

# BEST PRACTICES IN HOSPICE CARE FOR ADVANCED DEMENTIA

*Part of HFA's Living with Grief® Series*



## DESCRIPTION:

Dementia Due to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders are now among the top reasons people are admitted to hospice care in the United States. This program focuses on the challenges hospice and end-of-life care providers encounter while caring for this population. Beyond exploring the role of hospice in dementia care, the program explores how interdisciplinary teams can best support patients, their care partners, and staff in caring for persons with dementia and educating communities about the services hospice and palliative care can offer.

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## PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation along with the experts presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts' questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Q & A session.

<b>LIVE DATE:</b>	April 14, 2026
<b>TIME:</b>	Noon to 2:00pm Eastern Time
<b>ON DEMAND:</b>	Available for 6 months; until October 14, 2026
<b>LENGTH:</b>	120 minutes
<b>CEs:</b>	2 hours
<b>CONTENT LEVEL:</b>	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE:</b>	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home, or faith community environments

**This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.**

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## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

TEST LINK for live program Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>

**Technical Questions?** Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click "support"

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## PROGRAM FEES/MATERIALS:

**Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date.** Register directly online at: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

### Registration Options

- Individual: Live and on-demand viewing for one person.
- Organization/company: Unlimited viewing for employees within a single location.
- Community license: Live and on-demand viewing for unlimited viewers within service area.

## ADVANCE PURCHASE

- Individual Viewer — Member: FREE | Non-member: \$45
  - Organizational Viewing — Member: FREE for up to 25 viewers
  - Organizational Viewing — Non-member: 1-12 viewers – \$175 | 13-25 viewers – \$275
  - Community License — \$390
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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe briefly the nature and course of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD), as well as the number of individuals affected, and the emotional, financial, and societal costs.
  2. Recognize the challenges surrounding ADRD for hospice and end-of-life care providers.
  3. Discuss the grief of persons living with dementia (PLWD) as it is experienced in the stages of dementia and care approaches; identify ways to assist family members as they grieve throughout the illness and after a dementia death, noting factors that may complicate grief.
  4. Explain the demands that caring for PLWD may place on hospice staff and effective strategies for self-care.
  5. Identify interventive strategies for PLWG and families during the end-stage of dementia, including communication tools that are helpful in supporting families navigating dementia and dementia care.
  6. Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to cultural differences that influence patient and family reactions to dementia, especially at the end of life.
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## PROGRAM OUTLINE:

### I. SEGMENT 1 – Introduction – How did we get here, setting the stage (35 min)

- A. Alzheimer's and Dementia Facts and Figures/Stats
- B. Hospice Eligibility
  1. FAST Score
  2. Cultural and socioeconomic factors and care access
  3. Challenges under current MHB requirements
  4. Opportunities for improvement
- C. Case 1 – Hospice in a nursing home/inpatient unit – Sacco
  1. Ethics – symptom management and use of medication for behavior
  2. Roles of the team – communication clarity with families
  3. Impacts on grief
  4. Further discussion, how would a change in cultural/economic/social dynamics, or a change in setting would affect this case
  5. Lessons learned/Summary of key points
- D. Case 2 – Comorbidity (cancer admission w/ early or middle stage dementia, in home care)
  1. Assessment for care needs and risk of grief complications – codesigning of care plans with the family caregiver network
  2. Pain management
  3. Grief of both family and patient
  4. Impact on roles of the hospice team (need for education?)
  5. Further discussion
  6. Lessons learned/Summary of key points

### II. SEGMENT 2 –Complex Cases (35 min)

- A. Case 3 – Admission and live discharge after a long period of caregiving (Wladkowski)
  1. Risk assessment and challenges
  2. Grief implications
  3. Roles of the team

4. Further discussion, establishing live discharge protocol
  5. lessons learned/Summary of key points
- B. Case 4 – Sudden or unexpected death of family caregiver
1. Grief impacts
  2. Roles of IDT members in providing family support
  3. Further discussion
  4. Lessons learned/Summary of key points

### III. Segment 3 – Interventions (30 min)

- A. Peer to Family Caregiver Care (could do a case here?) models, including Karen Moss model
- B. Educating family members
- C. Supporting Family Caregivers
  1. Limited resources
- D. Self-Care for Hospice Team
  1. Impacts of more and more dementia caregiving

### Closing (20 min)

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### CONTINUING EDUCATION:

This program is valid for 2 continuing education contact hours. CE hours are available for 6 months, until October 14, 2026.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org) on the program's registration page.

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### COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 2 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

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### MODERATOR:

**Frank Sesno**, is Director of Strategic Initiatives, The George Washington University School of Media & Public Affairs, a former anchor for CNN, and a longtime moderator of the *Living with Grief*® program. He is an Emmy-award winning journalist and creator of PlanetForward.org, a user-driven web and television project that highlights innovations in sustainability, and he is the author of *Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors, Uncover Solutions and Spark Change*.

### PROGRAM PRESENTERS:

#### **Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv**

Kenneth Doka is Senior Vice President of Grief Programs at Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) and the recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). He is professor emeritus, the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle. A prolific author and editor, Doka serves as editor of HFA's *Living with Grief*® book series, its *Journeys* newsletter, and numerous other books and publications. He has been a panelist on HFA's *Living with Grief*® program for 30 years. Doka is a past president of ADEC, a former board member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement, and an Advisory Board member to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). He is the recipient of The International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement's prestigious Herman Feifel Award and ADEC's Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education. In 2006, he was grandfathered in as a Mental

Health Counselor under New York's first state licensure of counselors. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister.

**Karen O. Moss, PhD, RN, CNL, FNAP, FGSA**

Karen Moss' research program focuses on improving palliative and end-of-life outcomes through pain, advance care planning, and peers support for Black American older adults living with dementia and their family caregivers. She examines multiple perspectives on factors that influence decision-making processes for Black American older adults living with dementia and their family caregivers. This includes examining pain and stress in older adults living with dementia and their family caregivers. Dr. Moss' research is also focused on developing and testing *Pair 2 Care*®, a co-created peer support intervention to support Black American family caregivers of people living with dementia. Through her work, Dr. Moss and her team are working to improve the quality of life of Black family caregivers and their older adults living with dementia. She is the principal investigator in the Family Caregiver Community Research (FamCare) Laboratory and member of the Pain and Aging Lab. Dr. Moss is also an assistant professor and mixed methods core faculty member in the Center for Health Outcomes in Medicine, Scholarship and Service (HOMES) in the Division of Internal Medicine in the College of Medicine.

**Deanna Rymaszewski, DSW, APSW, APHSW**

Deanna is the Clinical Educator – Social Worker for Agrace Hospice Care, a not-for-profit hospice based in Fitchburg, WI that serves South Central Wisconsin. She has a Bachelor's degree in Spanish, with an emphasis in Hispanic Health and Human Services, and a Doctorate in Social Work. She has had the opportunity to work with diverse populations in Milwaukee and Madison as well as surrounding areas. She has experience working with the elderly, physically disabled, and terminally ill and their grieving families. Deanna has worked as a Social Worker, Bereavement Coordinator, and Volunteer Coordinator. In her current role, Deanna develops education on a wide range of end-of-life topics including advance directives, what to expect, dementia, grief, and bereavement. She presents to Agrace staff as well as the local community members and providers.

**Katherine Supiano, PhD, LCSW, F-GSA, FT, APHSW-C**

Kathie Supiano is a Professor in the College of Nursing, and the director of Caring Connections: A Hope and Comfort in Grief Program at the University of Utah College of Nursing. She has been a practicing clinical social worker and psychotherapist for over 40 years. Her clinical practice has included care of older adults with depression and multiple chronic health concerns, end-of-life care, and bereavement care. Dr. Supiano's research is in clinical interventions in complicated grief, prevention of adverse grief outcomes, suicide survivorship, overdose grief and prison hospice. Dr. Supiano is a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, and a Fellow of Thanatology.

**REVIEWER:**

**Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACHPN, Senior Medical Officer, Hospice Foundation of America**

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#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

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#### **FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES**

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