

Navigating Dual Relationships in Hospice Music Therapy

March 20, 2026 | 1:30–4:30 PM

Live, In-Person Training

3 CMTE Credits (Ethics)

Internal Trustbridge Staff Event

Course Overview: Hospice music therapy creates uniquely intimate therapeutic experiences at the end of life. Home visits, extended family systems, grief support, and profound emotional connections present meaningful opportunities for connection—alongside complex ethical challenges.

This interactive training equips participants with evidence-based tools to recognize, analyze, and ethically manage dual relationships in hospice and palliative care settings. Through guided application of the Codes of the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) and the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT), participants will explore how professional standards apply to the relational dynamics inherent in end-of-life care.

Participants will learn the ETHICS six-step decision-making framework and apply it to real-world scenarios including: social media connections, community overlap, overlapping services, staff friendships, gift-giving and more. Attendees will receive a one-page ETHICS reference sheet, guided self-reflection tools, and practical organizational resources.

Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will be equipped to identify at least three (3) potential risks of transference, countertransference and dual relationships that can affect treatment (Knowledge 3A-5, Task 34).
2. Participants will identify at least three (3) strategies for establishing and maintaining professional boundaries and managing therapeutic relationships when dual relationship concerns arise for application in their clinical practice following this opportunity (Knowledge 5B-13, 5B-14; Task 57, 65).

Presenters

Sara Olmann, MT-BC, NMT

Music Therapy Education Lead & Internship Director, Trustbridge

Over ten years of hospice music therapy experience specializing in professional boundaries, documentation, supervision, and ethical decision-making in end-of-life care.

Carly Graefe, MT-BC

Hospice & Pediatric Palliative Care Music Therapist, Trustbridge

Co-developer of the pediatric palliative care music therapy program with over 2 years experience in hospice, bereavement, and pediatric grief camps, emphasizing ethically grounded, relationship-centered care.

Schedule

1:30–1:45 PM – Introduction & Ice Breaker

1:45–2:00 PM – Definitions & Research

2:00–2:15 PM – Dual Relationships with Patients & Families

2:15–2:30 PM – Dual Relationships with Colleagues

2:30–3:00 PM – ETHICS Tool & Strategies

3:00–3:10 PM – Break

3:10–3:50 PM – Breakout Groups

3:50–4:10 PM – Discussion & Boundary Analysis

4:10–4:20 PM – Final Takeaways

4:20–4:30 PM – Evaluations

Registration & Cost: This is an internal Trustbridge staff training. There is no cost to participants. Registration instructions will be distributed internally.

CBMT Statement: Navigating Dual Relationships in Hospice Music Therapy is approved by the Certification Board for Music Therapists (CBMT) for 3 CMTE credits. Trustbridge (P-088) maintains responsibility for program quality and adherence to CBMT policies and criteria.