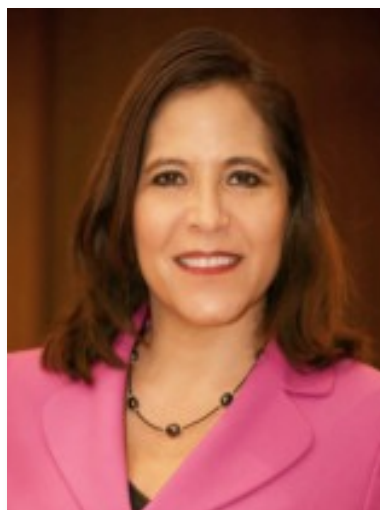


# Getting to Know your Oncology Care Team: *Oncology Social Workers*



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CPAN Chapter Advocacy Leader  
Northwest Medical Specialties



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Director of Patient Advocacy & Education  
Community Oncology Alliance

# Today's Chat Agenda

- **Updates: Community Oncology Alliance (COA) and COA's Patient Advocacy Network (CPAN)**
- **The role of licensed mental health professionals (oncology social workers) in providing care for cancer patients**
- **How oncology social workers assist patients and their families with care planning and decision making**
- **How oncology social workers help cancer patients with the additional emotional and mental health needs during COVID**
- **How oncology social workers engage with external patient advocacy support organizations**
- **Information on supportive counseling and resources available for cancer patients, cancer survivors and caregivers**

Learn more:

COA's Patient Advocacy Network: [www.coaAdvocacy.org](http://www.coaAdvocacy.org)  
Community Oncology Alliance: [www.communityoncology.org](http://www.communityoncology.org)  
Northwest Medical Specialties: [www.nwmedicalspecialties.com](http://www.nwmedicalspecialties.com)

A close-up photograph of a white lotus flower with delicate pinkish-purple edges on its petals. The flower is in full bloom, with several layers of petals visible. The background is a dark, blurred green, suggesting a pond or garden setting. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the petals.

**Advocacy Chat: Getting to Know Your  
Oncology Care Team:  
Oncology Social Workers**

Wednesday, November 10, 2021



# Oncology Social Work

Licensed mental health professionals that can help navigate through the challenges brought on by illness and treatment.

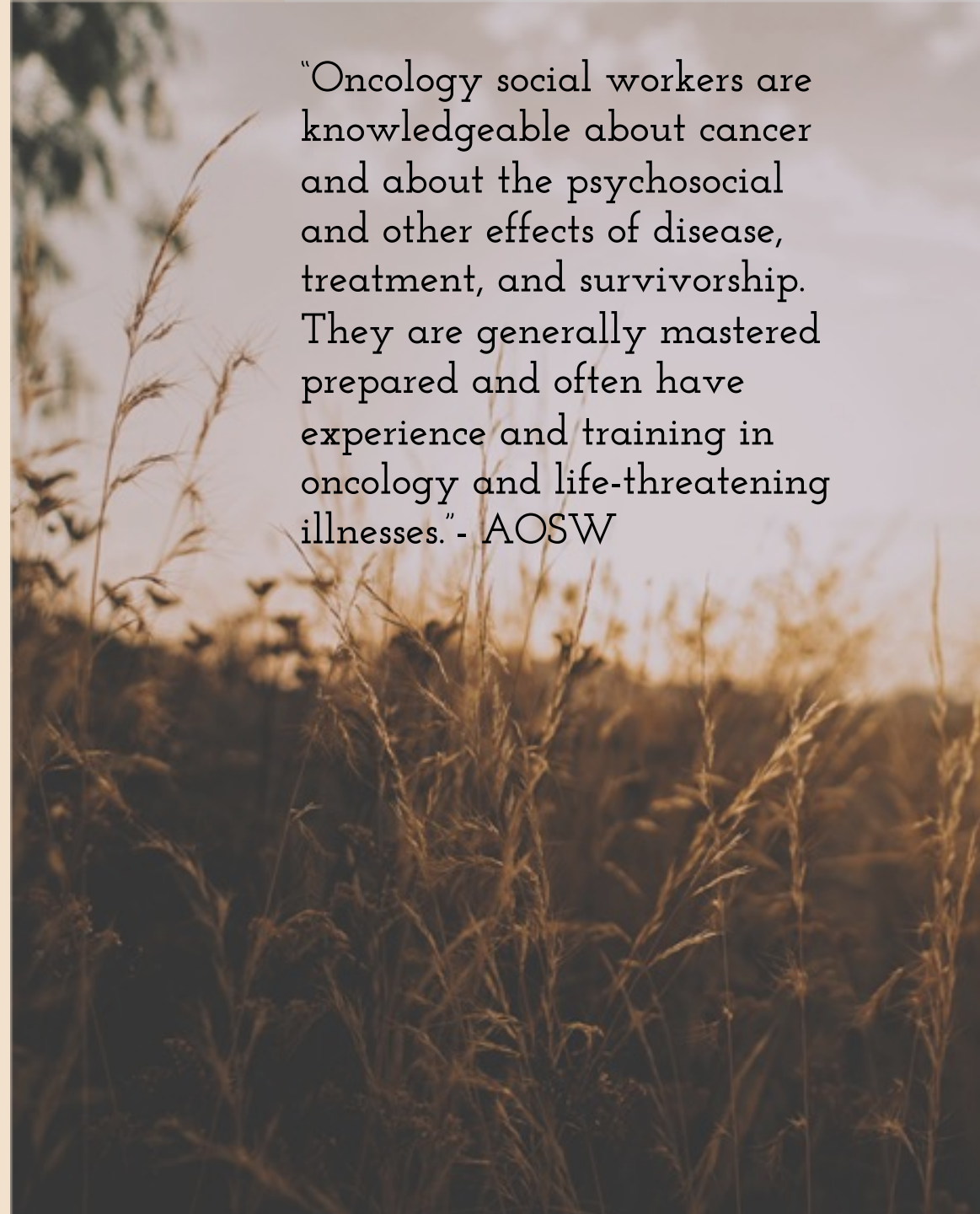
- Short-term counseling
- Connect to community-based resources and supports
- Care Planning
- Disability

# Oncology Social Work:

AOSW

1. Services to cancer survivors, families and caregivers.
2. Services to institutions and agencies.
3. Services to community.
4. Services to the profession.

“Oncology social workers are knowledgeable about cancer and about the psychosocial and other effects of disease, treatment, and survivorship. They are generally mastered prepared and often have experience and training in oncology and life-threatening illnesses.” - AOSW

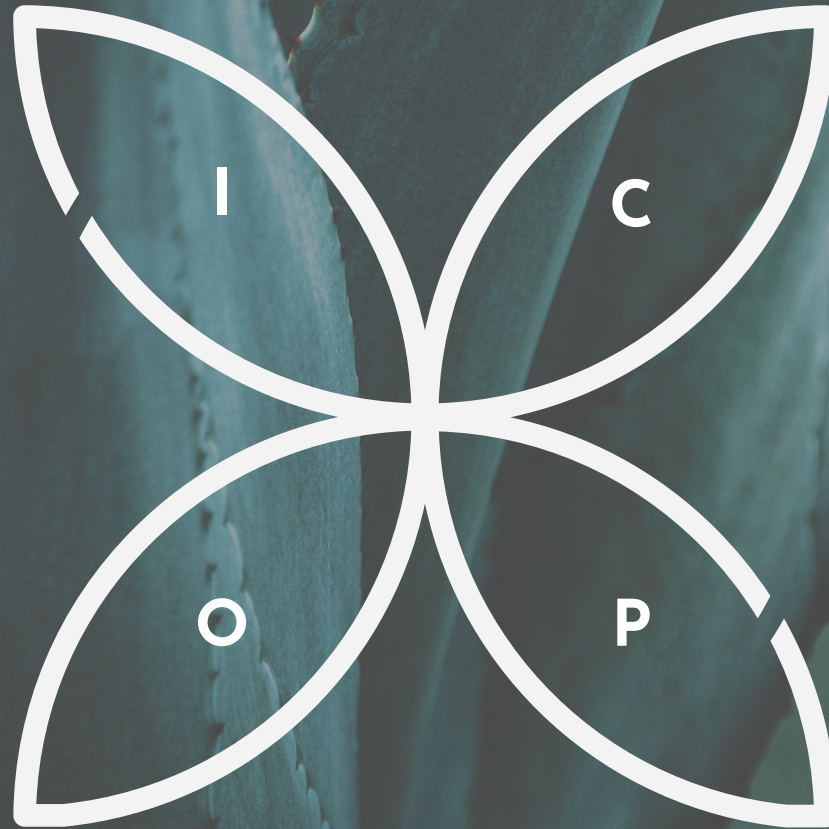


## Patients, Families, Caregivers

Comprehensive psychosocial services and programs, through all phases of cancer.

## Organizations

Knowledge of the psychosocial, social, cultural and spiritual factors that impact coping with cancer and its effects, to ensure provision of quality psychosocial programs and care.



## Community

Promote or strengthen the community services, programs and resources available to meet the needs of cancer survivors.

## SW Profession

Advance knowledge through clinical and other research. Orient, supervise and evaluate clinical SW in oncology. Promote student training and professional education in oncology.

Unwanted Aloneness

Financial Burden

Loss of Hope

Loss of Control

Living with Uncertainty



Limited Social Support



Unmanaged Distress



Untreated Depression



Unrecognized Grief





*A serious but common mental health condition that affects an estimated **16 million** adults in the United States.*

**01**

*American Cancer Society reports an estimated **1 in 4 people** with cancer experience depression.*

**02**

*Depression is common in patients diagnosed with cancer, with the prevalence of depressive disorders as high as **25%***

**03**

*Depressive disorders in patients with cancer are **2 to 3 times more likely** than in the general population.*

**04**



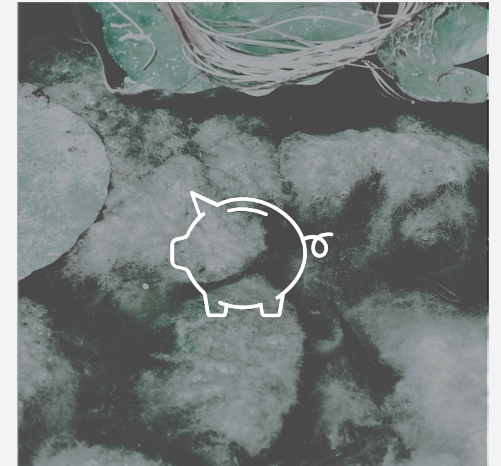
## Cancer Outcomes

Poorer cancer outcomes, increased mortality, poorer medication adherence, impairment to personal health management. (Wagner et al., 2017)



## Frequency of Medical Visits

Patients with depression made 76% more health care visits, were over twice as likely to have an emergency department visit, 81% more likely to be hospitalized, and twice as likely to experience a 30-day hospital readmission, relative to non-depressed patients. (Mausbach et al., 2017)



## Health Care Costs

Cancer patients with a depression diagnosis incurred total health care charges that are 113% greater than patients with no depression diagnosis. (Mausbach et al., 2017)

# COPING THROUGH THE ONGOING PANDEMIC



- Laughter
- Exercise
- Get Social- Virtual Hang Outs (Facetime/Zoom/ House party)
- Get Involved
- Engaging in an activity that brings you joy
- Finish a project you have been putting off
- Take a break from news and social media
- Support Groups
- Acknowledging Your Grief
- Seek Professional Support



**(800) 227-2345**

[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

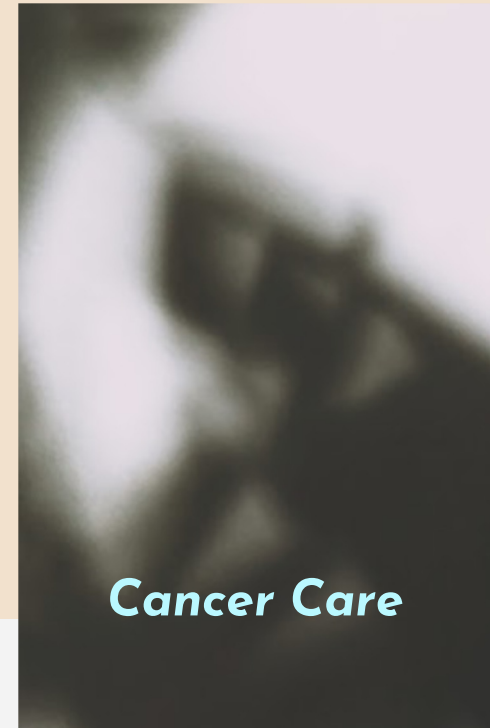
- Cancer Helpline
- Lodging
- Rides to Treatment
- Education
- Support Groups
- Peer Support-Connecting Cancer Survivors
- Publications



**(888) 793-9355**

[www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org)

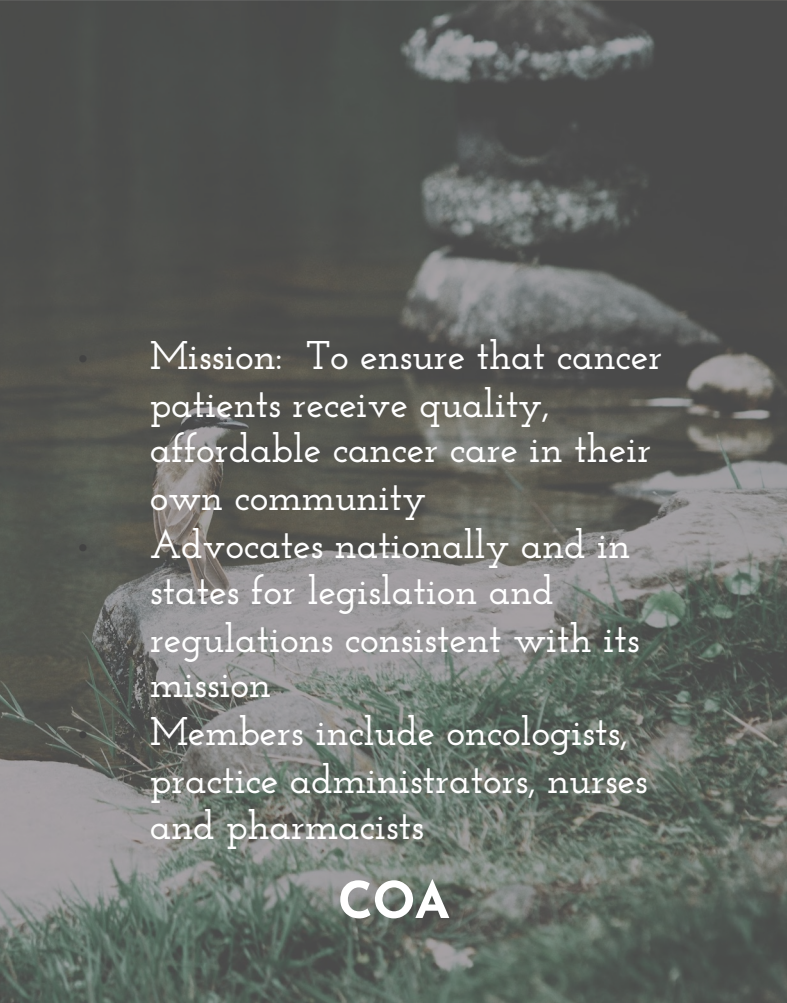
- Cancer Support Helpline
- Short-Term Counseling
- Short-Term Housing Resources
- Connection to local & national resources
- Treatment decision planning
- Financial navigation
- Education
- Support Groups
- Publications



**(800) 813-HOPE (4673)**

[www.cancercare.org](http://www.cancercare.org)

- Hopeline
- Counseling- NY and NJ
- Case Management
- Education
- Support Groups
- Publications
- Financial & Co-pay Assistance
- Community Programs

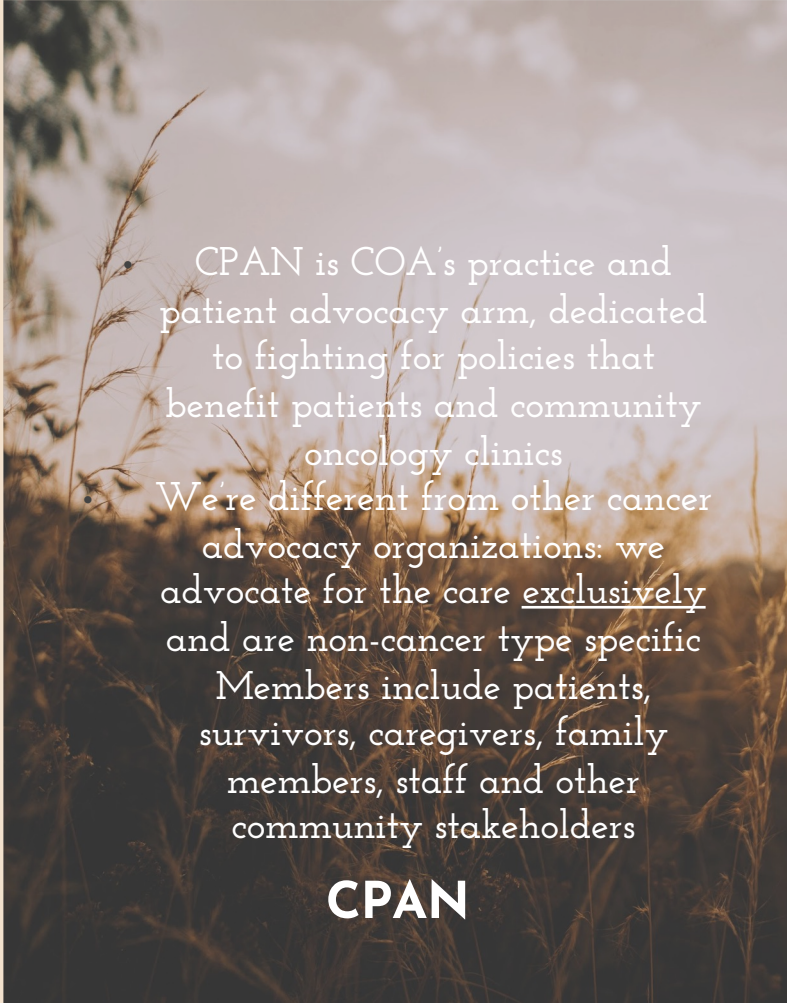


Mission: To ensure that cancer patients receive quality, affordable cancer care in their own community

Advocates nationally and in states for legislation and regulations consistent with its mission

Members include oncologists, practice administrators, nurses and pharmacists

**COA**



CPAN is COA's practice and patient advocacy arm, dedicated to fighting for policies that benefit patients and community oncology clinics

We're different from other cancer advocacy organizations: we advocate for the care exclusively and are non-cancer type specific. Members include patients, survivors, caregivers, family members, staff and other community stakeholders

**CPAN**

A person is shown in silhouette from the back, looking out over a landscape of rolling hills or mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person is wearing a dark tank top.

# THANK YOU

Does anyone have any questions?

[akelson@nwmsonline.com](mailto:akelson@nwmsonline.com)

(253) 219-7811

[www.nwmedicalspecialties.com](http://www.nwmedicalspecialties.com)





**Thank You to Abra Kelson & Our Listeners!**

## **Upcoming Advocacy Events**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 12:00 PM ET**

**CAREGIVER  
ACTION  
NETWORK**

