

# VICTORIA LEFF, MSW, LCSW, APHSW-C

## EDUCATION

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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.*

2021 to 2022 **Advanced Palliative & Hospice Social Work Certification Program**

*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

2019 to Present **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 Medicine

2022 **Zelda Foster Fellowship mentor**

2018 **Zelda Foster Fellowship Mentor**

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

## CONSULTATION SERVICES:

2022 – present **Advanced Trainer** for ESPEC program

2021 – present **Expert Witness**, Palliative Care

2020- present **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**

Breaking Point Debriefings: developed content and educational and debriefing training materials.

2020 & 2022 **Fellow Wellness Facilitator.**

MedStar Hospital Palliative Care Fellows

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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

2019 – present **Serious Illness Conversations: Reflections 2020 Project**

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

Associated website: [www.seriousillnessconversations.org](http://www.seriousillnessconversations.org)

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 present Co-Editor of Practice Concepts and Innovations Special Section

PUBLICATIONS

Latimer, A., Fantus, S., Pachner, T., Benner, K., Leff, V. (2022, in press). Palliative and Hospice Social Workers' Moral Distress During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of Palliative and Supportive Care*.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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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

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**

**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.seriousillnessconversations.org](http://www.seriousillnessconversations.org)

Educational platform for materials and discussions related to serious illness conversations.

[www.helpingchildrencope.org](http://www.helpingchildrencope.org)

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

[www.whpcsw.net](http://www.whpcsw.net)

The World Hospice & Palliative Care Social Work Network. Oversee website design and content.

MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS

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

Current member of Student Committee.

SSWLHC: Member; Chair Marketing 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

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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

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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 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-2021 Virtual 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".  
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".

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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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