

# Making Palliative Care Sustainable: Advocacy, Research & Workforce

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Regional Palliative Care Conference

# Contacts & Background

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# Disclaimers

- Aspire Healthcare – KC Metro Lead MD
- Social Media Editor - JPSM
- No pharmaceutical funding
- No off-label indications discussed

# Objectives

1. Identify three ways to advocate for better policies and increased awareness for palliative care
2. Implement Quality Improvement projects at your clinical sites
3. Engage with fellow clinicians to address workforce challenges at the local, regional and national scale

# Our Guide

- Understanding sustainability
- Advocacy
  - Social, organizational and political
- Research
  - Consuming, implementing, and doing
- Workforce
  - Local, regional and national
- Bringing it all together

# Achieving Sustainability

- Need a balance of:
  - Social
  - Workforce
  - Economics
- Economics + Social = Passable
- Social + Workforce = Bearable
- Workforce + Economics = Viable

# Social

- Public need
- Public demand
- Clinician demand
- Stigma versus acceptance
- Awareness of availability
- Access to care
- Trust in services

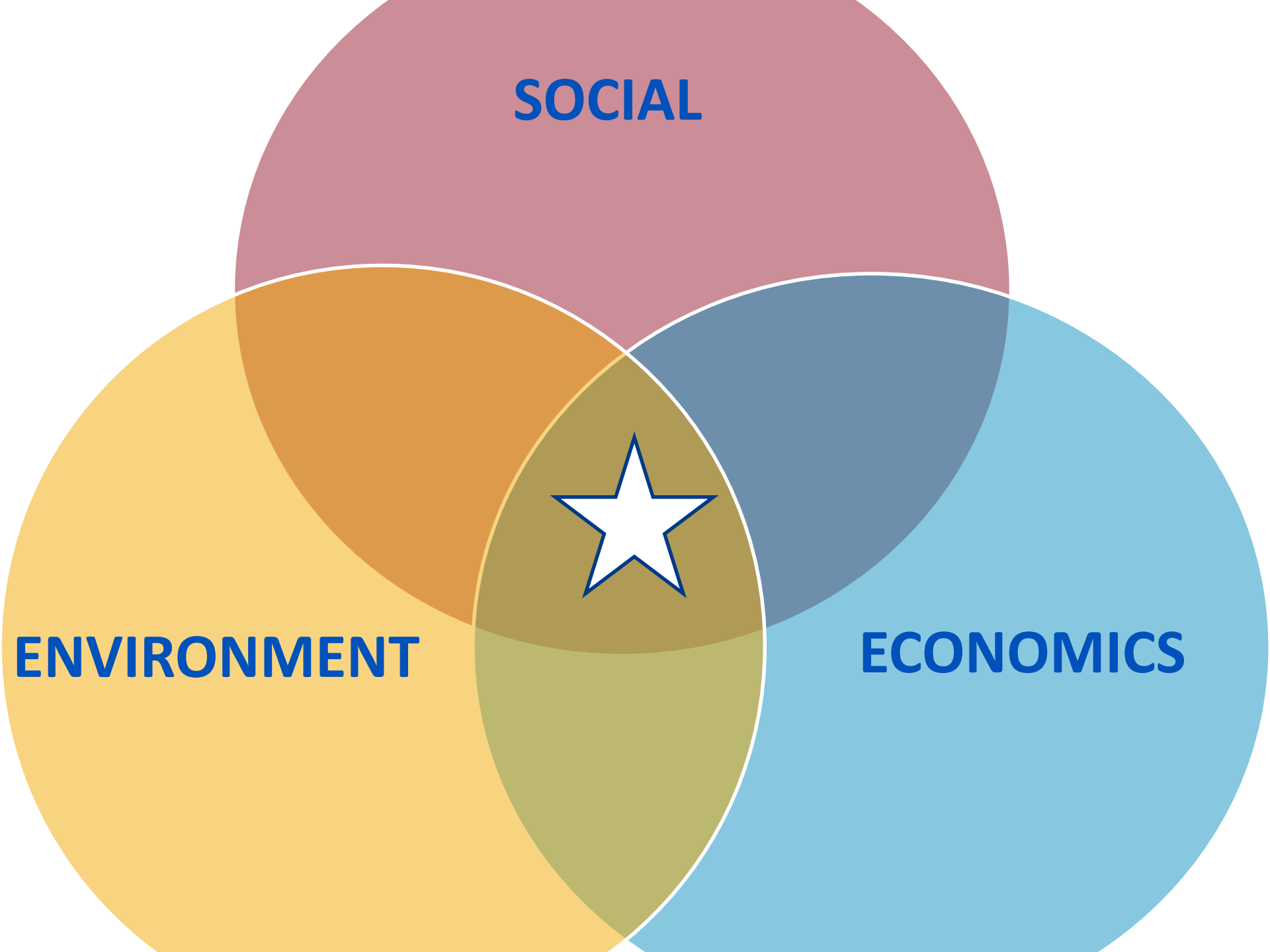
# Workforce

- New clinicians per year – Not just docs
- Palliative care standards
- Palliative care training
- Palliative care draining – burnout & dropout
- Scope of practice - maximal vs restrictive
- Competitive benefits – money vs time
- Geographic equity – town vs gown



# Economics

- Fair reimbursement
- Funding drivers – P4P vs FFS
- Development of quality indicators
- Development of new codes
- Cost savings – truth or illusion
- Cost savings – on what scale, whose \$
- Does PC improve quality of life?



**SOCIAL**

**ENVIRONMENT**

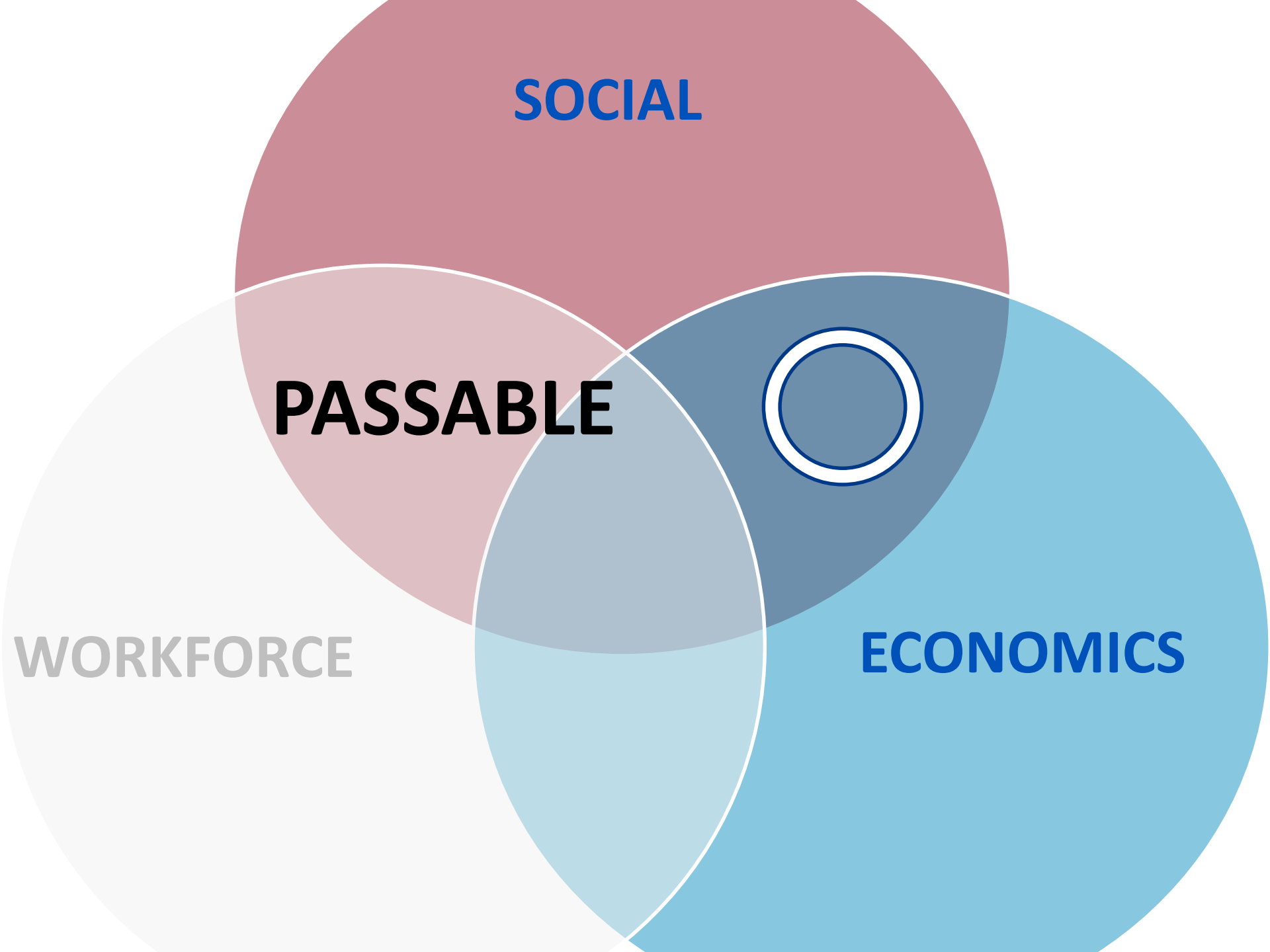
**ECONOMICS**

**SOCIAL**

**WORKFORCE**

**ECONOMICS**





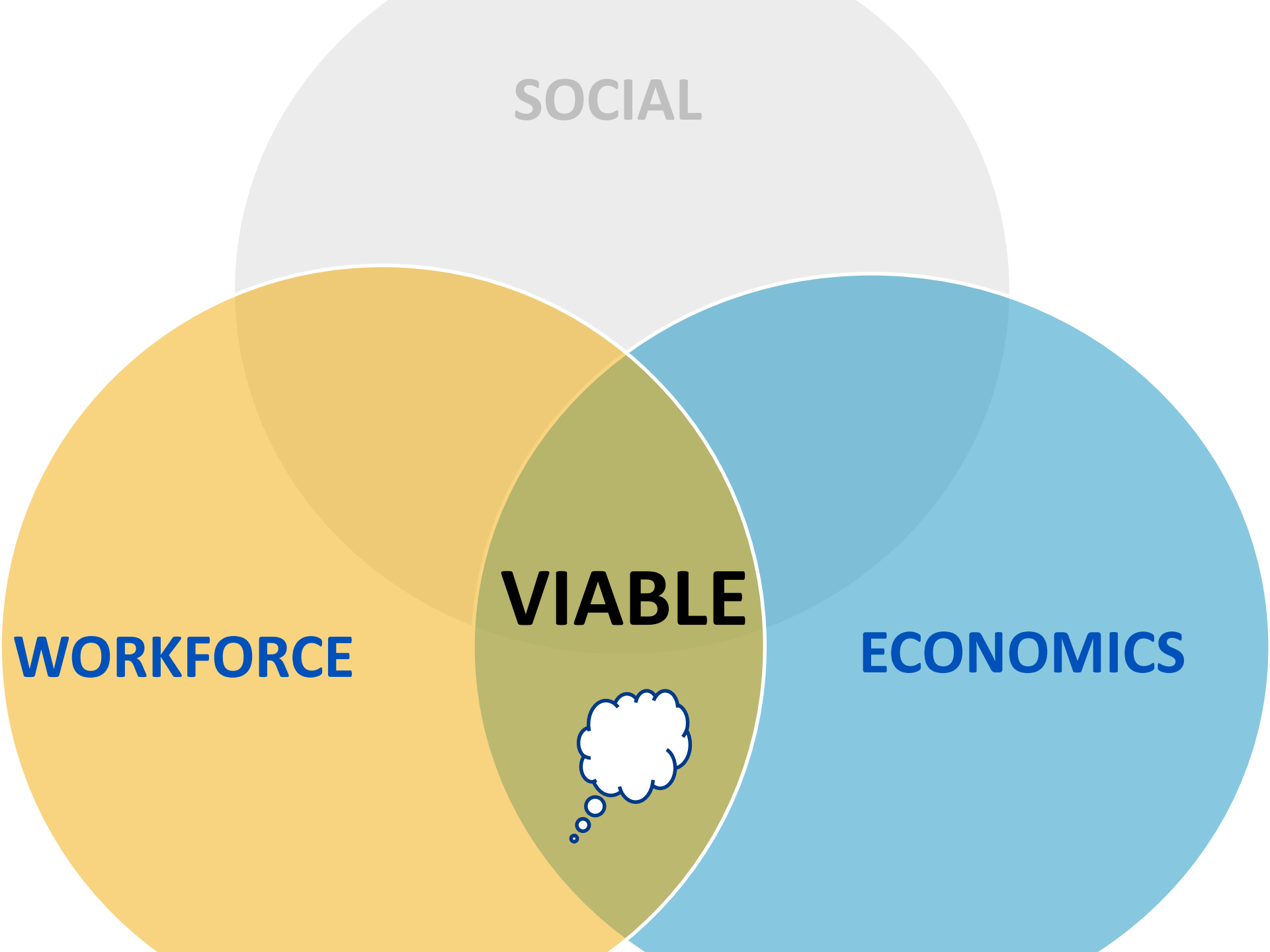
**SOCIAL**

**BEARABLE**

**ECONOMICS**

**WORKFORCE**





**SOCIAL**

**WORKFORCE**

**VIABLE**

**ECONOMICS**

# Advocacy

- Social
- Political
- Organizational

# Social Advocacy

- What is the world saying about us?
- What are we saying about ourselves?
- What does the public care about?
  - Current conversations about illness
  - Death positivity movement
  - Patient advocacy and patient rights



# Political Advocacy

- Think on the state and national level
- Any successes or setbacks?
- Touchy subject but everyone has a story
- Calling your legislators is suddenly cool
- If you don't tell your exp, bus drivers will
- Check with your org and professional societies – follow the rules, use resources

# Organizational Advocacy

- What is your organizational sentiment?
- Mission, Vision, Goals – Know 'em, align 'em
  - For self
  - For group
  - For organization
- How easy/hard is it to get resources?
- Is your team indispensable?

# Research

- Consuming
- Implementing
- Doing

# Consuming Research

- Who feels up to date on the latest?
- Free and paid resources
  - PC-FACS
  - Fast Facts – PC-NOW
  - Social media
  - Journal clubs
  - State of the Science
- Share and discuss internally

# Implementing Research

- Get reports and know your own data
- Take QI courses
  - AHRQ
  - AMA STEPPS Forward
  - Organizational resources
- Ask simple questions
- Test published research
- What quality measures are you testing?

# Doing Research

- Moving beyond QI
- Participate in a palliative care registry
  - Palliative Care Quality Network
  - Global Palliative Care Quality Alliance
  - Center to Advance Palliative Care
- Collaborate with non-palliative partners
  - Access to your patient population
- Find internal grants

# Advocacy and Research

- All of us are capable to some degree
- What are you currently doing?
  - As an individual
  - As an organization
  - As a profession
- How well do your actions, time and resources work?
- Are you efficient?

# Workforce

- National
- Regional
- Local



# National Workforce

- Professional Certification
- GME Funding
- Educational standards
- Exposure to palliative care for learners

# Regional Workforce

- Geographic distribution
- Scope of practice
- Exposure to palliative care for learners

# Local Workforce

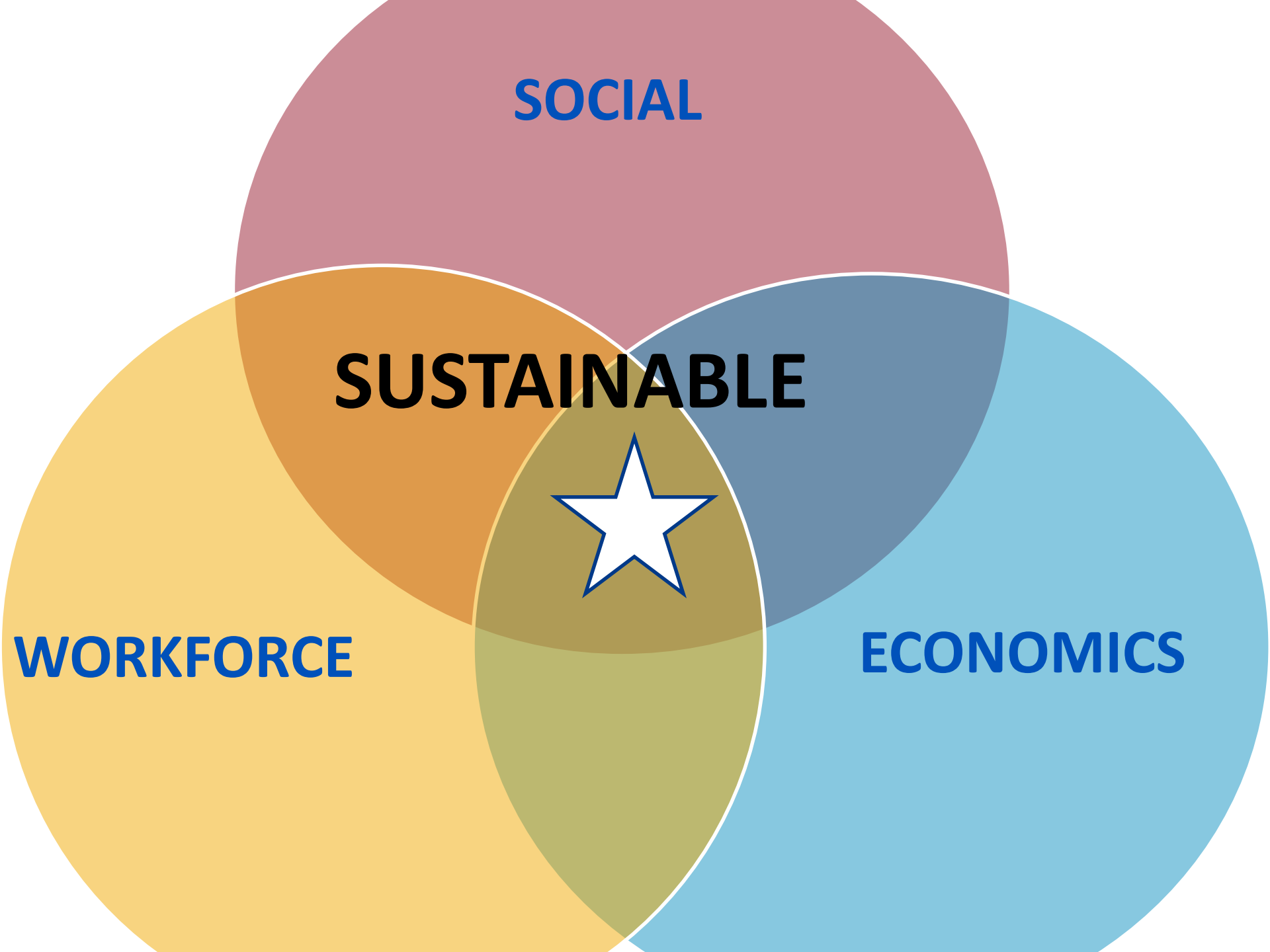
- HPM Fellowships
- Non-physician training opportunities
- On-the-job training
- Exposure to palliative care for learners
- Geographic distribution
- What professional helps most?

# Find Your Action Point

- Advocacy
  - Social, Political, Organizational
- Research
  - Consuming, Implementing, Doing
- Workforce
  - National, Regional, Local

# Summary

- You cannot do it all!
- What is your role? What can you do?
- What can you support?
  - Action, time, resources
- Sketch out your Venn diagram
- Have this conversation with others
- Commit to an action



**SOCIAL**

**SUSTAINABLE**

**WORKFORCE**

**ECONOMICS**

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