

NER CMTE #3 Promotional Materials:

Thursday, March 26th, 2026

9am-12pm

Title: Hospice MTx-cubed: Three Therapists, One Hindu Musician's Last Two Years

Presenters: Li Kynvi, MDiv, MA, MT-BC, LMHC; KT Bagley, MT-BC; Carol Smolenski, MA, MT-BC, MEd

CMTE Credits: 3

Opportunity Cost: \$65.00 (AMTA Member Pricing) or \$95.00 (Non-AMTA Member Pricing)

Presenter Qualifications:

Li Kynvi has been a clinician, educator, and supervisor for 29 years, since 2007 in hospice and pediatric palliative care. Li is also trained as a spiritual counselor. They lead the creative arts therapy team at Care Dimensions, in eastern Massachusetts.

KT Bagley is a hospice music therapist at Care Dimensions. They currently serve as NER Secretary and will soon be completing a Master of Science in Thanatology. KT is passionate about bridging the fields of music therapy and death education.

Carol Smolenski is a hospice music therapist with Care Dimensions, and works with elders in long-term care and supportive day settings for dementia support. She is a vocal coach and chorus director whose vocation and avocation intersect helping others find their true voice.

Abstract: This session offers clinical hospice music therapy lessons and the opportunity to apply these lessons to participants' own work and reflections. Taking an expanded case study format, the presenters focus on cross-cultural work; on the intersection of spiritual care and music therapy in advanced illness; and on therapist reflections of how our unique skills and experiences affected our work with this patient.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Outline:

This CMTE offers clinical music therapy lessons and the opportunity for attendees to apply these lessons to their own work and reflections. The CMTE is organized around an expanded case study of one hospice patient who was on service for 27 months. All three presenters worked with him over his last two years. We each brought a unique skill set to the work. We will focus on the areas of cross-cultural work, the intersection of spiritual care and music therapy in advanced illness and end-of-life, and therapist reflections on how our unique skills and experiences played out in our work with the patient. Leaving ample space and time for open discussion, participants will also have a chance to reflect on their own skills and experience, and how they might have brought those to their work with this patient and family.

10 min Introductions, set aspirations & intentions, housekeeping, outline of CMTE

40 min Case Study

Introduction to pt, diagnosis, social location (i.e. race, ethnicity, age, gender, socio economic status, sexual orientation).

Each therapist (we worked with him sequentially) will describe their clinical work with the pt, and the most salient factors that emerged from the work, introducing the topics we will spend more extensive time on:

Cross-cultural work (introduced here, explored in more depth in second half)

Intersections with spiritual care (introduced here, explored in more depth in second half)

Resistance, adaptability, and growth in transitioning between clinicians

Implications of hospice music therapy with musicians, including improvisation & legacy work

What each therapist brought to the work (introduced here, explored in more depth in second half)

15 min Open discussion

15 min Break

20 min Cross-Cultural Work in Hospice

Open discussion on cross-cultural work, discuss cultural humility v. competence (Lekas article, cultural responsiveness (Cultural Intersections in MT book?))

Examine some existing frameworks relating to cultural humility and culturally competent care

20 min Intersection of Spiritual Care and Music Therapy in EOL Work

Particular experiences of this Hindu patient who was a musician, and whose music focused on two-way spiritual communication.

More generally how spiritual issues, questions, dilemmas, and situations present themselves in hospice & palliative care work.

35 min Therapist Reflections

Each therapist will reflect on our work with the patient, including our biases, limitations, insecurities, and questions.

Discussion: How did these play out during the processes of transitioning the patient from one therapist to the next?

Discussion: Participants reflect on what they might have brought to this patient & family, given their unique skills and experiences.

15 min Open discussion

10 min Evaluations

CBMT Objectives & Domains:

Obj. #1: Participants will articulate how music therapy experiences are shaped with consideration of client's age, culture, language, music background, and preferences.

CBMT Domain II. 2B-5, 2B-6, 11, 12

Obj. #2: Participants will demonstrate understanding of how therapist bias and limitations in information interpretation (i.e. cultural differences, clinical orientation, transference & countertransference) can impact assessment, treatment planning and implementation, and transition/termination. CBMT Domain II. 2C-2, 20, 21, 22; 2D-2, 2D-5, 26, 28, 30.; III. 3A-3, 3A-4, 3A-5; 34, 35, 36; IV. 4B-2, 4B-4, 47, 48, 49; V. 5B-2, 5B-3, 5B-11, 5B-13, 5B-14, 57, 65, 66

Obj. #3: Participants will articulate their own expertise and experience, and what they could have brought to this patient and family that was different from what the presenters offered. CBMT Domain II. 2D-2, 2D-5, 26, 28, 30

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

If you are unable to attend the CMTE workshop after registering, please request a refund via email to the Conference Chair at vicepresident@neramta.org no later than 9am on the day for which you would like a refund. In the request, please state your reasoning for needing a refund, and the team will review and respond to you within 24 hours of receiving the request. Refunds will be processed as quickly as possible. Registrants are responsible for processing fees associated with the platform except in case of hardship.