



SWHPN Announces Seven New Board Members and Names New Board Leadership

SEATTLE, WA – April 30, 2021 – The Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN) announced seven new board members today and new board leadership. Along with the current serving members, they will each help support the nonprofit association’s mission to amplify the role of hospice and palliative care social workers, advance their professional development, and advocate for improved policies, increased funding, and additional opportunities for psychosocial professionals in the field.

“This is an incredible cohort of new Board members, who represent a variety of practice settings, backgrounds, and experiences,” said SWHPN Executive Director Jessica Strong, MPM. “I look forward to working with them to plan future educational offerings and professional development events, and to help support and grow the SWHPN membership. Their leadership and expertise will be invaluable.”

The current SWHPN Board also elected Stacy Remke, MSW, APHSW-C as its new Board Chair for a term of one year. Remke is a Senior Clinical Teaching Specialist at the University of Minnesota’s School of Social Work, has served on the SWHPN Board since 2013, and most recently chaired the SWHPN Governance Committee. Anne Kelemen, LICSW, APHSW-C, Director of Psychosocial/Spiritual Care for the Palliative Care Section at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, is also a long-serving Board member who will now serve as the organization’s Vice Chair. Liz Anderson, DSW, LCSW, Assistant Professor of Social Work at Western Carolina University, will serve as Board Secretary. Torrie Fields, MPH was reelected to serve as Board Treasurer for another year.

“I am delighted to be welcoming such an enthusiastic, creative group of social workers as new Directors. Together, they represent ideas and aspects of our field that are not yet represented on the Board, which I know will add to the perspectives available to our organization,” said immediate past Chair Allison Shukraft, MSW, MAT, APHSW-C. “I am also thrilled to see Stacy Remke as our incoming Board Chair. Stacy has been a dedicated leader, serving in the past as Treasurer and as Chair of the Governance Committee. She is committed to advancing our work



in healthcare equity, as well as elevating the social work voice in the hospice and palliative care field.”

The new board members will begin a three-year term with SWHPN effective April 1, 2021 and can serve a maximum of two terms.

- **Tanisha Bowman, MSW, LSW, APHSW-C**, Palliative Care Social Worker at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh
- **Lori Eckel, LCSW, APHSW-C**, Lead Palliative Care Social Worker and Senior Ethics Consultant at Legacy Health
- **Jennifer Halpern, PhD, LMSW, APHSW-C**, Senior Palliative Social Worker at the Oncology Support Program of the HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley
- **J. Russell Kieffer, LCSW, APHSW-C**, Regional Director of Palliative Care for Providence St Joseph Health in Southern California
- **Caitlin Scanlon, MSW, LCSW**, Pediatric Palliative Care Social Worker at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis
- **Danetta Sloan, PhD, LMSW, MA**, Social Work Scientist and Faculty at the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- **Bridget Sumser, LCSW, MSW**, Clinical Social Worker in the Palliative Care Program at UCSF Health

At its most recent meeting, the SWHPN Board heartfully acknowledged the service of valued board members Karen Bullock, PhD, LCSW, APHSW-C, John Cagle, PhD, Michelle Charles, LCSW, Susan Enguidanos, PhD, MPH, and Gary Stein, JD, PhD, all who concluded their service this year. “Gary Stein was a founding member of SWHPN, instrumental to its initial formation and a driving force behind its remarkable growth over the past decade,” remarked Grace Christ, PhD, SWHPN Chair Emeritus. “The significance of the contributions of each of these board members—not only to SWHPN, but to our field as a whole—cannot be overstated. We look forward to their continued engagement and counsel to our organization.”

To learn more about the new SWHPN Board members and read their bios, click [here](#).