednesday, Sept 23 12:45 - 1:45pm**

## **The Power of Words: How Language Shapes Care, Connection, and Clinical Outcomes**

Jen Apley, LICSW

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe how language influences trust, healing, distress, and connection, and how its impact may vary based on an individual's experiences, identity, culture, and history.
2. Recognize common words, labels, and communication practices that may unintentionally stigmatize, marginalize, or exclude individuals and groups.
3. Apply person-centered communication strategies when discussing aging, disability, mental health, trauma, grief, and chronic illness.
4. Evaluate the role of silence, presence, tone, and nonverbal communication in supporting meaningful therapeutic relationships.
5. Identify intentional communication practices that foster compassionate care, psychological safety, and effective interdisciplinary collaboration.

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Jennifer Apley** is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker and founder of Apis Mental Health & Grief Counseling, where she supports individuals navigating depression, anxiety, trauma, relational challenges, and grief. Her background includes years of experience as a medical social worker in acute care, long-term care and hospice, shaping her deep understanding of complex grief, end-of-life issues and mental health. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Winona State University and her Master's degree from the University of St. Thomas.

Jennifer's approach to care is person-centered and relational first and foremost, grounded in the belief that healing happens through connection, safety, and being truly seen and heard in the therapeutic relationship.

Following the loss of her 16-year-old son to suicide in 2023, Jennifer has become a passionate advocate for mental health awareness, suicide prevention and postvention, and grief education.

She shares her personal story through presentations to reduce stigma, foster understanding, and help others feel less alone, and co-leads the Lake City Suicide Prevention Coalition in her hometown, working to strengthen community awareness and support. In addition, she partners with multiple coalitions throughout southeast Minnesota to advance suicide prevention and substance use reduction efforts. She also provides grief education to help communities become better equipped to care for those who are grieving.

Jennifer brings both professional expertise and lived experience to her work, offering a compassionate and honest perspective on healing and resilience. Outside of her work, she is a wife and mother of three, and enjoys snowmobiling, camping, motorcycle rides, reading, learning, and exploring new places to eat.



**Wednesday, Sept 23 2:15 - 3:45pm**

## **Courageous Conversations: How to Say Hard Things Well**

Rosie Gaston, MSW, LICSW, APHSW-C

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Recognize the unique challenges medical social workers face when navigating courageous conversations across healthcare settings.
2. Apply evidence-based communication frameworks to facilitate difficult conversations with patients, families, colleagues, and interdisciplinary teams.
3. Strengthen verbal, nonverbal, and paraverbal communication skills to communicate with empathy, authenticity, and cultural humility.
4. Identify practical strategies to prepare for, recover from, and continue growing in the skill of courageous conversations.

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Rosie Gaston**, MSW, LICSW, APHSW-C is a passionate social worker and educator dedicated to helping individuals and professionals navigate serious illness, grief, and end-of-life care with greater confidence and compassion. She has extensive experience in hospice and currently provides anticipatory grief and bereavement counseling at Brighter Days Family Grief Center. Rosie serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care and teaches Grief and Loss in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work graduate program. She is the founder of A Better Ending, where she provides education, consultation, and presentations for healthcare professionals, organizations, and community audiences. Through her engaging, practical, and compassionate approach, Rosie equips people with the knowledge and skills to navigate some of life's most difficult and meaningful conversations and experiences.



Wednesday, Sept 23 4:15 - 5:15pm

## Fire Safety for Seniors at Home

Doug Johnson, Deputy State Fire Marshal

### Learning Objectives:

- *Final learning objectives will be provided closer to the event date.*

## ABOUT THE PRESENTER

**Doug Johnson**, Deputy State Fire Marshal, partners with fire departments, businesses and community groups across the state to keep Minnesotans safe long before a fire starts. As a fire and life safety educator, Johnson's goal is to reduce fire risk through education. His work is grounded in data. Through that data, he identifies high-risk communities and focuses outreach on where it's needed most. For example, adults 65 and older are twice as likely to die in a fire, and that population is growing. That's the group he wants to spend a lot of his time educating, Johnson says. Small but important fire prevention details — like the fact smoke detectors don't last forever and must be checked regularly — are critical teaching points for elderly communities, as well as for all Minnesotans. Johnson and the State Fire Marshal division collaborate to help fire departments and communities by balancing emergency response training with prevention training. "We used to talk about stop, drop and roll. That's not preventive. That's what to do after the fire has already started. But what if we learned prevention techniques so we're never caught in a fire?" According to Johnson, what might surprise the public is how many different people are involved in prevention. Inspectors, code officials and educators all play a role, working together to help Minnesotans stay safe at home and in their communities before a fire begins. "I love what I do. I'm also grateful for what I do because I'm able to help Minnesotans stay safe."



Tuesday, Sept 29 8:30 - 10:30am

## A Deeper Dive into and Update on AI in the Health Care and Senior Housing Arenas

Rob Rodè; Mark Anderson;  
Marcus Kubichek, LICSW; and  
Nick Polovitz, LICSW,

As AI and predictive analytics rapidly enter senior living settings, social workers are active participants in the systems that collect, analyze, and act on data about vulnerable residents, not passive bystanders to that shift. This session explores how AI-driven tools intersect with clinical data, legal discoverability, and Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) structures, while grounding those operational and legal concepts in the NASW and CASW Codes of Ethics and CSWE EPAS Competency 1. Participants will leave with a practical framework for informed consent, privacy protection, advocacy, and ethical decision-making when AI outputs influence resident care, along with real-world examples of a defensible QAPI structure, built on sound data governance rather than less data collection, as the strongest safeguard for both residents and organizations.

### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how the use of AI in clinical and operational settings intersects with the Social Work Code of Ethics, including informed consent, privacy, and advocacy obligations.
2. Develop insight into bringing data, AI, and social work values together within a defensible QAPI structure.
3. Explore real-world examples of how AI is actively becoming embedded in healthcare and senior living operations.

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**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, 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.

**Mark Anderson** is Chief Client Officer at Eldermark Software, where he advises senior living providers on operational strategy and business systems. With over 25 years in older adult services prior to joining Eldermark—including two decades in senior leadership roles across skilled nursing and assisted living—Mark also brings public sector experience in HR and risk management. He has served on the Boards of Care Providers of MN, LeadingAge MN, and the Minnesota Elder Justice Center (founding board), and is a frequent presenter for industry associations. Mark holds a B.A. from St. Olaf College, and Masters Studies in Public Health Administration from the University of Minnesota. Mark is also a Licensed Assisted Living Director, State of Minnesota.

**Marcus Kubichek** (LICSW) is coming up on a decade of experience in the long-term care industry, he has had the privilege of wearing a few different hats - beginning as a building social worker, stepping into regional compliance, taking a leap of faith into robotics, and now navigating the AI and innovation. Throughout all his work, Marcus' focus has remained static, "how can I be the strongest advocate possible for the population I serve?" This question has led him toward dedicating himself to bridging the gap between LTC and technology. As a LICSW working in innovation, Marcus spends his time directing projects and conceptualizing how technology can fit into the LTC ecosystem. Within his perspective, he develops strategic ways to disrupt systems by augmenting the way we provide care and deliver outcomes. The foundation to my change management practices is carefully curated, highly scrutinized, and ethically sound so that he may improve experiences for his fellow colleagues and the residents he cares for. Outside of work, Marcus is taking turns with his wife chasing around their toddler and holding their newborn.

**Nick Polovitz** is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) with over four years of clinical experience in outpatient and partial hospitalization settings within Essentia Health. His work includes individual and group psychotherapy, collaborative care, and adult partial hospitalization programming. Nick specializes in evidence-based, trauma-informed approaches to treating depression, anxiety, trauma, and co-occurring conditions. He is particularly interested in how emerging technologies can be used thoughtfully and ethically to support clinical judgment, enhance learning, and improve access to care, while preserving the core values of social work. Nick is passionate about bridging real-world clinical practice with academic instruction through a learner-centered, reflective approach.



**Tuesday, Sept 29 11:00 - Noon**

## **Beyond the Diagnosis: A Deeper Dive into Trauma-Informed Care for Nursing Home Residents**

Amanda (Thooft) Beranek, DSW, LICSW, LCSW

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Evaluate the impact of trauma across the lifespan and its influence on resident behavior, relationships, and quality of life in long-term care settings.
2. Integrate evidence-based trauma-informed principles into interdisciplinary care planning to improve resident outcomes and staff-resident interactions.
3. Develop practical strategies to recognize trauma triggers, respond to behavioral expressions of distress, and foster environments that promote safety, dignity, and resilience.

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Amanda (Thooft) Beranek**, DSW, LICSW, LCSW, is a social worker, clinician, educator, and clinical supervisor whose career has been shaped by a deep commitment to working with older adults. She earned her Bachelor of Social Work in 2004 and her Master of Social Work in 2007 from the University of St. Thomas. In 2026, she completed her Doctor of Social Work (DSW), further advancing her commitment to clinical excellence, education, and the profession of social work. Although Amanda initially thought she would work with children, her professional path led her to older adults, and she has never looked back. Over time, she has specialized in providing psychotherapy in senior living settings, where she has come to deeply value the wisdom, resilience, and lived experiences of the individuals she serves. She often reflects on the meaningful lessons older adults have taught her about loss, adaptation, connection, and what it means to live a full and authentic life. This work continues to shape both her clinical approach and her identity as a social worker.

In addition to her work in long-term care, Amanda is the owner of Authentic Living Therapy, a private psychotherapy practice serving adults in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Her clinical work focuses on relational trauma, attachment, grief, and relationship concerns. She is passionate about helping individuals understand how past relationships shape present patterns, empowering clients to build healthier connections, greater self-awareness, and more authentic lives.

Amanda is also passionate about developing the next generation of social workers. She has been providing supervision for licensure since 2008 and is a board-certified supervisor. Since beginning her teaching career in 2013, she has taught both undergraduate and graduate social work students and has contributed to the education of future social workers through a variety of courses, field education experiences, and clinical supervision.

Amanda's doctoral research focused on the development of social workers within the context of clinical supervision, with particular attention to what supervisees need during the licensure process to build confidence and competence. Her work aims to elevate the voices of supervisees and contribute to strengthening supervision practices across the profession.

Outside of her professional life, Amanda enjoys staying active, reading, cooking, and spending time with her children.



**Tuesday, Sept 29 1:15 - 2:45pm**



## **Staying Energized and Compassionate In The Midst of This Difficult Work That We Do**

Alan O'Malley-Laursen, MSW

This work can be difficult and emotionally draining. Reaching beyond self-care and delving into the moment-to-moment work, we will examine real-time strategies to make work energizing and fulfilling while guarding against secondary traumatic stress and burnout. Through presentation and live music we will examine 6 fundamental skills for effective and compassionate helping, with specific strategies for immediate application in everyday practice.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will experience validation and have additional language for the personal struggles in being a helping professional
2. Participants will have an in-depth understanding of six critical skills for effective and compassionate helping and strategies for immediate application.
3. Participants will leave with an enhanced sense of hopefulness and inspiration regarding their professional work

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Alan O'Malley-Laursen, MSW** has over 40 years of experience in human services as a social worker, clinician, supervisor, clinical consultant and trainer, program developer and administrator. Certified as a Compassion Fatigue/Therapist and a Clinical Trauma Professional, Alan provides training and consultation on Secondary Traumatic Stress and skills for compassionate and effective work in the helping professions across Minnesota and the U.S. He has provided consultation to the likes of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, the National Child Abuse and Neglect Technical Assistance and Strategic Dissemination Center and the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare. He is also employed as a community trainer for the Minnesota Child Welfare Training Academy.



Tuesday, Sept 29 3:15 - 4:45pm



## **Title to come, topic on de escalation**

Natalie Kenyon, LICSW

### **Learning Objectives:**

- *Final learning objectives will be provided closer to the event date.*

## **ABOUT THE PRESENTER**

**Natalie Kenyon** is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker. She has dedicated her career to building insight and understanding surrounding the topics of Mental Illness, and the different ways that certain illnesses impact those living with them. Natalie graduated from Winona State University in the summer of 2006 with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work. After 7 years in the field, she decided to go back to school and obtained her Master's of Social Work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2014. Since that time, it has been her goal to help serve those living with challenges related to mental health, and to educate others in the different ways in which we can be supportive. Natalie believes fully that the more knowledge people have about things they may not understand, the more compassion they can bestow upon another person in some of those crucial moments of pain, for which compassion is the only antidote. Insight breeds compassion and empathy. Compassion and Empathy foster connection, and connection is the key to healthy and supportive relationships. Connection with others can also be the pathway out of darkness for some, and it is Natalie's goal to help light the way.

# 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 9/14/2026. Yes, you still need to register, even if you're a member attending at no cost.

### ■ CHECK OUR WEBSITE

Find sponsor details and the latest updates at [mnhswa.org](#).

### ■ PRINT OR DOWNLOAD SPEAKER INFO

Access session materials in advance.



# MEET THE EDUCATION TEAM



**Kori Petersson, LSW**

*Education Chair*

✉ [kpetersson@align30.com](mailto:kpetersson@align30.com)

**Lisa Martin, LSW**

*Registration*

✉ [martinl66@hotmail.com](mailto:martinl66@hotmail.com)



**Joanna Genovese-Cairns, LISW**

*Speaker Coordination*

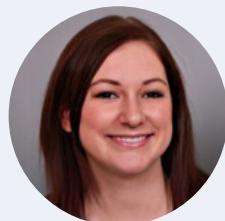
✉ [joanna.genovese-cairns@cassialife.org](mailto:joanna.genovese-cairns@cassialife.org)



**Jenn Guerra, LSW**

*Conference Materials*

✉ [sosebee.jenn@gmail.com](mailto:sosebee.jenn@gmail.com)



**Kassara Kneeland, MSW, LICSW**

*Conference Materials*

✉ [kassarak4539@gmail.com](mailto:kassarak4539@gmail.com)



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 MNHSWA going strong.



# PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

**MNHSWA Virtual Conference**

— September 23 & 29, 2026 —

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for being part of the 2026 MNHSWA Fall Conference! Your participation, ideas, and commitment to serving older adults helped make this year's conference a success.

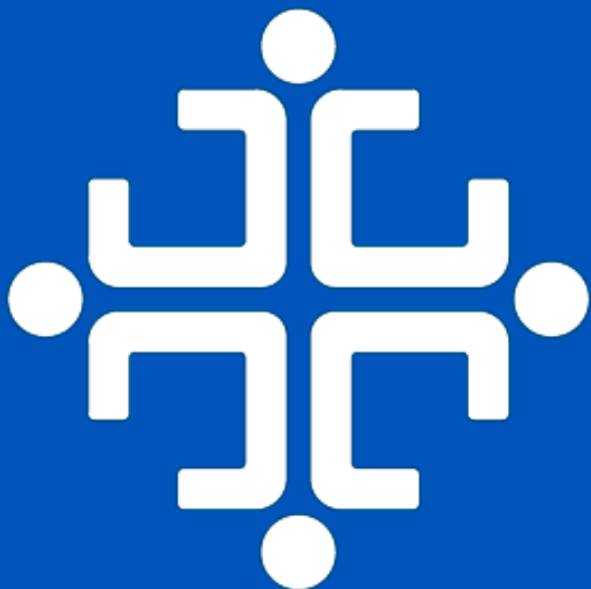
We hope the sessions, discussions, and connections provided valuable insights and practical tools that you can take back to your work. As we focused on Putting the Pieces

Together, we were reminded that every person, every experience, and every shared idea plays an important role in strengthening the care we provide.

We appreciate the time you invested in learning with us and thank our presenters, sponsors and attendees for making this conference possible.

We look forward to seeing you again next year. Until then, thank you for all you do to support older adults and their communities.

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



# MNHSWA

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[mnhswa@mnhswa.org](mailto:mnhswa@mnhswa.org)  
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