



# SOCIAL WORK PALLIATIVE CARE FELLOWSHIP

## Post Masters Prepared Licensed Social Workers

The South Texas Veterans Health Care System offers a 1 year Interdisciplinary Fellowship in Palliative Care. This program develops experts in complicated communication and instills clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with palliative care values. The fellowship focuses on veterans diagnosed with chronic, progressive, life-threatening illness. Their complicated medical conditions require fellows to learn significant amounts of information in the field of medicine. Fellows will receive experience in outpatient and inpatient palliative care settings as well as therapy experience in Bereavement Care. Fellows will learn to actively educate and evaluate other disciplines on palliative care and bereavement. Application due by March 31, 2023.

**VA**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs



**INTERDISCIPLINARY  
TEAM TRAINING**

**LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT**

**PREPARING AND  
FACILITATING  
EDUCATIONAL  
PRESENTATIONS**

**SOCIAL WORK  
CLINICAL SUPERVISION**

**DIDACTIC EDUCATION**

**SOCIAL WORK  
FELLOWSHIP**

7400 Merton Minter Blvd  
San Antonio, Texas 78229

**To obtain application:  
Call or email**

Jamie T. ZumMallen,  
LCSW-S

210-617-5300 x13550  
Jamie.zummallen@va.gov

January 12, 2023

Dear Social Worker,

I am writing to bring awareness to a one year training opportunity for LMSW Social Workers to develop skills in Palliative Care through a Fellowship Program. This is a Fellowship and not regular employment with the Veterans Administration.

The Social Work Palliative Care Fellow will receive training in the Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program located at South Texas Veterans Health Care System - ALMD, San Antonio, Texas. This program is a partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center.

The training program includes 3 rotations in the following areas of work: Inpatient or Consults, Outpatient, and Bereavement. Fellows work alongside of physicians, chaplains, nurses and psychologists. The opportunities to learn through observation and direct care are vast. Additionally, it includes extensive didactic education. Fellows advance their skills in communication as they teach and present information to patients, families and professional audiences. LCSW supervision is provided for the duration of the fellowship.

The Social Work Fellow will provide a full-range of clinical social work functions including biopsychosocial assessments, psychotherapy, crisis intervention, facilitation of communication, conflict management, clinical case management and discharge planning. Patient/Family issues involve serious illness, end-of-life concerns, goals of care, advance care planning, palliative care, hospice, and bereavement. Modalities may include individual, couples, families, and groups. All rotations include an interdisciplinary team approach.

#### Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

Conduct psychosocial assessments that include diagnostic impressions via use of DSM 5. Complete assessments through interviews, chart reviews and consultation with interdisciplinary team and/or referral source. Develop and implement effective treatment plans utilizing information obtained in the biopsychosocial assessment. Identify risk factors, acuity and need for follow up care. Document all work per agency policies.

The Social Work Fellow will develop and utilize, at minimum, family systems theory, reminiscence theory, cognitive-behavioral theory, solution-focused theory as well as multiple grief models. Fellows will gain clinical case management skills that will transfer over to any population.

This is a post-Masters, paid training position and therefore **requires licensure at the LMSW level**. Some of the benefits include: health insurance, life insurance, federal holidays, time in service, and other benefits that may be available.

Again, thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving your application no later than close of business on 3/31/2023. Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Jamie T. ZumMallen, LCSW-S  
Palliative Care Social Work Fellowship Coordinator  
210 617 5300 x 13550;jamie.zummallen@va.gov

# **VA Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship Program: 2021-2022**

## **Prospective Social Work Candidate**

### **APPLICATION FORM**

*Thank you for your interest in our program.*

The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering a one-year social work fellowship in palliative care at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio, TX. Three, Licensed Masters Social Workers will be selected to begin mid to late June 2023 for a 1 year fellowship. The purpose of this VA program is to develop leaders with vision, knowledge, and commitment to lead palliative care into the future as well as to increase recruitment and retention of these professionals for the Veterans Health Care Administration. There is no obligation or guarantee to work for VA upon completion of the program.

To get started with the Fellowship application process, please follow these 4 steps:

- (1) Fully complete the application form. *(Please use additional sheets as needed.)*
- (2) Send a copy of your latest curriculum vitae (CV) or résumé.
- (3) Provide a personal statement (2-3 pages) speaking to your desire to pursue a social work career in Palliative Care.
- (4) Provide three professional letters of recommendation.
- (5) Return this form, your personal statement, recommendation letters and your CV or résumé to Jamie ZumMallen at: [Jamie.zummallen@va.gov](mailto:Jamie.zummallen@va.gov)

#### **Personal Info:**

**First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Middle Initial:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Position/Job Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

Degrees & Professional Designations (Please include State & Pending/Temp/or License # ): **VA requires all fellows hold a valid, current state social work license during this fellowship.**

**From the State of:** \_\_\_\_\_ **License #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pending** \_\_\_\_\_ **Anticipated date of exam** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a US Citizen:**

\_\_\_ **Yes**

\_\_\_ **No**