

VICTORIA LEFF, MSW, LCSW, APHSW-C

EDUCATION

1984 Simmons College School of Social Work Boston, MA
■ Masters in Social Work

1978 Ithaca College Ithaca, NY
■ Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

2022 to present **Palliative Care Consultant and Trainer**

Provide individual, team and institutional consultation related to healthcare provider wellness.

2023 to 2023 **Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network (SWHPN)**

Interim Executive Director

2021 to 2022 **Advanced Palliative & Hospice Social Work Certification Program (APHSW-C)**

Executive Director

2019 to 2020 **Duke HomeCare and Hospice** Durham, NC

Clinical Social Worker, Hospice

2012 to 2019 **Duke University Hospital** Durham, NC

Palliative Care Clinical Social Worker, Duke Hospital

2009 - 2012 **WakeMed Hospital** Raleigh, NC

Clinical Case Manager, Rehab Hospital

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2025

- **Adjunct Instructor** *Smith School of Social Work*

2024 to present **Adjunct Professor**

- *Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University, New York*: Health Social Work; Palliative Social Work

2019 to 2024 **Adjunct Professor**

- *UNC – Chapel Hill, School of Social Work* Seated Course: Health Theory and Practice

2019 **Adjunct Instructor** *N. C. State University Graduate School of Social Work*

Seated Course: Integrated Behavioral Health in Medical Settings

2022 **Zelda Foster Fellowship Mentor**

2018 **Zelda Foster Fellowship Mentor**

2018 to present **Guest Lecturer** *Duke Law School* – Working with the Seriously Ill.

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CONSULTATION SERVICES:

2024 – present **Subject Matter Expert;** Hastings Institute
2024 to present **SME, Trainer:** American Hospital Association
2023 - present **Consultant, SME,** American Cancer Society Navigation Program
2022 – present **Consultant, Trainer** for PC healthcare providers
2022 – present **Advanced Trainer** for ESPEC program
2021 – present **Expert Witness,** Palliative Care (private law firm)
2020 – 2022 **ECHO Project – Hospice Palliative Medicine CARES**
Consultant as hospice clinical social worker for this bi-coastal ECHO project funded by Cambia.
2020- present **CAP-C. Healthcare Debriefing Trainor**
Breaking Point Debriefings: developed content and educational and debriefing training materials.
MasterClass Faculty; VOH Faculty
2020 – 2022; 2024 to present **Fellow Wellness Facilitator.** MedStar Hospital Palliative Care Fellows
2019 – 2021 **CSU Shiley Haynes Institute of Palliative Care**
Subject Matter expert consultant on revision of Advance Practice Palliative Care Certification for Social Workers
Instructor for Palliative Care Skills for Health Social Workers
2016 - 2020 **ECHO Project, Palliative Care**
Consultant, Clinical Social Work, on the development of a new ECHO Project Palliative Care Hub with Four Seasons Hospice. Included ECHO-Pal and ECHO HPM Cares projects.

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Social Work in Healthcare Journal

2022 to present Associate Editor

Journal of Social Work in End of Life & Palliative Care

2017 to 2023 Co-Editor of Practice Concepts and Innovations Special Section

PUBLICATIONS

Latimer A, Leff V, Altilio T. Attention to Distress Goes With the Territory Response to "Palliative Care Consults for Clinician Distress: Part of the Job?" Schenker, Yael et al. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, Volume 68, Issue 6, 641 - 646. J Pain Symptom Manage. 2025;69(4):e320-e1.

Marmo S, Leff V, Kim SH. Social work practice innovation and social determinants of health: social work expertise for achieving health equity. Soc Work Health Care. 2024;63(1):1-3.

Kim SH, Leff V, Marmo S. Social work innovation in addressing social determinants of health: bridging the gaps between research and practice. Soc Work Health Care. 2024;63(2):71-3.

Leff V, Altilio T. Response to Fasolino and Ferrell, That Which May Not Be Named (DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2022.0609). J Palliat Med. 2023;26(6):749.

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Latimer A, Fantus S, Pachner TM, Benner K, Leff V. Palliative and hospice social workers' moral distress during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Palliat Support Care*. 2023;21(4):628-33.

Kwak J, Jones B, Remke SS, Leff V, Kelemen A, Strong J. Palliative Care Social Work State of the Science (SA303A). *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2023;65(3):e294.

Nwachuku, Brittany, Jennifer Bires, and Vickie Leff, 'The Increasing Role of Credentialing, Certification, and Continuing Education', in Susan Hedlund, and others (eds), *Oncology and Palliative Care Social Work: Psychological Care for People Coping with Cancer*. (New York, 2024; online edn, Oxford Academic, 22 Feb. 2024), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197607299.003.0024>

Leff, V. (2023) Response: Chammas, et al. Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About the Psychological Aspects of Palliative Care Encounters. *Journal of Palliative Medicine* (DOI: 10.1089/jpm.2023.0390)

Leff, V., Altilio, T. Response to Psychological Elements of Palliative Care Series. (2022). *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 25(5), 700-700. doi:10.1089/jpm.2022.0061

Leff, V., Farabelli, J. *A Commitment to Collaborate: Challenges and Opportunities*. In *The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work*. Eds. Altilio, T., Otis-Green, S., Cage, J. Oxford University Press, 2nd edition. 2022

Altilio, T., Kelemen, A., & Leff, V. (2021) Designing and Implementing a COVID Language Resource Guide as a Response to an Acute Need, *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care*, 17:2-3, 146-157
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15524256.2021.1940420>

Altilio, T., Kelemen, A., Leff, V. (2020) *Specific Phrases & Word Choices that Can Be Helpful When Dealing with COVID19* [PDF File] Retrieved from <https://www.seriousillnessconversations.org>

Paul A. Riordan, Meghan Price, Gregg A. Robbins-Welty, Victoria Leff, Christopher A. Jones, Holly G. Prigerson, and Anthony Galanos. (July 2020) "Top Ten Things Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know about Grief." *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2020.0341

O'Donnell, A., Leff, V. et al. (2020). "Social work involvement in palliative care heart failure research: a review of recent literature." *Curr Opin Support Palliat Care* **14**(1): 3-8.

Farabelli, J. P., et al. (2020). "Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Psychosocial and Family Support." *J Palliat Med* **23**(2): 280-286.

Arif H. Kamal, Steven P. Wolf, Jesse Troy, Victoria Leff, Constance Dahlin, Joseph D. Rotella, George Handzo, Phillip E. Rodgers, and Evan R. Myers . "Policy Changes Key To Promoting Sustainability And Growth Of The Specialty Palliative Care Workforce." *Health Affairs*, 38 (6) June 2019

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Leff, V., Comments From This Atheist in the Foxhole. Journal of Pain and Symptom Management, 2020,ISSN 0885-3924, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.10.002>

Leff, V. (2019) A Response to the Article, Journal of Evidence-Based Social Work, 16:2, 243-243

Leff, Victoria, Klement, A., Galanos, T. A Successful Debrief Program for House Staff. Journal of Social Work in End-Of-Life & Palliative Care. Published online: 20 Apr 2017

Belasco A, Leff V, Galanos A. (2015, March). Re: the Sidney Project [Letter to the Editor, Journal of Pain and Symptom Management (49:3), pg e4-e5.

2003 to present **Author**

Altilio, T., Kelemen, A., Leff, V., Pateaude, A., editors. Mirrors and Windows:

Reflections on the Journey of Working in Serious Illness Practice. 2023. ISBN: 979-8370034343

Altilio, T., Kelemen, A., Leff, V. (2021) *Serious Illness Conversations: Reflections 2020 Project*

Along with partners Terry Altilio and Anne Kelemen, developed a 5 episode video self contained program exploring and developing a deeper understanding and informing practice about race.

Associated website: www.seriousillnessconversations.org

Leff, V., Kelemen, A., *Helping Children & Teens Cope when someone they love has a serious illness.* ISBN:9780359907038. 2019.

Leff, V. *RunnerMom: On The Go*

ISBN:0972965610. 2006

2005 - 2018 **Endurance Magazine**

Freelance Writer

LICENSURE & CERTIFICATIONS

APHSW-C 2019 current

LCSW (North Carolina) 1996 to present #C002824

BCD (Board Certified Diplomate) 2016 to 2020

CCM (Commission for Case Manager Certification) Certified Case Manager 2011 to 2016 #145093

LICSW (Massachusetts) 1986-1996

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WEBSITES

www.palliativesocialwork.org

Educational platform for materials and discussions related to palliative social work.

www.helpingchildrencope.org

Resources and book purchase site for helping children cope when someone they love has a serious illness.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Center for Practical BioEthics: Board of Directors member 2024

SWHPN: Member, Board of Directors 2013 to 7/2019 Mentorship Program Manager; Chair, Education Committee.

SSWLHC: Member; Chair Marketing Committee, Education Steering Committee

AOSW: Association of Oncology Social Work Member

SWOG-NC: Preseident Oct. 2014 to 2018

ACSWA: Member, Board of Directors 2016 to 2018

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Runner: Completed ten marathons including Chicago, New York, Boston and Marine Corps.

Moving Comfort sponsored athlete.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

1999-2000 **University of North Carolina** Chapel Hill, NC
Research Project Coordinator for NIH grant, School of Public Health

1994–1996 **The Wellness Community** Boston, MA
Community Coordinator

1989-1994 **The American Cancer Society** Boston, MA
Director, Patient and Family Services, Massachusetts Division

1984-1989 **Beth Israel Hospital** Boston, MA
Clinical Social Worker in Hematology/Oncology

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PRESENTATIONS/PAPERS/WORKSHOPS

CAP-C 2024 IDT Rounds with David Buxton: Countertransference
Fordham University School of Social Work October 2024. 6 hour educational class: Reconstructing Palliative Care Practice: A Beginning
Smith School of Social Work June 2024: 6 hour educational class: Reconstructing Palliative Care Practice: A Beginning
CAP-C 2023 Interdisciplinary Rounds with David Buxton, MD on Personality Disorders in the setting of Palliative Care
SWHPN 2023 Reconstructing Palliative Care presentation with Terry Altilio
SWHPN 2023 Sustainability Presentation
APOSW 2023 Sustainability Presentation for APOSW Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
LMHPO July 2023. Revitalize & Restore. 10 hour educational workshop. Co-Presenter, Altilio, T. New Orleans, LA.
NASEM, April 2023. Facilitator for Resilience Panel Discussion. Washington, DC
NASW Annual Conference 2022: ESPEC Leadersip training
NASW Annual Conference 2022: Reflections Project with Terry Altilio
APOS Society Conference Symposium March 2022: Let's Acknowledge What is Here:
Facing Distress and Bolstering Wellbeing among Psycho-Oncology Health Professionals
CAP-C February 2022 Master Class on Countertransference
CAP-C 2022/2023 Virtual Office Hours: How to get started with Debriefings
Memorial Sloan Kettering Institute -2021. Compliance Presentation: Provider Resilience, with Dr. Billy Rosa.
1st Annual Sharon Bradley Nursing Education Symposium for Caring and Healing in Serious Illness. "Strategies for Resilience"
ECHO HPM Cares: Resilience series 2021.
ACMA Annual 2022 Conference: Moral Distress
Hospice Foundation of America. 2021. "Moral Distress in Healthcare since COVID-19", with Dr. Billy Rosa.
CAP-C Wellness Debriefing - 2021: Facilitator Training.
SWHPN-2021Virtual Summit: "Countertransference", and "Teams".
Smith School of Social Work Virtual Seminar - 2021: "Reimagining Grief and Loss" with Arden O'Donnell.
NCSI Clinical Practice Work Group Forum #4 2021. Panel member.
SSWLHC Annual Conference 10/20 – The Power of Language. With Terry Altilio, Anne Kelemen
CHEST Annual Conference 2020 – Language and word choice in the ICU. With Anne Kelemen and Terry Altilio
Smith School of Social Work 11/20 - Moral Distress and COVID-19 webinar
N.C. Durham VA Social Work 6/20 – Moral Distress Workshop (2 hrs).
NASWNC Clinical Institute – 2020. Presented Working on Teams workshop; Foundations of Palliative Care
SWHPN – 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 Pre-Conference: Foundations of Palliative Care; Debriefings, Mentorship
CAP-C – 2019 Live Webinar on Burnout with Dr. Janet Bull
ACMA Annual Conference: "Resilience for Case Managers".

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NC State Social Work Lecture Series 2019: Working on Teams in Health Care

SWHPN – 2018 Keynote address on Communication; Preconference Foundations Class

SWHPN – 2018 “Debriefings”, 2014 Annual Conference Presentation, “Counter Transference”

SWHPN – 2015 “Married to the Team”; “Worlds Collide: Working with Advanced Heart Therapies”.

AOSW Webinar, National – April 2017, Surviving in the Trenches

AOSW – 2014 Annual Presentation, “Self-Care” and “Whose Death is it Anyway”

Hastings Center Meeting: 7/2015, Chicago. Joint meeting with Hospital Society of Medicine and Hastings Center

AAHPM Annual Conference– 2018 “Mental Health and Palliative Care”

AAHPM Annual Conference - 2017. “Soothe our Souls: Debriefings”.

NASW – 2016 Clinical Institute. “The Debriefing Imperative”.

AAHPM – 11/2014 National Webinar: Strategies for Burnout, with Dr. Janet Bull

AHEC – WakeMed Hospital “Time is Brain” Conference 2012 “Financial Implications for Stroke Patients”;

2014 SHINE Conference

ABTA: 2015 American Brain Tumor Association Patient Care Conference, Chicago

ABTA: “Care for the Caregiver of Brain Tumor Patients”, Las Vegas

Belasco A, Leff V, Galanos A. "Duke House Staff Debrief After Difficult Deaths."

10th Annual Duke Medicine Patient Safety and Quality Conference, March 20, 2015.

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