Hospice Foundation of America's Program

HOSPICE IN PRISON

Online CE Course

DESCRIPTION

The Humane Prison Hospice Project provides compassionate palliative, geriatric, memory, hospice, and end-of-life care support to incarcerated people, using an innovative model that trains incarcerated peer caregivers to work alongside the interdisciplinary care team. Lisa Deal and Laura Musselman will join Dr. Michele DiTomas to discuss the care needs of an aging prison population, the program, and how hospices can replicate the model in their own communities.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The online presentation features an experienced professional offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to see and hear the expert presenters.

RELEASE DATE:	Program originally premiered May 12, 2026
ON DEMAND:	Viewing available to registered individuals for 6 months after purchase.
LENGTH:	90 minutes
CE HOURS:	1.5 hours
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field, but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	The course is useful to Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments

HOW THE ONLINE COURSE WORKS

Step 1 - Register/purchase the course
Step 2 - View the course online through the link in your confirmation email or in your account.
Step 3 – Complete the online exam and evaluation

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

A computer and reliable internet connection. Mobile service provider charges may apply.

REGISTRATION AND COURSE MATERIALS

Register directly online, on HFA's website: www.hospicefoundation.org.

There are no refunds on registration. *Few exceptions may occur depending on the circumstance. To request a refund, a written request must be received (and granted) by HFA.

Course materials include the online program video, slides, and viewer guide. All course materials are accessible online immediately after registering.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Analyze the growing need for palliative and end-of-life care in correctional settings.
2. Examine the structure and impact of a peer caregiver model within prison palliative care and hospice programs.
3. Apply key principles from peer-based caregiving models to identify opportunities for adaptation in other care settings.
4. Describe the current demographics of aging within the carceral system

5. Explain hospice services available to those with terminal illness within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
6. Describe the process and benefits of Compassionate Release in California

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Laura Musselman, MFA & Lisa Deal, RN, MPH, ScD

- Introduction: framing the issue (2 min)
- Analyzing aging and end-of-life needs in correctional settings (10 min)
- Examining Humane's peer caregiver model (training, roles, integration) (10 min)
- Evaluating impact and real-world examples (10 min)
- Application and practice: exploring what hospice professionals can adapt (8 min)

Michele DiTomas, MD, MS

- Demographics and challenges facing the aging prison population (5 min)
- Patient Rights (5 min)
- California Medical Facility Hospice (15 min)
    - Program overview
    - Peer worker program
    - Experience of patient and family
- Compassionate Release Program (10 min)
- Challenges to community reentry for those with serious illness (5 min)

Question & Answer Session (10 min)

CONTINUING EDUCATION

This program is valid for 1.5 contact hours of continuing education. View the current list of board approvals on HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org, located on the program's registration page.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must view the entire 90-minute program (online-streaming video). Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online before a certificate is awarded. The online CE process includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary).

EXPERT SPEAKERS

Lisa Deal, RN, MPH, ScD

Senior Advisor, Humane Hospice Prison Project

Lisa Deal is senior advisor to the Humane Prison Hospice Project. As a community health nurse caring for AIDS patients in Boston during the late 1980s, Lisa discovered her passion for being with the dying. Following that profound experience, Lisa's life took her down a variety of paths as a clinician, research associate, policy analyst/editor, and grants officer. She earned master's degrees in public health and nursing from the University of Washington and a doctorate in public health from Harvard University. She spent several years working on child and family policy issues with the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in Silicon Valley before stepping away to raise her three children and engage in community volunteer work. After the tragic deaths of her younger brother, her dear friend and pastor, and her father — all within a three-year span — Lisa felt called to return to caring for the dying.

In 2010, Lisa joined Mission Hospice & Home Care as a hospice and palliative care nurse, and worked in clinical and leadership roles for the next nine years, directing the Palliative Care Program and the Community Outreach Program, and serving as Chief Clinical Officer and finally Chief Executive Officer until 2019. It was during this time that Lisa became involved with Humane Prison Hospice Project. Under her leadership, Mission Hospice became the clinical sponsor for Humane's work to train the Brothers' Keepers prisoners at San Quentin State Prison to be compassionate end-of-life caregivers. Visiting with the

men at San Quentin was another life-changing experience for Lisa, and today she feels honored to be able to combine her passions for working with the dying and serving those behind bars through the Humane Prison Hospice Project. In her role as executive director, Lisa focuses on strategic planning, fundraising, program development and administration, and supporting the incredible Humane team as they seek to ensure that those dying in prison receive compassionate end-of-life care.

In addition to her work with Humane, Lisa serves on the Board of Directors for GAIA Global Health and Peninsula Volunteers, Inc., and she is a lay chaplain for the Santa Clara County jails.

Michele DiTomas, MD, MS
Assistant Deputy Medical Executive for Palliative and Complex Care
CMF Hospice Medical Director with California Correctional Health Care Services

Michele DiTomas is Assistant Deputy Medical Executive for Palliative and Complex Care and CMF Hospice Medical Director with California Correctional Health Care Services. She earned her MD from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and is board-certified in both family medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. Dr. DiTomas has spent over 10 years working for prison reform from the inside by advocating for positive changes from both custody and medical staff as well as through collaboration with outside organizations. She has worked as a consultant through the UCSF Criminal Justice and Aging Project to assist in training clinical and custody staff on the special needs of the geriatric prisoner and the provision of compassionate end-of-life care at Riker's Island Jail in New York City, as well as the New York Department of Corrections and the Corrections Division of the Hawaii Department of Public Safety.

Laura Musselman, MFA
Executive Director, Humane Hospice Prison Project

Laura Musselman is Executive Director of the Humane Hospice Prison Project. She is an end-of-life doula, writer, and former college instructor. With a background in philosophy, education, and trauma support, she brings both critical inquiry and practical grounding to her leadership. As the Executive Director of the Humane Prison Hospice Project, Laura focuses on strengthening community-based responses to serious illness and aging within correctional settings: models shaped by the people most impacted by incarceration. She works alongside incarcerated peer caregivers, correctional health teams, and local partners to build practical, relationship-centered pathways that expand dignity and accountability inside complex systems. Her leadership is grounded in the belief that care is not optional infrastructure, but a collective, societal responsibility.

REVIEWER

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

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA)

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Planners (Panelists and Reviewers) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES, please contact:

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