



pediatric palliative  
**care coalition**  
Connecticut

# **Advanced Communication Skills in Pediatric Serious Illness: When Speaking with Compassion Matters**

**June 11, 2025 | 8:00am - 4:30pm**

Kanarek Center for Palliative Care Nursing Education  
Egan School of Nursing & Health Studies  
Fairfield University  
1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT

# Advanced Communication Skills in Pediatric Serious Illness: When Speaking with Compassion Matters

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**Who should attend:** Pediatricians, Advance Practice Providers, Nurses, Social Workers, Child Life Specialists, Chaplains, and other clinicians interested in improving their skills in communicating with children with serious illness and their families.

## Planning Committee:

Eileen O'Shea, DNP, APRN  
Lisa McCabe, MSN, APRN  
DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD  
Stephanie Massaro, MD  
Kerry Moss, MD

Robin Kanarek, RN, BSN, HonD  
Taryn J. Hamre, DNP, APRN  
Kristen Campbell, MSN, APRN  
Katherine Bernier Carney, PhD, RN  
Mary Luz Gonzalez, MD

## Faculty:

DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD  
Kat Hurley, MSW, LCSW, APHSW-C  
Kerry Moss, MD  
Stephanie Massaro, MD  
Marissa Bishop, parent  
Eileen O'Shea, DNP, APRN, PCNS-BC, CHPPN  
Lisa McCabe, MSN, APRN, PCNS-BC, CHPPN  
Taryn J. Hamre, DNP, APRN, CHPPN  
Kristen Campbell, MSN, APRN, CHPPN  
Mary Luz Gonzalez, MD



The Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition of Connecticut (PPCC-CT) aims to advance palliative care services for Connecticut's children (prenatal to 21 years) and their families through advocacy, access to quality care, expanded resources and education by fostering collaborative partnerships among healthcare professionals, state entities and the community.

# Agenda

**8:00am** Registration sign-in and breakfast

**8:30am** Welcome and Introductions *Eileen O'Shea, APRN*

**8:40am** Parent Story *Marissa Bishop*

**9:00am** Fundamentals of Communication *Stephanie Massaro, MD*

**9:20am** Intentional Practices: Centering of Self *Lisa McCabe, APRN*

**9:30am** Break

**9:40am** Discussing Serious News and Responding to Emotion  
*DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD & Kat Hurley, LCSW*

**10:10am** Breakout Session: Case scenarios and discussion

**10:55am** Discussing Goals of Care  
*DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD & Tamryn J. Hamre, APRN*

**11:25am** Breakout Session: Case scenarios and discussion

**12:10am** Lunch

**12:45pm** Discussing Forgoing Life-sustaining Therapies and the Dying Process  
*DonnaMaria Cortezzo, MD & Kristen Campbell, APRN*

**1:15pm** Breakout Session: Case scenarios and discussion

**2:00pm** Break

**2:15pm** Emotional Toll: Care for the Caregiver *Kat Hurley, LSCSW*

**3:15pm** Parent Panel: Communication Matters  
*Kerry Moss, MD & Mary Luz Gonzalez, MD*

**4:15pm** Closing remarks, survey, and evaluation *Eileen O'Shea, APRN*

# Registration

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***Please register by June 6, 2025.***

To register for this workshop, scan the QR code below  
or go to our website: [www.ppcc-ct.org](http://www.ppcc-ct.org)



For questions, please reach out to us at [info@ppcc-ct.org](mailto:info@ppcc-ct.org)

**Continuing Education contact hours  
will be offered for Nursing and Social Work.  
Applications pending.**

This educational activity is jointly provided by the Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition of CT and the Fairfield University Egan School's Kanarek Center for Palliative Care Nursing Education 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield CT, 068242.

The Fairfield University Egan School of Nursing and Health Studies is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by Connecticut Nurses' Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.  
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