

# Oncology Social Work Leadership in National Navigation Strategy

## Shaping the American Cancer Society National Navigation Roundtable's Roadmap (2026-2029)

Karen Costello, MSS, LSW, OSW-C, Strategic Director, ACS NNRT

Natalie Jaynes, Director of Facilitation & Strategic Planning, ACS

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### Background

- Oncology navigation is expanding amid growing care complexity, workforce strain, and equity challenges.
- OSW's bring expertise in psychosocial assessment, care coordination, and systems-level problem-solving.
- Despite this, OSW leadership is often underutilized in national navigation strategy.
- The American Cancer Society National Navigation Roundtable (ACS NNRT) launched a multi-sector strategic planning initiative to guide and advance navigation sustainability.

### Purpose

To demonstrate how oncology social work leadership informed and shaped ACS NNRT Strategic Roadmap (2026-2029) by strengthening navigation strategy focused on workforce sustainability, equitable access, cross-sector alignment, and improved outcomes.

### Methods

- Multi-phase, participatory design
- Participants (17 Steering Committee Members & 150+ organizational members)
- ACS Staff Support – Strategic Director (OSW), Director of Facilitation & Strategic Planning, Director of Evaluation
- Planning Phases
  - Retrospective Review
  - Contextual Analysis
  - Strategic Direction & Priority Setting
  - Interventions & Measures
  - Review & Revise

This iterative, participatory approach ensured the roadmap remained strengths-focused, responsive, evidence-informed and aligned with the long-term sustainability of patient navigation.

### Results/Strategic Priorities



### Upcoming Initiatives

- Develop tools and education opportunities to address top 3 barriers to reimbursement implementation.
- Conduct professional education geared towards implementing Oncology Navigation Standards of Professional Practice (PONT) utilizing a peer support model.
- Expand annual navigation reimbursement survey and incorporate mix-methods approach with virtual listening tours to better understand barriers and needed resources.
- Convene health care and technology leaders and navigators to identify shared values and priorities and disseminate guidance on technology use.



#### OUR STRATEGIC AIM

Collective action to sustain oncology patient navigation to achieve access and health equity across the continuum of cancer care.

### Critical Success Factors/OSW Skills & Core Values

#### LEADERSHIP SKILLS

- Systems-level strategy and integration
  - Coalition-building
- Equity-informed strategic analysis
- Concept synthesis and translation
- Ethical and values-based leadership

#### CORE VALUES

- Equity and social justice
- Collective accountability
- Interdisciplinary respect and collaboration
- Stewardship and sustainability



Scan to view the ACS NNRT Three-Year Strategic Roadmap

Contact: [Karen.Costello@cancer.org](mailto:Karen.Costello@cancer.org)

