

## Karen L. Smith, L.M.S.W., Ph.D., HEC-C

### Education

1987 B.S.W., Social Work, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.  
1990 M.S.W, Social Work, Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN.  
2011 **Ph.D. Philosophy/ Medical Ethics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.**

### Work Experience

Nov 2016- Current Henry Ford Hospital – Detroit, MI

Director of Ethics Integration, providing clinical ethics leadership, a full range of ethics consult, education, and policy formation for Henry Ford Health System a 6-hospital system in metro Detroit. Clinical ethicist for 877 bed metropolitan, tertiary care and teaching hospital with a Level 1 trauma center which provides training for residents and fellows in more than 46 programs.

Jan2014- July 2016 Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare – Milwaukee, WI.

Clinical ethicist for a 6 hospital Catholic system. Providing independent clinical consults, ethics committee, hospital staff and community education in ethics and Catholic healthcare mission. Extensive knowledge of ERD's and integration of Catholic moral philosophy into hospital policy.

2009-2013

Rural Metro Corporation - Knoxville, TN.  
Dialysis/ Ethics & Compliance Analyst. Serve on multiple community service committees including Ft. Sander's Hospital Ethics Committee doing independent clinical consults, Knox County Ethics Committee, E. Tennessee Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA) , and FCA National Board. Worked while completing doctorate in Philosophy.

2007- 2009

PRN Social Worker - Ft. Sanders Regional Medical Center- Knoxville, TN. Served as clinical ethics advisor, provided clinical ethics consults, ethics committee education, and organized the annual Ethics full day workshop. Position was PRN due to completing doctoral course work.

2004-2013  
Tennessee

Graduate Teaching Associate/Lecturer – University of

Major duties were teaching undergraduate course work in philosophy. Independently developed and taught courses in Bioethics, Professional Ethics and Contemporary Moral Theory.

- 1997–2003            Renal Social Worker, El Camino Hospital - Rose Garden Dialysis Center, San José, CA.
- Provided direct social work services to all dialysis patients. Member of Hospital Ethics Committee and Workshop Planning sub-committee. Member of clinical consult team for ethics committee.
- 1992–1996            Intensive Care Unit Social Worker - St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN.
- Member of Ethics Committee and provided clinical consults utilizing ERD's, worked on Ethical Care of the Dying sub-committee.

### **Professional Licenses & Certifications**

- 2019-Current            Healthcare Ethics Consultant Certification. HEC-C, American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.
- 2004-2010            Licensed Masters Social Worker, L.M.S.W., State of Tennessee
- 1993- 2018            Licensed Clinical Social Worker, L.C.S.W., State of Indiana.
- 1987-2008            Academy of Certified Social Workers, A.C.S.W., National Association of Social Workers

### **Teaching Experience**

2016- current - Ongoing medical resident education via didactic lectures, Grand Rounds presentations and individual case consultation to the staff, residents, interns and nursing students at Henry Ford Hospital. System ethics education via Ethics for Lunch series providing CME for all staff on topical issues.

2004-2006 – Graduate Assistant duties. Responsibilities included discussion sections and grading under guidance from professors in Business Ethics, Medical Ethics and Introduction to Philosophy.

2006-2009 Graduate Teaching Associate- Starting in Fall semester teaching independently 200 level philosophy courses. Responsibilities included text selection, course development, exams and grading.

Contemporary Moral Issues- Phil 242 – A verbal intensive course with focus on understanding the varied viewpoints in many of the currently debated moral issues facing our society and development of a philosophical viewpoint on each issue. The course looked at issues such as abortion, gay marriage, torture and animal rights with emphasis on evaluation of the varied positions and identification of coherent reasons for each within a philosophical framework. Student work included evaluation of oral debate skills on ethical issues and oral presentations.

Professional Responsibility-Phil 244 - A writing intensive course that used a values framework to evaluate ethical behavior in professional work environments. Course

skills included learning how to evaluate an ethical dilemma and present allowable and disallowable options with philosophical reasoning to validate choices.

Biomedical Ethics-Phil 246– A writing intensive course that focused on the basics of medical ethics. Included evaluation of currently debated issues such as physician assisted suicide and abortion and understanding the differing philosophical viewpoints for each position. Students sharing of life experiences involving medical interactions provided a basis for discussion. Weekly reflection assignments focused on seeking a greater personal understanding or position on many difficult situations such as organ donation, egg donation, advance directives and brain death.

### **Other Professional Activities and Positions of Leadership**

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| 2012-2020     | <u>Vice President</u> National Board for the Funeral Consumers Alliance (FCA), is the only national not for profit committed to protecting a consumers rights for after death care via education and advocacy.  |
| 2011- 2013    | <u>Ft. Sander's Regional Hospital</u> – Knoxville, TN<br><br>Ethics Consultant. I provided leadership and education to hospital ethics committee members and clinical ethics consultation as needed for hospital inpatients while working another full time position. I also arranged and directed an annual full-day ethics workshop providing both professional and community ethics education. |
| 2010- 2014    | <u>Member</u> - Knox County Ethics Committee  |
| 2010- 2020    | <u>Member</u> - Board of Funeral Consumers Alliance and National Board Member 2012 -2020.   |
| 2004- current | <u>Member</u> , American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.  |
| 1999–2003     | <u>Chairperson</u> , Council of Nephrology Social Workers (CNSW) of Northern California. Member since 1997. Received “Recognized Chapter Award” for 2001.   |
| 1997—2005     | <u>Member</u> , Ethics Committee, El Camino Hospital, Mountain View, CA.  |
| 1997–2003     | <u>Member</u> , National Kidney Foundation of Northern California. Board of Directors as CNSW representative.   |
| 1992—1996     | <u>Member</u> , Ethics Committee, St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN.   |
| 1992—1996     | <u>Member</u> , Death and Dying Subcommittee, St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, IN.   |

### **Research Grants, Publications & Presentations**

Dunne,J. & K.Smith et al. “Ethical Distribution of COVID-19 Vaccines to Health Care Workers: One Hospital System's Attempt at a Moral Allocation Algorithm” The Journal of Hospital Ethics; Washington Vol. 7, Iss. 2, (Spring 2021): 65-72.

- Smith, K. "Yes, I Want Help, I Just Do Not Want You! Understanding Policy Development Regarding Patient Demands For Alternative Care Providers", 24 J. Health Care L. & Pol'y 149 (2021). Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/jhclp/vol24/iss1/8>
- Smith, K., Fedel, P, & Heitman, J. "Incapacitated Agents: A New and Increasing Dilemma in Hospital Care" *Journal of Clinical Ethics*, Vol. 28(4), Winter 2017:279-289.
- Smith, K. "Commentary: Denial or Delusion?" *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 23.4 (Oct 2014): 473-5.
- 2002 National Kidney Foundation/CNSW Research Grant *Nephrology Social Worker Job Survey*, Research to evaluate the changing practice ecology and social workers emotional experiences related to job situations. The results of this research was published and presented at the 2004 National Kidney Foundation Conference in Chicago, Illinois.
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., "Emotional Exhaustion and Workload Demands in Renal Social Work Practice" *The Journal of Nephrology Social Work*, Vol. 24, May 2005.
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., Unit Based Patient Services and Supportive Counseling Provided by Renal Social Workers in the U.S., *Nephrology News & Issues*, June, 2004, Vol. 18. No. 7.
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., Issues for Renal Social Workers in Dialysis Units in the United States, *Nephrology News & Issues*, May, 2004, Vol. 18. No. 6.
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., Workplace Resources, Patient Caseloads, and Job Satisfaction of Renal Social Workers in the United States, *Nephrology News & Issues*, April, 2004, Vol. 18. No. 5
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., Advocating for Change in Nephrology Social Work Practice. *Nephrology News & Issues*, June 2002, Vol.16, No. 7.
- Merighi, J.R., & Ehlebracht, K., Changing Roles and Responsibilities of Nephrology Social Workers: Are They Appropriate? *Nephrology News & Issues*. April 2002, Vol.16, No.5.
- National Kidney Foundation Annual Clinical Meeting: May 2005, Washington DC, "Kidneys for Sale: An Ethical Look at Organs in the Global Marketplace."
- National Kidney Foundation Annual Clinical Meeting: May 2004, Chicago, IL, " Research Report: On National Nephrology Social Worker Survey" with Joe Merighi, Ph. D.
- Covenant Home Care Educational Day, October 18, 2008. "Ethical Boundaries- A Closer Look at the Caring Relationship".
- NASW- Knoxville Unit- April 7, 2009. "Boundary Issues in Social Work".

Tennessee Ambulance Association- Winter Symposium, February 2010. "Ethics for EMS professionals."

Tennessee Case Manager Consortium, Spring Conference, March 2010. "Professional Boundaries".

Tennessee Association for Homecare Annual Fall Symposium, November 8, 2010. "Ethical Boundaries- A Closer Look at the Caring Relationship".

Tennessee Society of Health Care Social Workers Annual Conference, September 20, 2012. "Self-Regulated Rationing: A New Option".

Ft. Sander's Hospital Annual Fall Ethics Workshop, October 25, 2012. "You're the Surrogate, Now What?".

Blount County Hospital Homecare and Hospice, August 6, 2013. "Are You Good to Go: Helping Others Prepare for Funerals."

South East Wisconsin Oncology Nursing Assoc. (SWON) Fall Symposium, September 20, 2014 "Goals of Care: What they are and why you need them".

All Saints Hospital Grand Ethics Rounds, October, 17, 2014, "Why Goals of Care are Ethical Issues."

"Palliative Sedation as a Means of Dying: A Closer Look at the Benefits and Harms". Pp.239-250. *In Journey's End: Death, Dying, and the End of Life* Editors, Victoria Brewster, Julie Saeger Nierenberg. 2017 Xlibris.com publishing.

ASBH Annual Meeting 2018 "Yes, I Want Care, I Just Don't Want YOU: A look at racist request for alternative providers" Anaheim, CA.

### **Routine Resident/Staff Teaching**

All 5 HFHS Ethics Committee Education Quarterly

Developed Bioethics Fellowship Program for HFHS 2019

HFH Nurse Residency Program Quarterly

HFH IM Grand Rounds-/OB/ Anesthesia/ Surgery/ annually

HFH Palliative Care Didactics- Quarterly

HFH ICU Didactics – Monthly

HF Wyandotte Nursing Governance – annually