



## **Wednesday, March 5 - AM Concurrent Workshop 2**

Understanding Hospice, Palliative Care and the Evolving Role of End-of-Life Doulas

**Speakers: Marie Cunningham and Lori Asmus**

### Marie Cunningham Bio

Marie Cunningham received her bachelor's degree in management at Arizona State University and her master's in health informatics at Northern Kentucky University. She has been with Hospice of Cincinnati (HOC) for 22 years and currently serves as the Manager of Professional Relations. In this role, Marie has developed and presented many educational programs on Advanced Directives, Palliative Care and Hospice. Marie served as HOC's Cardiac Champion/Project Manager during the development and implementation of their Advanced Cardiac Care Program and played an integral role in HOC's path to achieving AHA certification for this program. Marie continues to develop educational offerings for medical professionals and the lay community on the expanding programs at HOC Navigators. Marie is passionate about educating all on the benefits of palliative care and hospice.

### Lori Asmus Bio

Lori is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and served in fund development roles within the aging and education sectors for many years. In 2019, Lori ventured into Healthcare Administration to serve as the Manager of Integrative Services at Hospice of Cincinnati to combine her passions of program innovation, community engagement and enhancing quality of life for the aged. Lori currently leads several programs in partnership with the Integrative Services team including the Volunteer program comprised of over 800 volunteers; Holistic Programs including Music Therapy, Expressive Arts and Massage Therapy; the HOC End of Life Wish program; Social Connections remote telephone support for elders in our community and the End-of-Life Doula program. Lori received her certification as an End-of-Life Doula and Trainer from NEDA (National End of Life Doula Alliance). Lori is a trained facilitator for the national No one Dies Alone program and certified trainer for the Teepa Snow Positive Approach to Care (PAC) for People Living with Dementia. After seeing first-hand the isolation and loneliness of the aged during COVID, Lori launched Cincinnati's first free Doula training program for hospice volunteers. HOC now has over 50 Doulas (and growing!) who create the most meaningful and best possible end of life experience for over 6,000 patients annually. The scope and depth of the role continues to grow as the organization identifies additional ways to incorporate Doulas as a part of the patient's care team and plan of care.