

WesleyLife Social Work Summit 2026

Connecting Communities: Resources, Advocacy & Care

October 8th & 9th 2026 | 8:30 AM – 4 PM
Polk County Generations Hall, Meals on Wheels Campus
3206 University Ave, Des Moines, IA 50311

Day 1: Thursday, October 8th

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

Registration & Breakfast – Sponsored by Iowa Funeral Planning

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Professional Ethics and Elder Law Interactive Workshop

Presenter: Cynthia Letsch, JD | Agency: Letsch Law Firm

Summary: Participate in an engaging and interactive workshop focused on ethics and elder law through ethics review, team activities, case studies, and participant-submitted scenarios.

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch - Provided by Meals on Wheels – Sponsored by Iowa Funeral Planning

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Area Agency on Aging: Your First Call for Help

Presenter: Crystal Doig | Agency: Aging Resources of Central Iowa

Summary: Learn about aging services, benefits, care coordination, and community resources available to older adults and caregivers.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Understanding the Disability Access Point & Community Support Advocates

Presenters: Stephanie Schmidt & Melissa Ahrens

Summary: Learn how DAP connects individuals with disabilities and older adults to long-term services and supports.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Navigating End-of-Life Decisions: Insights from Funeral Care Experts

Presenter: Blair Overton

Summary: Gain insight into emotional, legal, and cultural factors that influence end-of-life decision-making.

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Guardianship and Substitute Decision Making in Iowa

Presenter: Sherri McLerran, NCG | Agency: Decisions for Life

Summary: Understand guardianship, alternatives, ethical considerations, and best practices.

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Day 2: Friday, October 9th

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM

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8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Palliative Care Across the Continuum

Presenters: Aimee Spores, Tricia Tentinger & Wendy Sontag

Summary: Compare inpatient, outpatient, and home-based palliative care models.

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

ALICE in Iowa and Resources for Support

Presenter: Michael Berger, MPH

Summary: Understand the ALICE framework and community resources.

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Immanuel Pathways PACE

Presenters: Shelby Burt & Kelly Walker

Summary: Learn eligibility, services, and benefits of the PACE program.

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Lunch - Provided by Meals on Wheels – Sponsored by Iowa Funeral Planning

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Meals on Wheels in Central Iowa and Hydroponic Farm Tour

Presenter: Shannon Draayer

Summary: Explore nutrition services and innovative food programs.

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Medicaid HCBS 101

Presenters: Christy Casey & Kim Grasty

Summary: Review waiver eligibility, HCBS services, and Consumer Choices Options.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

How Community Ambulance Programs Can Help

Presenters: John Jensen & Stevi Breitman

Summary: Learn how Mobile Integrated Health programs improve outcomes.

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Making the Most of VA Benefits

Presenter: Michael Mortensen

Summary: Review VA health, compensation, pension, and veteran support programs.

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Continuing Education Information

Iowa Board of Social Work: This education program offers 14 hours of continuing education. You must attend the entire day to receive credit; no partial credit is allowed. Retain your certificate for four years. For nursing CEs credit, there is no pre-registration or registration fee. For other long-term support and service provider professionals not listed above: Most licensure boards, credentialing agencies and professional organizations have processes that allow individuals to earn a certain number of CEUs for non-preapproved programs and/or to accommodate self-submission for approval of continuing education hours after the event takes place with proper documentation from the program sponsors.

Most also require information objectives, date/time of presentation, agendas, faculty bios and number of hours earned. If you require information for this purpose, please contact the Bureau of Professional Licensure at PLPublic@idph.iowa.gov for assistance.

Sponsor

WesleyLife at Home 4328 114 th Street Urbandale, Iowa 50322	Iowa Funeral Planning 4400 Merle Hay Rd Des Moines, IA 50310
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Grievances

The Director of Clinical Quality at WesleyLife at Home should be contacted for any problems or concerns about social worker continuing education hour.

Registration & Other Information

Registration closes 2 business days prior to the session date. Register at www.wesleylife.org/ceu

Handouts and Certificates

All handouts will be available electronically in advance via the email address provided at the time of registration. Certificates will be available upon the completion of each day of the course on site.

Photographs, Video, and Intellectual Property

No personal video or audio recordings are allowed. Presentations, images, and text chats are the intellectual property of WesleyLife, and participants are not permitted to record them or share the images or text chats for personal or business use.

Cancellation

WesleyLife reserves the right to cancel this offering. If cancellation occurs, registered participants will be alerted via email and social media updates from WesleyLife and WesleyLife at Home. If you are not able to attend due to the limited number of seats please contact aspores@wesleylife.org

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