

Inaugural Symposium of Serious Illness Care draws providers across the state for education and community

October 2023

By HAP Communications

The HAP Foundation, in partnership with the Illinois Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (IL-HPCO), hosted its inaugural Symposium of Serious Illness Care on October 16-17 in Naperville, Illinois. The two-day educational event was designed specifically for providers, clinicians, leaders, and advocates who work within the field of serious illness care.

“As health care leaders, we are adapting to the change we are experiencing,” said Joseph Matty, President of The HAP Foundation. “It is our goal that attendees of the Symposium of Serious Illness Care gain new information to guide them on how to better care for patients on their serious illness journey, while understanding that they are not alone.”

Sara Dado, HAP’s Executive Director of Adult Palliative Programs, moderated the symposium’s first presentation, “Emerging Trends in Serious Illness Care.” Five of the top palliative care physicians in the region participated in the discussion: Dr. Cameron Muir, Chief Innovation Officer at National Partnership for Hospice Innovation (NPHI); Dr. Kuljit Kapur, Chief Development Officer/Medical Director at Chestnut



Physicians pose together after their panel session.

Health; Dr. Stacie Levine, Chief of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at University of Chicago; Dr. Erin Flanagan, Medical Director of Pediatrics, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care; and Dr. Paul Chiang, Senior Medical and Practice Advisor, Home Centered Care Institute & Medical Director, HomeCare Physicians, Northwestern Medicine. Some of the topics discussed included trends or changes in workforce development, home centered care, compliance and payment models, and the care for pediatric and geriatric patients.

The second day featured three keynote speeches from national thought leaders and industry experts. Cal Cates, CEO & Executive Director, Healwell, discussed ways to find passion in person-centered care. Rory Farrand, VP of Palliative Care, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, spoke about emerging trends in palliative care during a fireside chat with Doug Irvin, President of the Board of Directors, IL-HPCO and VP of Operations, VITAS Healthcare. Torrie Fields, Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC), discussed ways to advance equity in healthcare policies.

In between the keynotes, various breakout sessions were offered, including discussions about specific illnesses, innovations, and techniques to assist health care workers within the continuum of serious illness care. The HAP Foundation’s, Community Health Worker (CHW) team hosted their own breakout session, “The 3 Ws of Community Health Workers: Who, What, and Why.” Maureen Burns and Kandis Draw, HAP CHWs, discussed their roles, and how they can help improve health outcomes for people who live within their community.



The HAP Foundation

Hospice and Palliative Care Research & Education

Most of those who attended the symposium worked within the serious illness space, like the hospice nurse who wanted to learn more about pediatric patient care and grief support for family members. But a few attendees were considering a career change and wanted to learn more about the field of serious illness. The job roles of the attendees ranged widely, but many shared their positive feedback about the two-day event. "I've learned so much from all the presentations, but I've also learned a lot by talking to others in between these discussions. This [event] has been really inspiring and informative," said a nurse from Illinois.



Attendees ask questions during speaker session.

Some presentations are available on our [website](#) and a [highlight video](#) was created to share with those unable to attend. The HAP Foundation and IL-HPCO appreciate the support of this event's sponsors: McKesson, AdvaCare Systems, and nVoq Speech Recognition Systems.

