No child should have to grieve alone.

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F7: Creating Innovative Spaces to Support Bereaved Children

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F5: Incorporating Fun Family Programming Into Your Grief Support Program

F4: The Grief Journey and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

F3: Rhode Island’s response to the opioid crisis: A dedicated night to loss through opioids & addictions

F2: Coping Circuit: Interval Coping Skills Training

F1: Crafting Your Organization's Culture

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F7: Creating Innovative Spaces to Support Bereaved Children

F6: How to Listen So Kids Will Talk and Talk So Kids Will Listen: Training your Volunteers to Facilitate the Expression of Grief in Support Programs

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F4: The Grief Journey and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

F3: Rhode Island’s response to the opioid crisis: A dedicated night to loss through opioids & addictions

F2: Coping Circuit: Interval Coping Skills Training

F1: Crafting Your Organization's Culture

Session G: Friday June 19, 2020 9:30am – 11:00am Concurrent Workshops

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Wednesday · June 17, 2020 · 8:30am – 9:30am

Opening Plenary: The Power of Inclusion: Impact of Unconscious Bias on Excellence

This dynamic session helps professionals understand the depth and breadth of Diversity, the power of Inclusion and the impact of Unconscious Bias on excellence. It reveals the neurology of bias and heightens awareness about the impact of unconscious bias on decision-making. The session provides a shared reference that helps professionals be more intentional in creating inclusive environments where everyone can thrive. Ms. Aranza is known for her interactive and dynamic approach to complex topics and she utilizes a mix of media and experiential learning to make key points come alive. Participants discover bias as part of the human condition, learn ways to mitigate bias and understand the impact on personal and organizational excellence.

Learning Objectives:
1. Demonstrate enhanced knowledge and understanding of the power of inclusion and the impact of unconscious bias
2. Identify at least 2 strategies for becoming more intentional in creating inclusive environments
3. Recognize bias as part of the human condition, identify ways to mitigate bias and understand the impact on personal and organizational excellence

Presenter Information:
Sonia L. Aranza, M.A.
The U.S. Department of Labor describes Ms. Aranza’s work as “Outstanding!” Global audiences consistently rank her among the top speakers based on audience evaluations at large conferences including the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). She is a seasoned and respected Global Diversity & Inclusion Strategist with over 22 years of experience in the design, development and execution of quality programs. Her clients include top Fortune 500 companies and organizations including Boeing, CIA, McDonald’s, NASA, Oshkosh Corporation, Schreiber Foods, Toyota and many more. She brings academic grounding with two Master’s degrees in her areas of expertise and solid experience working on some of the largest landmark cases to address discrimination. Respected by her colleagues, she is a past Chairperson of the Diversity Professionals Expert Group of the National Speakers Association. Ms. Aranza was selected to execute congressionally mandated Diversity & Inclusion training for federal government agencies across the United States and repeatedly selected to execute corporate programs on landmark cases. Her unique and engaging approach to a complex topic make her distinct. Ms. Aranza was honored “Outstanding Woman of the Year” by the National Association of Professional Asian American Women and named “100 Most Influential Filipina-Americans in the United States.” She was also honored “100 Most Influential Filipinas in the World” for her work on transformational leadership and is featured in the book “Disrupt 2.0” where she authored the chapter “transformational Leadership Begins Within.”

Literature References:
Large session: 2020 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) Changes and Enhancements

Join the Judi's House/JAG Institute team as they share exciting changes to the CBEM that includes providing childhood bereavement prevalence estimates for every county in the United States. Following a brief presentation explaining how model enhancements impact results, advocacy, and planning, Judi's House/JAG Institute staff will be available to answer specific questions to help you leverage the CBEM to create positive change for grieving families.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify the prevalence of childhood bereavement in a county and adjacent areas
2. Explain how the prevalence of childhood bereavement in a county can help increase awareness, improve funding, and enhance program efficiency
3. Identify additional childhood bereavement resources that strengthen advocacy efforts that advance social change around the issue

Presenter Information:
Michaeleen R. Burns, Ph.D.
Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, is the Chief Clinical Officer at Judi’s House and JAG Institute (JH/JAG). She is a Licensed Psychologist with 17 years’ experience providing assessment and therapeutic support to families facing adversity. In her work, she has witnessed the lasting, negative impact of unaddressed grief. She is dedicated to ensuring that appropriate services are available for all and to raising childhood bereavement to a level of critical public health importance. She oversees JH/JAG’s core initiatives—Direct Service, Evaluation and Research, and Training and Education—that work towards the JH/JAG vision that no child should be alone in grief.

Laura J. Landry, Ph.D.
Laura Landry, PhD is the Director of Evaluation and Research at Judi’s House/JAG Institute. She has 12 years’ experience evaluating community-based programs and large-scale prevention initiatives as well as building the capacity of organizations to utilize data to drive decisions. In her role, Laura oversees the Evaluation and Research Initiative, a core component of the Comprehensive Grief Care Model® followed at Judi’s House/JAG Institute. This Initiative focuses on evaluation of our services, research on the impact and course of childhood bereavement, and dissemination of data on the prevalence of childhood bereavement to inform advocates and practitioners working in the field.

David Mills, M.A.
David Mills, MA is a Childhood Bereavement Analyst at Judi’s House/JAG Institute. In this role, he draws on more than 20 years of integrated modeling experience to coordinate revisions and enhancements to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM). This work, conducted with researchers from the University of Colorado’s School of Public Health, has the goal of supporting bereavement analyses at finer spatial resolutions and with greater community detail to highlight the importance of childhood bereavement as a public issue.
Literature References:


Thursday · June 18, 2020 · 12:00pm – 1:15pm

Lunch Session: STRONGER TOGETHER: The importance of collaboration among bereavement, hospice, and funeral services

No CE Credit is Offered for This Luncheon Presentation

In this luncheon session, panelists will discuss best practices around transitioning care among the grief, hospice, and funeral spaces. We will examine the important role each professional plays in the lives of grieving children and uncover how to foster mission-enhancing relationships that build resilient children and families.

Learning Objectives:
1. Demonstrate increased understanding of the continuum of care for the family during the dying process and into the bereavement field.
2. The participant will increase their knowledge of the services provided before their own work with the family and following their own work with the family.
3. Identify the specific role of the therapist in the continuum of care as a means of improving the ability to better meet the needs of children and their families.

Presenter Information:
Moderator:
Kim Shelquist, MBA

Kim Shelquist serves as Senior Vice President of Planning and Development for Homesteaders Life Company. She leads the efforts of a group that seeks opportunities and solutions to help the company and funeral professionals meet consumer demands long into the future. Prior to her time with Homesteaders, Kim led a ten-person team dedicated to promoting hospice services to the general public and health care providers for Iowa’s largest hospice care provider, HCI Care Services. Kim holds a BA from Iowa State University, and an MBA from the University of Iowa. She is passionate about helping individuals and families understand their end-of-life options and believes talking about dying, death and grief are the best ways to ensure we find healing following the loss of a loved one. Kim is a certified funeral celebrant, an associate certified preplanning consultant and a fellow of the Life Management Institute. She has been a featured speaker at conventions for organizations such as the National Funeral Directors Association and currently serves as a Funeral Service Foundation Trustee.

Panelist:
Nichole Stengel, MA, MS, LPC, NCC, CT, is the Bereavement Coordinator/CISM Coordinator at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin and previously served as the Grief Services Coordinator at MargaretAnn’s Place, a center for grieving children and their families. She is Certified in Thanatology by the Association of Death Education and Counseling. She is the co-author of "A Holistic Approach to Supporting Staff in a Pediatric Hospital Setting" published in Workplace Health & Safety (Sept. 2012). She is chair of the Southeast Wisconsin Grief Network, a member and educator for Traumatic
Incident Resource (TIR), LCC, a non-profit, whose purpose is to respond to critical incident stress events with education, intervention, and care for emergency response personnel in Southeastern Wisconsin. She regularly teaches Group Crisis Intervention and Assisting Individuals in Crisis classes, as well as QPR (Question, Persuade and Refer) workshops, an emergency mental health intervention for suicidal persons. She has taught for Marion University as an adjunct instructor and has also guest lectured at Mount Mary University, University of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Area Technical College. She frequently presents at local, state and national conferences.

Kristin James, M.S., LCPC, currently coordinates the Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition and Child Loss Coalition of Chicago. She has specialized in working with families coping with illness, trauma and loss for over twenty five years. Kristin has provided clinical consultation and extensive training, advocacy and education to medical teams, community agencies, and school systems throughout the Chicagoland area. She is an experienced clinician and has provided individual, family, and group counseling. Kristin developed a benchmarked program for Pediatric Bereavement Care at Lurie Children's Hospital/Children's Memorial Hospital and is nationally recognized as an expert in grieving children and bereaved parents. She has also participated in and published numerous research studies. Ms. James received her Masters in counseling from Loyola University. Kristin has over 20 years experience working with grieving children and families, and receives frequent requests from schools, hospitals, community organizations and grief centers to provide education and training. Please reference attached resume. This past year, Kristin has worked closely with funeral professionals, including attending their NAFD Women's Conference and International NAFD Conference to be hosted in Chicago (October 2020) to support healthcare providers, funeral professionals and grief centers in supporting communities impacted by the death of a child.

Melissa Posey, M.A.

Melissa Posey Loose has a heart for education. Over the past twenty years, as a writer, editor, Communications consultant, and English teacher, Melissa has found herself in a wide variety of classrooms -- from manufacturing facilities to school rooms filled with desks. In all of these, she has found joy in building trust, assessing needs, and shifting culture for achievement. Her most recent classrooms have been within her family’s funeral home and its surrounding communities, as she has been sharing the message of Hope and Goodness to be found amidst the shadows of Grief. A fourth-generation licensed funeral director with a B.A. and M.A. in English from Brigham Young University, Melissa currently serves as Director of Marketing and Community Relations at Posey Funeral Directors in North Augusta, SC. She has been instrumental in helping the firm earn numerous local and national recognitions including the National Funeral Directors Association’s 2018 and 2019 Pursuit of Excellence Awards. As a 2019 Pursuit of Excellence Award winner, Posey Funeral Directors was also designated as one of NFDA’s five 2019 “Best of the Best” award winners for their community relations initiatives.

Tina Barrett, Ed.D., Founder/Executive Director of Tamarack Grief Resource Center in Montana, Dr. Tina Barrett has focused on best practices of nature-based support with trauma survivors and family-systems since 1994. She serves on the NAGC Board of Directors, on the Advisory Board for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and as a Senior Consultant for the National Military Suicide Survivors Seminar. Barrett also serves on the Leadership Team of the Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative and on the Standards Committee for the Bereavement Camp Standards of Practice. Her presentations integrate stories from group, camp, hospital, private practice and wilderness therapy settings. Barrett received her Doctorate in Counselor Education. Since 1996 she has specialized in grief program development, implementation, volunteer training and clinician training specializing in grief groups, camps and retreats. Tina is the co-founder and Executive Director of Tamarack Grief Resource Center (TGRC) based out of Missoula, Montana. She has developed, implemented, evaluated and/or conducted volunteer training for over 100 grief camps and retreats in Montana and around the USA. A licensed counselor, Barrett supervises group and camp facilitators and
individual counselors. As part of the Western MT Suicide Prevention Initiative Leadership Team, Barrett has specialized in grief following suicide and traumatic loss.

**Literature References:**


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**Thursday · June 18, 2020 · 3:30pm – 5:00pm**

**Large Session: Activity, Tool, or Innovation Sharing Session**

This session will provide creative ideas to engage, educate and support grieving kids, teens, and families. Through discussion and hands on learning, the presenters will provide education about teen grief and loss, outline a practice model of bereavement support and education for kids, teens, and families through specific clinical grief activities which can assist the professional to best support clients their grief process in individual, group and camp settings. Join us to explore 20 different activity sessions presented and exampled for you to take back to your program. We will share new, innovative, exciting activities that can be used successfully with grieving children.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe best practices for engaging kids, teens, and families in activities
2. Identify several models of grief support that can be used with kids, teens, and families in individual, group or camp setting.
3. Identify multiple developmentally appropriate clinical activities that can be used to support kids, teens and families in an individual, group or camp setting.
**Speaker Information**

**Megan Lopez, LMSW**

Megan Lopez joined the NAGC in 2014 and serves as the National Program Director. Megan has served as a Social Worker and Program Leader throughout her nonprofit career, and has provided support to children, teenagers and families in a variety of settings. Megan is an experienced presenter and trainer using an interactive style in her teaching and facilitating on a variety of topics related to program management, childhood bereavement support, grief in the school setting, and group facilitation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Texas Tech University and Master of Science in Social Work from The University of Texas at Arlington. Megan resides in San Antonio, Texas with her husband and two children.

**References:**

1. McWhorter, G., (2013), Healing Activities for Children in Grief, Gay McWhorter Publisher


Closing Plenary: Sound Healing: Journey. Discover. Revitalize

An intentional communal sound ceremony facilitated with crystal and Tibetan sounds allowing participants the opportunity to journey within to discover new insight, clarity and feel revitalized afterwards providing a smooth integration from symposium to back to our communities.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify the therapeutic use of sound to access a deeper sense of consciousness
2. Identify tools that can be utilized to a sense of inner peace
3. Demonstrate 1 activity that utilizes sound to calm and relax

Presenter Information:

Monica Gonzalez

Monica Gonzalez is a native Nevadan, medicine woman, sound healer, massage therapist, spiritual teacher, inspirational speaker and bereavement consultant.

Unknowingly, Monica’s grief journey began as a young child of a homicide and more profoundly when she was hit by a car and had a near death experience at the age of 6. The journey to “the othewrside” left her with a deep knowing she was gifted life to heal her own past and present traumas and transcend those experiences to consciously journey with humanity and earth.

Monica served as a grief camp director, facilitator, coordinator of volunteer training, and consultant to the Solace Tree for 7 years and is now sharing her expertise throughout Northern Nevadan communities and schools, behavioral health organizations, teaching workshops, developing curriculum for all ages to provide creative solutions to drug, alcohol and other traumatic events through the use of sound healing, meditation circles, art, nature explorations and storytelling. Her services have been summoned from the business world, educational leaders, hospices, cancer centers, non-profit organizations, individuals and families experiencing emotional trauma and across intercontinental borders such as Nicaragua, Oaxaca, and Chiapas, Mexico.

Monica has received recognition from Reno’s Alliance for Victims Rights as “Outstanding Volunteer Advocate-Kind Heart Award” -2012; Solace Tree “Volunteer of the Year” -2008 -2011, “Staff of the Year” -2013; Sierra Nevada College “Student Leadership Award” -2005, among others.

Her collaborative partners have included the Boys and Girls Club, Red Cross, serving on their disaster action team, church groups building homes in Mexico, Circle of Life Hospice- “Heart and Film” series speaker, The Eddy House Reno’s homeless youth center, PBS Special “You’ll Always Be With Me” -2010, Washoe County School District transitioning youth of sex trafficking back in the schools and mental health first aid responder, Americorps, hunger relief efforts, and most recently appointed to the Board of Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services. She has also had the opportunity to volunteer for the Dougy Center and present at the National Grief Camp Conference “Healing Through Collaborative Rituals” -2014. Her deep connection to the earth, spiritually, and infectious presence serve as the foundation of her being.
Literature References:


This interactive presentation focuses on how to achieve your fundraising goals by blending your development and marketing plans. While both parties are responsible for growing your organization, they each have separate roles in achieving the same goal. Whether you’re the sole person in this role, a two-man team, or a crew of many, attendees will learn about actionable methods to get everyone on the same page. Attendees will take home examples of Erin’s House tried and true marketing/development material. Presenters will introduce examples of how collaboration and brainstorming have led to successful fundraisers, appeals, online audiences, and overall donor satisfaction.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify strengths and weaknesses associated with your brand and how you can put your best foot forward
2. Identify at least 2 strategies to enhance your organization’s donor experience with thoughtful gestures and touch points while being budget friendly
3. Demonstrate ways to host an engaging and successful fundraising event.

Presenter Information:
Audrey Gilbert, B.S.
Audrey@erinshouse.org

Audrey Gilbert is the Director of Development at Erin’s House for Grieving Children in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She has served in this role since 2011, helping the organization raise nearly $900,000 in funds each year. In addition to managing donor relations at Erin’s House, Audrey also oversees and coordinates two major fundraising events throughout the year. Collectively these two events raise nearly half of the organization’s annual budget. Audrey is a member of The Association of Fundraising Professionals Northeast Indiana Chapter. She graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management along with a minor in Psychology.

I have been involved with development and fundraising at Erin’s House since 2011. I oversee three major fundraisers that collectively bring in approximately $380,000 in net revenue each year. I also solicit corporate sponsors, manage our donor database, maintain donor relations, assist in grant proposals, and collaborate with our Marketing Coordinator on appeals. I have presented at NAGC three times; all of which have focused on special events and fundraising.

Ashley Kipfer, B.S.
Ashley@erinshouse.org

Ashley Kipfer has been in the marketing field since 2013 after graduating from Indiana University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing and Management. Her background includes email, web design, and nonprofits. After living abroad for two years, she found her way to Erin’s House in 2017 as the Marketing & Communications Coordinator. One of her first projects at Erin’s House was updating and relaunching their website, and she continues to build their presence in the community through social media, print, and other communication channels.

Literature References:
Burk, Penelope. (2003) Donor-Centered Fundraising
Bhargava, Rohit. (2016) Non-Obvious: How To Think Differently, Curate Ideas & Predict the Future
A2: Exploring the Development, Growth, and Sustainability of a Successful Children’s Bereavement Camp

This presentation will examine the development, growth, and sustainability of a successful children’s bereavement camp. Essential components to be discussed include community networking, marketing, importance of volunteers, therapeutic vs traditional camp activities, follow up, and assessment. HopeHealth, the second oldest hospice in the country, developed Camp BraveHeart, a children’s bereavement camp which has served over 100 children each year for more than a decade. This camp will be referenced in addition to empirical research. Opportunity to discuss and support fellow professionals will be provided.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify strategies for building a sound foundation for an evolving children’s bereavement camp
2. Identify key techniques for expanding programming to serve a comprehensive clientele population
3. Differentiate therapeutic versus a traditional camp activities and explain the importance of both

Presenter Information:
Sarah Cordeiro, M.S.
scordeiro@hopehealthco.org

Sarah Cordeiro, M.S., has been a grief counselor at HopeHealth since September 2016. She has since become the director of Camp BraveHeart, a 2-day summer camp program for bereaved children and teens. Camp BraveHeart has been ongoing in Rhode Island for the past 13 years and Sarah has since developed an additional program in Massachusetts. Sarah also facilitates other children’s grief support programming including groups, family days, presentations, etc. Sarah has completed her MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Rhode Island College with high honors and plans to become a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with a specialization in children’s grief.

I have run the Camp Braveheart program for the past 2 years, co-lead for a year before that, and volunteered for 2 years prior. I also facilitate all of HopeHealth’s children's programming (e.g. support groups, 1:1, family days, etc.). I presented on the topic of bereavement camps at the Hospice & Palliative care Federation of MA conference in 2017 to other hospice professionals. The title of the workshop was "Turning Grief Into Good: Healing The Heart By Helping Others."

Literature References:


A3: A Win-Win: Utilizing Interns to Support Your Agency while Training Future Grief Professionals

The students of today will soon become your employees and colleagues of tomorrow. Interns can provide a critical resource for agencies to enhance current efforts, grow, and develop new strategies; they also provide a way for your agency to develop competent professionals and “pay it forward”. Join us for this collaborative session to explore ways to capitalize on the energy, creativity, and passion of student interns. Explore ways to deepen academic partnerships, recruit students, and develop robust training and supervision strategies to ensure a win-win for agencies and students alike. Whether you are just getting started or have been supervising students for years, everyone is welcome to join this conversation. Brought to you by two interns-turned-employees, now working as agency and university professionals, and one of their former practicum students!

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify best-practice strategies to recruit academic partners and student interns
2. Explain the steps to assess an agency’s capacity, strengths, and needs for student interns
3. Cite the importance of integrating best practices for training and supervising student interns

**Presenter Information:**

*Catherine Fox, MSW*
cathyfox@creighton.edu

Cathy began her professional journey as an undergraduate student completing her practicum at Ted E. Bear Hollow (now Grief’s Journey) while pursuing her BSW at Creighton University. She was eventually hired by the agency and served as the Program Director and Director of Operations for over 8 years, supervising numerous interns and practicum students during that time. In 2018, Cathy transitioned to her current role as Assistant Professor and Field Education Coordinator for the Social Work Program at Creighton, where she collaborates with community agencies to place and supervise practicum students. Student development is a passion of hers, and her transition from practicum student to agency supervisor to university professional brings a unique perspective to agencies wanting to strengthen their internship programs.

Cathy is the Field Education Coordinator for Creighton University’s Social Work program, where her responsibilities include: collaborating with and vetting community agencies for student placements, training agency supervisors, and ensuring quality field experiences for all Bachelor of Social Work students. Prior to this, Cathy spent over 8 years as the Director of Operations at Grief’s Journey, the grief center in Omaha, Nebraska. In this role, she supervised numerous students of various backgrounds, including social work, psychology, occupational therapy, community counseling, communications, and more. She was hired at Grief’s Journey after completing her undergraduate practicum at the agency, so she brings the tripartite lens of student, agency supervisor, and university instructor to this presentation.

Cathy has an extensive background teaching and presenting, including two years as Assistant Professor, three years as Adjunct Professor, National Training Associate for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and countless local, regional, and national workshops, including the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 NAGC Symposiums. A selection of these presentations is listed on the attached CV.
Erin Spalding, LCSW-S, is the Program Director of The Christi Center, a non-profit grief support center in Austin, Texas. She has over 12 years of clinical experience supporting grieving kids, teens, and adults, while developing programs to strengthen the community’s capacity to serve all those in grief. She has grown the internship program to incorporate 8-10 interns per year and has supervised over 90 clinical interns from ten different schools. Erin is also an adjunct professor at the UT Steve Hicks School of Social Work, teaching Group Intervention, Grief and Loss: Individual, Family and Cultural Perspectives and Grief Counseling classes.

Erin has been the Program Director of The Christi Center in Austin, Texas, for 12 years. Her responsibilities include: program development, enhancement and management, community-wide trainings, development and implementation of the internship program, group facilitation, and crisis intervention. She was hired as Internship Coordinator after completing her internship at The Christi Center and moved into the Program Director role as the position became full-time. She also is a working member of the Community Partnership Development Committee at the UT School of Social Work to help vet new internship placements. She has supervised over 90 clinical interns over the years and believes her role as Field Instructor is integral to both the success of the agency and the development of clinicians that are truly able to understand grief.

Erin also has an extensive background teaching and presenting, including two years teaching Program Evaluation at St. Edwards University and currently as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Steve Hicks School of Social Work, teaching classes on Group Leadership, Grief and Loss and Grief Counseling. She also has presented at many local, regional, and national workshops, including the Texas School Social Workers Conference, the National School Social Workers Conference, and four NAGC Symposia. She also developed and trained for the Child Advocacy Centers of Texas’ annual clinical CEU event. A selection of these presentations is listed on the attached CV.

Megan Forby
MSW student at Washington University

Megan was an undergraduate social work student at Creighton University under the direct supervision of Cathy Fox as both her professor and practicum supervisor. Megan recently graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work with a double major in Psychology in May 2019 and is now obtaining her Master of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, with graduation anticipated in December 2020. Her experience as a practicum student at Grief’s Journey gave her a unique experience and helped guide her way through graduate school and her masters-level practicum placement. She is eager to share her experiences from the student’s perspective to help agencies improve their experience with students.

Literature References:


A4: Community and School Response After a Teen Dies of Suicide: Is conventional wisdom wise?

For decades schools and community groups have been advised by professional groups not to acknowledge the suicide death of a teen student, or to shift death-response protocols they might follow after a death from an accident or illness...in order to avoid contagion and additional suicide deaths. What is the evidence for such practices, how have practices shifted more recently, and what aspects should be considered in any suicide postvention? We'll share case examples and provide time for audience examples and interaction.

Learning Objectives:
1. Examine the arguments and evidence for and against suicide postvention practices related to memorials and memorialization
2. Cite foundational principles applicable to evaluating any potential suicide postvention practice.
3. Describe effective suicide postvention practices for use in schools and communities after a teen has died of suicide.

Presenter Information:
Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT
donna@dougy.org

Dr. Donna Schuurman is the Sr. Director of Advocacy & Training at The Dougy Center, where she has served in various roles since 1986, including 25 years as Executive Director. She writes and trains internationally on bereavement issues, and has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and the book, Never the Same: Coming to Terms with the Death of a Parent. Dr. Schuurman served as President of the Board of Directors for the Association for Death Education & Counseling, and received their Annual Service Award in 2003 and their Clinical Practice Award in 2013. She is a Founding Board member of NAGC.

I have written and trained on these topics for the past 25+ years, as well as co-written materials and training with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention national program.

• Best Practices in Youth Suicide Prevention, plenary, Central Iowa Symposium on Youth Suicide Prevention and Mental Health, Des Moines, Iowa, September 23, 2016.
• Hope and Healing after Suicide, full day conference presenter, for Helpline Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, April 30, 2016.

Jana DeCristofaro, MSW, LCSW
jana@dougy.org

Jana DeCristofaro, LCSW, is the Community Response Program Coordinator at The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families. On staff since 2002, Jana coordinates peer support groups for children, teens, and young adults, and provides consultation and training for grieving families, students, community members, and professionals locally and nationally. She created an online toolkit (www.tdcschooltoolkit.org) to make it easier for schools and organizations to access the information they need when grief hits their communities. One of her favorite parts of her role is hosting and producing Grief Out Loud, The Dougy Center’s podcast.

Literature References:

A5: Routes to Resilience: A Social and Emotional Learning Program for Schools

This presentation will explore Good Grief’s school-based social and emotional learning program, Routes to Resilience. The primary goal of this presentation will be to describe the program's objectives, discuss rationale and methodology for this approach to school programs, share lessons learned from three years of implementation, review current results from measurement and evaluation, and conclude with thoughts on the opportunities this program model presents to the field of childhood bereavement.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify the core objectives and rationale for a prevention-based social and emotional learning program
2. Describe the challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities that have been experienced in the program’s implementation
3. Explain current measurement and evaluation results, and potential opportunities for the field of childhood bereavement

**Presenter Information:**
Jesse W. Bassett, M.Div.  
jesse@good-grief.org

Jesse Bassett is the Director of Education for Good Grief in New Jersey. Good Grief’s mission is to build resilience in children, strengthen families, and empower communities to grow from loss and adversity. As the Director of Education for Good Grief, I am the creator and architect of the Routes to Resilience program. This is an entirely new initiative that has been launched during my tenure within the organization. I oversee all aspects of this initiative. I also oversee all other education initiatives including volunteer training, corporate training, school-based training, professional development workshops, staff training and supervision, etc.

In addition to this, I have been working with Good Grief for over five years as a direct service provider to children and families, program administrator, and educator to volunteers and the broader community on grief and loss, adversity, and building resilience. I present approximately 30 times per year on these topics throughout New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the surrounding area at schools, healthcare and hospice organizations, nonprofits, mental health centers, universities, and more to students, clinicians, educators, counselors, nurses, parents, and others. Some highlights of locations include Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi Corporation, Princeton Public Schools, Morris School District, The Morris County Psychological Association, Princeton House Behavioral Health, Rider University, The College of New Jersey, Christina Seix Academy, The New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome, and the Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services (among many others).

Presentation topics are numerous including "Introductions to Grief and Loss," "Supporting Grieving Children and Families," "Building Resilience in Children and Teens," "Grief After Suicide," "Grief in the Workplace," and many others.

Please see attached resume for additional details related to relevant formal education, training, and certifications.

**Literature References:**


A6: Embracing technology to respond to the changing needs of grieving youth and extend our reach

We engage with technology every day at home, work and school. We seek information, entertainment, and connection with others. Wanting to meet the changing needs of grieving youth as well as address the physical and personal boundaries to face-to-face counselling and support many encounter, we committed to the diversification of our services. In this session, the Children’s Grief Centre’s new text & chat service and other technology-based tools will be presented. Participants will be invited to engage in a discussion on the risks and benefits of using different grief support modalities for youth and families.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify and examine the barriers to face-to-face counselling for grieving youth
2. Describe the technology-based services developed by the Children’s Grief Centre
3. Explain the risks and benefits of expanding and diversifying grief services delivery

Presenter Information:
Nadine Gariepy-Fisk, M.A.
nadine.gariepy-fisk@hospicecalgary.ca

After a few years in the field of palliative care and bereavement counselling in England, Nadine joined Hospice Calgary (Alberta, Canada) in 2008. Nadine is the Director of the Children’s Grief Centre where she leads a team of mental health professionals who provide counselling and support to grieving children, adolescents and families. Committed to building capacity for better supports for grieving families, she offers training to health and mental health care professionals, schools, police and victims services, and others. Nadine is an active contributor to the development of grief services, guidelines, and tools at the local, provincial and national level.

The presentation specifically on technology-based services is new, however I have presented very regularly on children, teen and family grief, how to best support the grieving student, how to support families with children and teens after a sudden death - improving notification of death for families, etc.

I teach module on grief to family medicine residents at the University of Calgary every year, I teach a module on improving notification of death for families 2-3 times per year with the Calgary Police Services, also to Victim Services in Calgary and other locations in Alberta, I present every 2 years at the Provincial Victim Services conference (the room is always full at 150 participants), I present to members of the public and fairly regularly appear on television for short interviews on children's grief, etc. I have presented to small and large groups, beginners to experts, from 1h to full days accredited workshops.

Literature References:
A7: Expanding the Language of Grief: Using Nonverbal Approaches to Engage Grieving Children and Teens of all Abilities.

We all know that there are many ways to express grief and that each child comes to our programs with a unique set of circumstances, strengths and challenges. When children with disabilities experience a death, we must find ways to support their effective engagement in our programs. Non-verbal and movement-based activities are often impactful approaches with this population. This presentation will share applicable techniques and strategies that use principles of dance movement therapy to engage grieving children/teens with disabilities. This programming has been developed in response to needs in our community and with the support of a Grief Reach Grant.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify the major principles of Dance Movement Therapy, which include attunement, mirroring, kinesthetic empathy and ritual
2. Implement three responsive, movement-based activities for bereaved children/teens with disabilities
3. Identify and use five tools to proactively create a nurturing program environment where participants of all abilities feel respected, informed connected and empowered

**Presenter Information:**
Jennifer Wiles, M.A., LMHC, BC-DMT
jwiles@mah.harvard.edu

Jennifer Wiles, MA, LMHC, BC-DMT is the Director of Children’s Services for CareGroup Parmenter Hospice in Wayland, MA. She is the director of Camp Erin Boston and HEARTplay, a bereavement program for children and teens in the greater Boston area. She founded the Dance Therapy program at the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest, and has worked for over 25 years using dance with special needs populations. Jennifer is a board-certified dance movement therapist/licensed mental health counselor and is on the adjunct faculty of Lesley University’s Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences where she also serves as a clinical site supervisor.

I have a Master’s Degree in Dance Movement Therapy/Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am a licensed mental health counselor and have been a practicing, board certified Dance Movement Therapist for over 25 years. I have worked with a variety of populations including individuals on the Autism Spectrum, Down’s Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Alzheimer’s Disease and Mental Health Issues. I direct a Dance Therapy program at a Community Performing Arts Center in Framingham, MA. I am an endorsed practitioner with Boston Children’s Foundation, which uses dance, creative storytelling and music to encourage resiliency, empathy and self-regulation with children in the greater Boston area. I am on the Adjunct Faculty of Lesley University’s Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences, where I teach Clinical Skills and Applications, Supervision and Theories in the Dance Therapy Division. I am an approved Site Supervisor for Graduate Students in the Dance Movement Therapy/Mental Health Counseling Program at Lesley University. For the past eight years, I have trained students in the application of DMT techniques with hospice and bereavement work with children, teens and young adults. I have presented my work to several community organizations, including Clergy Associations, Retired Men’s Association, Parent’s Associations, School Groups and Guidance Departments, The Hospice Federation as well as Camp Erin Boston volunteer training and development sessions. For the past 2 years, I have taught my approach with DMT and the Special Needs Population and Grief at the Apollo Institute, Beijing, China.

Katie McGrail, M.A., R-DMT
kathleen.mcgrail@mah.org
Katie McGrail, MA, R-DMT, currently serves as Children’s Services Coordinator at CareGroup Parmenter Home Care & Hospice, Inc. and as Assistant Director of Camp Erin Boston. She is a Registered Dance/Movement Therapist, a 200-hour certified yoga instructor, and is pursuing her LMHC. Katie’s experience includes pre-bereavement and bereavement work with children and families, work with adults living with challenges including memory loss, homelessness, and acquired/traumatic brain injury as well as teaching dance and yoga to children and adults. She holds a BA in Sociology-based Human Relations and a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with a Specialization in Dance/Movement Therapy.

Literature References:


A8: Characterizing Childhood Bereavement: Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM): 2020 Changes and Results

Understanding the magnitude of childhood bereavement is a necessary and essential first step in elevating the issue to a level of critical public health importance nationwide. The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) derives national and regional prevalence rates. Improvements since the initial CBEM release in 2018 offer increased accuracy by incorporating additional regionalized data and implementing more adaptive statistical programming. These enhancements can aid efforts to establish upstream preventive resources for youth who have experienced a significant death in childhood. This presentation will review the most recent changes to the model and discuss 2020 CBEM outcomes.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify key changes to the 2020 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model that impact prevalence estimates
2. Explain the impact to programs and services due to CBEM changes
3. Develop one action step that uses CBEM results to help elevate childhood bereavement to a critical public health issue

Presenter Information:
Michaeleen R. Burns, Ph.D.
mickib@judishouse.org

Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, is the Chief Clinical Officer at Judi’s House and JAG Institute (JH/JAG). She is a Licensed Psychologist with 17 years’ experience providing assessment and therapeutic support to families facing adversity. In her work, she has witnessed the lasting, negative impact of unaddressed grief. She is dedicated to ensuring that appropriate services are available for all and to raising childhood bereavement to a level of critical public health importance. She oversees JH/JAG’s core initiatives—Direct Service, Evaluation and Research, and Training and Education—that work towards the JH/JAG vision that no child should be alone in grief.

The presenters have each played a significant role in recent expansion and improvements to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model and are co-contributors to a scholarly article currently under review. Both have provided instruction to community individuals, undergraduate/graduate students, and relevant professionals.

Laura J. Landry, Ph.D.
laural@judishouse.org

Laura Landry, PhD is the Director of Evaluation and Research at Judi’s House/JAG Institute. She has 12 years’ experience evaluating community-based programs and large-scale prevention initiatives as well as building the capacity of organizations to utilize data to drive decisions. In her role, Laura oversees the Evaluation and Research Initiative, a core component of the Comprehensive Grief Care Model® followed at Judi’s House/JAG Institute. This Initiative focuses on evaluation of our services, research on the impact and course of childhood bereavement, and dissemination of data on the prevalence of childhood bereavement to inform advocates and practitioners working in the field.

Literature References:


The following is a listing of peer reviewed presentations offered in the past two years:


A9: Impact of Grief and Trauma on Justice Involved Youth

This presentation will explore the grief experience of young men in an urban juvenile justice setting. Formed from a partnership between a Philadelphia grief center and a mandated community diversion program, justice involved males participate in weekly on-site grief groups. From these groups, many lessons have been learned about working with juvenile justice youth. Prevalent group themes include youth’s exposure to homicide, systemic injustices and compounded grief & trauma. This presentation will address misconceptions of justice-involved youth’s trauma responses and how to better understand their challenges and resiliency. Evidenced-based practices in providing trauma-informed grief support will also be provided.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe the grief and trauma responses in justice-involved youth in urban areas.
2. Identify the misconceptions of justice-involved youth’s trauma responses to homicide, suicide, and systemic injustices.
3. Identify strategies to recognize this unique population and better respond to their needs by providing trauma-informed grief support that foster resilience.

Presenter Information:
Lamya Broussard, MSS, MLSP
Lamya@upliftphilly.org

Lamya Broussard is a dedicated clinician whose been in the field 13 years. She’s honored to have worked with various populations including youth in foster care, LGBTQ & homeless youth, juvenile justice involved youth, students impacted by compounded grief & loss and more. She’s earned her Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Tuskegee University and her Masters in Social Services & Masters in Law & Social Policy from Bryn Mawr Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research with a specialization in Child & Family Wellbeing. She finds joy and her life purpose in helping others navigate through their healing process.

As a School & Community Services Clinician at UPLIFT Center for Grieving Children I've been co facilitating weekly grief groups and multiple cycles to Justice Involved Youth in Urban Areas. I've also co developed and implemented my agencies curriculum and activities for Justice Involved Youth. This past August 2019, I presented on "Implementation of Inclusivity Practices with LGBTQIA+ Youth" at 3rd Annual Philadelphia Trauma Training Conference: Promoting Equitable Access to High Quality Services for Vulnerable Children and Families which was presented by Jefferson Philadelphia University Department Counseling and Behavioral Health. The audience included 300+ community and professionals in the social services field.

Literature References:
Families who have experienced the violent death of a significant person or loved one are often left with unrelenting pain and unresolved explanations. These families may feel like there is nowhere to turn and few people who understand. This presentation provides a platform for the families of the Good Grief Program to share their stories of what they needed in the aftermath of experiencing a violent death. The presenters will integrate these stories into leading research on supporting children, youth, and families after a traumatic death with the goal of better informing the field on how to support this population.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify the multidimensional factors influencing familial perspectives toward violent loss
2. Describe the factors that differentiate violent loss from other types of death loss
3. Describe the integration of client-centered principles to better serve families impacted by violence death

**Presenter Information:**
Maureen Patterson-Fede, MSW, LICSW
maureen.patterson@bmc.org

Maureen Patterson-Fede, LICSW is the Program Manager of the Good Grief Program. Maureen has worked with children and families in a variety of settings and has learned that they deeply benefit from kind, empathetic, and attentive care that is led by their needs and illuminates their strengths and resiliency. In her work with the Good Grief Program, Maureen provides therapy, consultation, and support services to caregivers and their children in the wake of an acute loss. Maureen also works collaboratively with community partners to provide training on supporting the resiliency and well-being of grieving children.

Maureen and Minelia have extensive clinical practice providing intensive therapy to children and families in the wake of trauma and loss. The presenters will be using feedback from de-identified clients and their caregivers to illuminate the special considerations for working with families after a violent death. Maureen and Minelia will specifically speak to their work with urban families living under the weight of multiple, chronic stressors and experiencing ongoing trauma and loss.

Minelia Rodriguez, MSW
minelia.rodriguez@bmc.org

Minelia Rodriguez is a bi-lingual (Spanish/English) mental health clinician, who provides consultation and therapeutic services at the Good Grief Program. Through the Good Grief Program, Minelia is able to provide trauma and grief interventions to children and families when they’ve experienced a significant loss. Minelia is passionate about providing service access to families in neighborhoods of lower socioeconomic status and where there are disproportionate rates of community violence. Minelia is especially interested in increasing service access for Spanish-speaking families, immigrant families, and families who are experiencing significant barriers to mental health treatment.

**Literature References:**

Session B: Wednesday June 17, 2020 1:15pm – 2:45pm Concurrent Workshops

B1: Board Member Accountability: Because The Families We Serve Deserve A Strong Organization

Nonprofit executives and board leaders often express frustration with board member inertia - lackluster meeting participation, inconsistent fundraising engagement, and non-functioning board committees. Getting beyond the negatives requires a shift in perspective - one that acknowledges that each board member will perform when they fully understand how their unique engagement ties to the organization’s ability to make significant progress toward strategic goals. This session will align board member talent/skill/network with strategic objectives, board committee work-plans, and board member recruitment. Participants will leave with templates, timelines, and path forward for board member impact.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify strategies to develop an impactful board member pipeline
2. Outline steps for the development of annual committee work-plans that reflect board member engagement in achieving strategic objectives
3. Demonstrate increased knowledge and understanding of issues regarding board leadership, recruitment, and engagement through the lenses of strategy, influence, and inspiration

Presenter Information:
Karin Douglas, B.S.
karindouglas@gmail.com

Karin Douglas has worked as a consultant, instructor and speaker, providing guidance to clients in the corporate and philanthropic communities and throughout the nonprofit sector in human services, the arts, and education. She has held external relations positions at Davidson College, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, Georgia Tech, Children’s Defense Fund and Communities In Schools of Georgia. For two years she served as fundraising subject-matter expert for the in-house consulting team at Georgia Center for Nonprofits and was a top-rated instructor at their Nonprofit University. She currently serves on the boards of Georgia Center for Opportunity and Georgia Farmers Market Association.

Experience includes fundraising, board governance and external relations full time positions at Davidson College, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, Georgia Tech, Communities In Schools of Georgia, Children’s Defense Fund, Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential. Consulting and coaching experience includes more than 100 organizations - with budgets under $50K - such as Boys 2 Men and Free Bikes 4 Kids (both in Atlanta); budgets under $500K Raising Expectations (in Atlanta) or Communities in Schools of Rocky Mount (in NC); budgets over $5M Jewish Federation of Atlanta.

A partial list of presentations on the proposed topic are included in the answer to the prior question. On average, I have presented 12 times a year for the past 10 years, and several times a year prior to that. My audiences have included nonprofit board members, executive directors, resource development professionals, mental health professionals, child development experts, community engagement professionals, artists, educators, etc.

**I became familiar with NAGC through my volunteer work with Kate’s Club and through the participation of Kate's Club employees and board members in nonprofit effectiveness classes I taught at Georgia Center for Nonprofits.**
B2: Volunteers 101: Building a Volunteer Program from the Ground Up

In this presentation the attendee will explore strategic methods to identify, train, engage and support volunteers within their community. The focus and goal of this workshop is to provide support to those who are new to the field and searching for help in building a successful volunteer program; creating a deeper commitment and connection between the volunteers and their organization. Participants will learn techniques, procedures and policies designed to add value to the mission of their organization.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Identify proven strategies that engage people in volunteer roles that are designed to match their qualifications
2. Describe methods, techniques and policies used to select, screen and educate volunteers in the roles they serve
3. Explain the significance of equipping volunteers with a top-level training program and resources designed to support and strengthen the peer support model for companioning grieving children, teens and their families

**Presenter Information:**

**Ellen Roemke**  
ellen@erinshouse.org

Ellen Roemke is the Volunteer Director at Erin’s House for Grieving Children in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She has been in the business of organization for several years, and in 2013 joined the staff at Erin’s House in the capacity of coordinating and training the more than 150 volunteers that serve the grieving families in her community. Ellen’s passion for grieving children goes beyond her hometown in Indiana; she also serves on the Board of an orphanage in Ethiopia.

Ms. Roemke has been an advocate in raising awareness of children’s grief in and throughout her community by frequently presenting to local businesses, sororities, churches, schools and private organizations. She holds four Volunteer Training Sessions each year presenting grief education and the communication tools and skills used in the Children’s Peer Support Groups at Erin’s House for Grieving Children.

**Emily E. Mock, B.S.**  
Emily@erinshouse.org

Emily Mock started her career in children’s grief in 2016 with an internship through Purdue University Fort Wayne. Upon graduation in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in Human Services and a Psychology minor, she was hired on at Erin’s House as the Family Support Coordinator.

Emily is well educated in children’s grief through various trainings and development opportunities through Erin’s House and community engagement. She has attended trainings by The National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children and obtained credentials as a Certified Trauma Practitioner and is a Human Service Board Certified Practitioner.

**Literature References:**


B3: Grief Center/Organ Procurement Organization Partnership to Enhance Grief Support for Donor Families

This presentation will provide an example of a powerful partnership between a grief center and an Organ Procurement Organization (OPO) to enhance the ability of both organizations to provide effective grief support for donor families. The partnership allowed both organizations to focus on more fully understanding the family experience in organ donation, the complex bereavement that often results, and increased need for support due to family structure, cause of death, etc. Through the partnership, the grief center becomes an extension of the support provided by the OPO. Grief Center staff receive education about the donor procurement process and special grief needs of donor families that enhances their ability to respond to the needs of donor families. Examples will be provided regarding how to assist families in making meaning of the loss by developing a narrative that involves the gift of life and special activities to provide donor families opportunities to honor the memory of their loved ones who gave the gift of life. The partnership activities have resulted in increased numbers of donor families participating in grief center programs and the creation of a children’s book specifically for children of donors, highlighting the special gift given by their loved ones.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe the activities of a successful partnership between a grief center and an Organ Procurement Organization to enhance services to grieving families
2. Identify specific needs unique to donor families and explain how to utilize a narrative approach to make meaning of the loss
3. Identify strategies for creating opportunities to recognize donor families for the special gift given by their loved ones

Presenter Information:
Jeanene Gerhart, M.S.
jgerhardt@lostandfoundozarks.com

Jeanene volunteered for five years helping to start the first children's and teen group as a parent facilitator for Lost & Found Grief Center. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary and Special Education from Evangel University and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling from Missouri State University. Jeanene has served on the crisis team for Springfield Public Schools, been an elementary counselor for 15 years in mostly Title 1 schools, a middle school counselor for 7 years, and a high school counselor for 5 years. She returned to Lost & Found in 2014, coordinating several groups and completed Trauma Certification through the National Institute of Trauma and Loss in Children in Summer of 2015. She is currently a Program Coordinator for Lost & Found leading groups for children, teens, and adults.

Nicole Kellen, M.A.
nkellen@midamericatransplant.org

Nicole Kellen is the Director of Community Engagement for Mid America Transplant, an Organ Procurement Organization in Saint Louis, MO. In her current role, Nicole is responsible for the execution of Community Outreach efforts in the OPO's designated service area encompassing 84 counties in Southeastern Missouri, Northwest Arkansas and Southern Illinois. Outreach efforts include: secondary and post-secondary school education, faith-based education, DMV partnerships and affiliated non-profit organizations to increase participation in the state and national registry. During her tenure at Mid America Transplant, Nicole has had the privilege to work with over 10,000 donor and recipient families through the operational oversight of the Aftercare Program which supports families before, during and after the donation and transplantation process. Through her work with the Mid America Transplant Foundation's Community
Grant Program, Nicole and her team have partnered with 5 Grief Centers throughout their service region to help ensure families have the option of extended grief services following the loss of a loved one.

**Literature References:**


B4: Creating a Grief Sensitive School Culture

Schools play a significant role in the development of children but often struggle in their provision of consistent support to grieving children and their families. This challenge of being available for bereaved students is often accentuated during times of crisis and compounded by academic demands as well as budgetary restraints. This workshop will review dissemination, training and policy consultation strategies which community bereavement programs can offer which will improve the grief sensitivity of the school culture and practices. Workshop participants will also learn how to help schools to become part of the national Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify potential school policies which can better support the needs of grieving students and their families
2. Describe dissemination practices designed to be effective in helping a school become more grief-sensitive
3. Identify available resources from the Coalition to Support Grieving Students and the Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative that can be used to support ongoing efforts to make schools more grief-sensitive

Presenter Information:
David Schonfeld, M.D.
schonfel@usc.edu

David J Schonfeld, MD is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement (www.schoolcrisiscenter.org), University of Southern California. He has provided consultation after numerous school crisis events and disasters and has presented more than 1,000 times on the topics of crisis and loss and authored more than 100 scholarly articles, book chapters, and books. Dr. Schonfeld is a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council and the National Biodefense Science Board and served as a Commissioner for the National Commission on Children and Disasters and the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission.

Both presenters have made hundreds of professional and school based presentations on bereavement

Thomas Demaria, Ph.D.
tlm16kw@hotmail.com

Thomas Demaria, Ph.D. is Fellow of both the Trauma and Clinical Divisions of the American Psychological Association, serves on the Professional Advisory Board for the National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement and is involved in training initiatives for the Coalition to Support Grieving Students. Dr. Demaria has earned numerous awards including the New York State Liberty Award and a Humanitarian Award by the Center for Christian & Jewish studies for leading national and community disaster responses. Dr. Demaria was a co-recipient of International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies' Award for Clinical Excellence and was recognized with a Distinguished Mentor Award for his teaching in the field of trauma. Dr. Demaria has developed over one hundred research studies in the fields of trauma and loss.

Literature References:


B5: Taking Awesome Care of Ourselves (T.A.C.O.): A Personalized Self-Care Plan

Working with grieving children is incredibly rewarding but can be challenging at times, and if professionals are not practicing proper self-care, it can lead to burnout or compassion fatigue. During this presentation, Bauer will discuss types of burnout commonly experienced by those in the grief field and how professionals can become more resilient. Using a worksheet developed by Bauer, participants will build their own T.A.C.O. self-care plan and learn about other tools to help them care for themselves.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify the types of burnout that can experienced by those working in the bereavement and end-of-life field
2. Identify tools helping professionals can utilize to help build vicarious resilience
3. Describe steps to developing a personal self-care plan and establish an ongoing self-care routine

Presenter Information:
Carrie Bauer, LBSW
cbauer@hopewestco.org

For over a decade, Carrie Bauer has worked in the field of bereavement and end-of-life care, and during this time has found her true passion is working with grieving children. Her professional career has including working in hospice and at a funeral home bereavement organization. She has presented on various grief topics at the local and national level and is a member of ADEC, NAGC, and HFA. Currently, Carrie is working on her Master’s in Thanatology through Marian University and is the Youth Service Coordinator at HopeWest Hospice in Delta, Colorado.

For the past 13 years, I have worked in both hospice bereavement programs and a funeral home bereavement organization, and during this time I have seen first-hand how rewarding end-of-life and bereavement work can be, but I have also seen how it can take a toll on those providing care. During my time working in the grief field, I have learned how important it is to recognize our own burnout and how to grow from our experiences. I developed the T.A.C.O. worksheet while working at a funeral home and what first was a joke between co-workers and me, it became a useful tool that professionals can use to remind themselves to practice good self-care. I have presented on various grief issues at both the local and national level on several occasions, and some topics I have presented on include: Helping Children Learn to Cope with Grief & Trauma, The Importance of Youth & Funerals, Understanding Children and Grief, and many others. I have presented at ADEC Annual Conference, NAGC Annual Symposium, National Funeral Directors Association’s Annual Convention, several colleges and universities, and various webinars.

Literature References:
B6: Connect, Build, and Grow! Combing group work, play therapy and Lego building to explore grief

Discover how building Legos can also build social-emotional well-being! This interactive workshop focuses on the use of Lego-based therapeutic interventions for exploring grief. Participants will learn about the “Skillful Builders” model and will explore the benefits of group play therapy to better understand and cope with grief. Participants will also learn therapeutic techniques for implementing Lego-based play into individual and group therapy sessions.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe the steps to plan and conduct group sessions using Lego based activities and grief interventions
2. Identify three (3) prominent dynamics in play therapy groups which support grieving children
3. Demonstrate two (2) grounding skills and two (2) containment skills that can be implemented in group activities

Presenter Information:
Stephanie Heitkemper, MA, MFT-C
Stephanie@resilientminds counseling.com

Stephanie Heitkemper, MA, MFT-C specializes in working with children and families around change including grief, trauma, and transition. Stephanie is trained as a Marriage Family Therapist and Play Therapist. Stephanie is the owner of Resilient Minds Counseling, PLLC and Halcyon Hospice’s Children’s Bereavement Therapist. Stephanie calls Denver home with her husband and three silly boxers. Outside of work, Stephanie is an active volunteer for Comfort Zone Camp based in Richmond, Virginia.

Meredith & Stephanie both have private practices in Northglenn, Colorado. Throughout the year Meredith & Stephanie collaborate with local pediatrician’s, parents, and teachers to help support the needs of growing children.

Meredith Hammond, M.A., LPC, MFT, RPT-S
MeredithRHammond@gmail.com

Meredith Hammond, MA, LPC, RPT-S is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Play Therapist Supervisor with a private practice in Northglenn, Colorado. Meredith holds a post-graduate certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy, is trained in EMDR I/II and Brainspotting. For Meredith, play therapy is a passion and she seeks to incorporate the healing power of play into her work with clients of all ages. Meredith’s passion about family and play continue outside the office, as she avidly enjoys running and enjoying the outdoors with her three sons and husband.

Literature References:
2. Grunblatt, Andrea , "Identifying, Screening, and Selecting Group Members" , in Handbook of Child and Adolescent Group Therapy. Craig Haen and Seth
B7: Grief Support via Text Message: What Teens Want

Mobile phones are the preferred communication device for today's teens. They use their phones for everything from listening to music and connecting on social media and, according to new research, would also like to receive bereavement support on their phones. In 2019 new tools made it possible for organizations to provide personalized text-based grief support to teenagers, and to the people who support them. We’ll showcase sample text messages, look at early feedback from subscribers, and explain how organizations can use new text messaging platforms to deliver affordable, accessible support, in a way that teens can readily receive it.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on what teenagers think about text-based bereavement support
2. Explain how text message support can drive (and measure) bereavement outcomes
3. Describe steps to therapeutically adapt grief messaging and delivery platforms for teenagers

Presenter Information:
Emma Payne, M.S.
emma@grief.coach

Emma is the Founder and CEO of Grief Coach, an innovative service that delivers personalized bereavement support via text message. Grief Coach combines Emma’s passion for mobile technology and engagement, with her deep commitment to providing affordable, accessible, and customizable grief support. Emma is a seasoned technology entrepreneur whose 25 year career leading online and mobile projects has included building tools to register young people to vote, creating online networks of support for families facing health challenges, and launching North America’s first online crisis intervention line.

I have extensive experience speaking and teaching, including teaching at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, as part of their Marketing departments. More recently I spoke to students at the University of Washington, about suicide loss and grief.

Literature References:
This presentation will discuss how your agency can deliver school-based programming to the communities that you serve. Topics include the development of contracts, budgeting, referrals, the scope of work, staffing/scheduling, sample curriculum, and ongoing support. Providing onsite grief support groups within the school setting is one of the most cost-effective ways to scale grief support services by increasing the number of people served without adding exponential costs to your budget. Many of us already run grief support groups in the school setting and some of us are eager to start this service. This presentation is a great forum to connect and exchange information on ways to support bereaved students across the country.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Cite current literature on the need for grief support services in the school setting to serve a comprehensive clientele
2. Identify the procedures to develop and deliver school-based grief programming in the community, including development of contracts, budgeting, referrals, staffing/ scheduling and sample curriculum
3. Identify challenges commonly encountered in establishing school-based services and ways to overcome these

**Presenter Information:**
Melissa Lunardini, M.A., MBA
tribalgrief@gmail.com

Melissa Lunardini, M.A., MBA, is the owner of Tribal Grief, LLC a consulting company that delivers education and programming specializing in grief and loss. She has dedicated over a decade to supporting grieving children, teens, and their families. As the former Children’s Bereavement Manager for the Elizabeth Hospice, she developed the most comprehensive suite of children’s bereavement services in San Diego. These services include program development of year-round grief support groups; school-based groups and directing two summer grief camps. She enjoys presenting nationally and locally on topics related to childhood bereavement. Melissa strives to remain active with current trends and emerging research within the field of Thanatology. She is a National Training Consultant for the Boys and Girls Club of America. She sits on committees for National Alliance for Grieving Children and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization. During her free time, she volunteers as an advocate with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

I have 15 years of experience working with grieving children and teens in the school setting. Please see CV for related experience regarding conferences and teachings.

**Literature References:**
B9: Heartbroken: Grief Programming for Young Adults and Adults Grieving an Addiction or Drug-Related Loss

Providing a grief support group for young adults and adults managing a loss related to an addiction or drug-related cause presents some unique support challenges. You will learn the basics surrounding the opioid crisis and the specific grief challenges an opioid related loss can pose in a family system. From starting a group to managing ongoing support and handling the unique needs of this group of grieving individuals, this presentation will give you topics, programming ideas and activities as well as other resources. You will come away with specific interventions, written resources and ideas on pitfalls to avoid.

Learning Objectives:
1. Articulate at least 3 facts about the unique qualities of addiction/drug-related loss in comparison to other grief
2. Identify at least 2 interventions for addiction/drug loss related grief groups
3. Define the role of stigma as a complication factor in addiction/drug-related loss

Presenter Information:
Diana Cuddeback, MSW, LCSW
dcuddeback@myheartlinks.com

Diana Cuddeback, LCSW is the Founding Director of Heartlinks Grief Center in Belleville, Illinois. Since her first Children’s Grief Group in 1991, Diana has provided children, families and individuals innovative grief programming. Heartlinks provides individual and family counseling, grief support groups, and outreach programs. Diana is a regular presenter at the NAGC Symposium. She focuses on sharing practical programs with activities that can be taken back and easily used in other centers. Heartlinks works to meet emerging community needs with inventive programming. Diana’s mission is to create a meaningful community of support for grieving people filled with learning, activity, fun and connection.

I have been starting and running this sort of support group for 4 years. I am the co-author on a book focusing on this topic, though the focus on presenting is to share information about supporting a specific population, not to sell the book. I have performed workshops on this topic for adult and teen clients. I have presented on other programming for specific populations for many years at the Symposium. I have presented both in shared and individuals presentations over the years. Most recently, I presented 2 workshops at the 2018 Symposium in San Antonio- 1 an experiential, self-care program, "Self-Care, Not On-the-Shelf-Care: Activities for a Better You" and 1 a fund-raising program, Outside the Box Ideas to Take a Funds Development Plan from Concept to Action Without Dedicated Funds Development Staff". I present regularly to lay and professional audiences on a variety of topics.

Literature References:
5. Silk, S., Goldman, B. "How Not to Say The Wrong Thing" Los Angeles Times, (April 7, 2013)
B10: The Grief Spiral: Adapting nature-based rituals

Rituals and commemorative ceremonies can be valuable therapeutic tools. Different forms of rituals hold different meanings. Some honor the significance of an event. Others serve to release energy or to act as a marker of a transition. This workshop will introduce examples of nature-based rituals. The Grief Spiral will be used as a case example to illuminate considerations for implementation including adaptations for group size, site, hazards, and developmental considerations. The ritual integrates movement, embodied metaphor, honor and remembrance, and camaraderie. This presentation will explore the role of rituals in camp, retreat, and group settings including logistical and ethical considerations.

Learning Objectives:
1. Name 3 benefits of rituals
2. Identify three different types of rituals
3. Identify logistical and ethical considerations for ritual implementation

Presenter Information:
Tina Barrett, Ed.D.
tinab@tamarackgrc.org

Founder/Executive Director of Tamarack Grief Resource Center in Montana, Dr. Tina Barrett has focused on best practices of nature-based support with trauma survivors and family-systems since 1994. She serves on the NAGC Board of Directors, on the Advisory Board for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and as a Senior Consultant for the National Military Suicide Survivors Seminar. Barrett also serves on the Leadership Team of the Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative and on the Standards Committee for the Bereavement Camp Standards of Practice. Her presentations integrate stories from group, camp, hospital, private practice and wilderness therapy settings.

Barrett received her Doctorate in Counselor Education. Since 1996 she has specialized in grief program development, implementation, volunteer training and clinician training specializing in grief groups, camps and retreats. Tina is the co-founder and Executive Director of Tamarack Grief Resource Center (TGRC) based out of Missoula, Montana. She has developed, implemented, evaluated and/or conducted volunteer training for over 100 grief camps and retreats in Montana and around the USA. A licensed counselor, Barrett supervises group and camp facilitators and individual counselors. As part of the Western MT Suicide Prevention Initiative Leadership Team, Barrett has specialized in grief following suicide and traumatic loss.

Examples of Speaking Experience:
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivor Seminars and Leadership Training, 2009-Present
- MT Nursing Association State Convention, Children’s Grief
- Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative, Presenter
- Suicide Awareness & Prevention Group: Facilitator Training, 2010-Present
- School District Personnel Training (Missoula, Ronan, Browning, etc) – Grief in Schools, 2010- Present
o Department of Public Health: Foster Parent Training – Kids & Grief

o National Alliance for Grieving Children 2014- Present

o Plains Medical Center

Samples published work includes:


**Literature References:**


Session C: Wednesday June 17, 2020 3:00pm – 4:00pm Concurrent Workshops

C1: Engaging Diverse Communities Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This Forum will include discussion of cultural influences, beliefs, and rituals that impact the delivery of grief/bereavement services.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite statistical data on cultural influences on grief and bereavement
2. Identify challenges of cultural beliefs when providing grief and bereavement services
3. Identify therapeutic strategies for delivering grief/bereavement services that provide for cultural beliefs and rituals

Presenter Information:

Cristina M. Chipriano, MSW, LCSW
Cristina M. Chipriano is the Director of Spanish Programs and Outreach at Bo’s Place, a bereavement center in Houston, TX. Cristina joined Bo’s Place in January 2015 and oversees the programming for and outreach to the bereaved Hispanic/Latino community of Houston. Cristina has also developed trainings/workshops that have been requested for peer bereavement centers across the country that are seeking to provide culturally competent, bilingual grief support for bereaved families and education and training for professionals to support Hispanic/Latino populations. She helped develop a grief and bereavement specific Spanish-language training that is offered at Bo’s Place for those providing services to Spanish-speaking families. Cristina also co-facilitated a quarterly program call for members of the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) who had an interest working with the Latino bereaved community. In addition, Cristina has also overseen the translation of the NAGC’s “When Someone Dies: A Child-Caregiver Activity Book”. Cristina will be overseeing the NAGC Latinx Work Group whose purpose will be to develop a best practice guide and tips on “How to work with the Latinx Bereaved Community”. Cristina also provides psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and families within a clinical social work practice setting; primary specialization in grief therapy with children and adults, individuals and families. Cristina is serving on the Content Advisory Board for the WPSU Public Broadcasting Station/National Public Radio: The Grief Initiative Project and on the board of the National Alliance of Grieving Children. Cristina previously served on the Executive Board of the Latino Social Workers of Greater Houston and continues to be a member of the Advisory Board for the network. Cristina has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development and Family Science from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Houston Graduate Collage of Social Work. Cristina is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with supervisor status (LCSW-S) and formerly worked as a medical social worker in the Houston Medical Center.

Kevin R. Carter, LCSW
Kevin R. Carter, LCSW, currently serves as the Clinical Director for the Center for Grieving Children. Prior to the current position Kevin practiced in a variety of settings as a clinician, administrator and educator in community mental health, residential care for adolescents, hospice child/teen bereavement and also served as a field director in social work education. His primary interests are in grief/loss/trauma and in particular, how these issues impact children, youth and families in African American communities across the United States.
C2: Hospice and Funeral Professionals Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This forum will address issues experience by hospice/ funeral professions.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify experiences and lessons learned as a hospice and/or funeral home professional
2. Identify challenges and obstacles related to hospice and funeral professional activities
3. Identify strategies that will improve the delivery of grief/bereavement services in a hospice and/or funeral home environment

Presenter Information:
Kelly Manion, B.A.

Kelly Manion has spent nearly 20 years immersed in mission-driven work. She has served organizations in the arts and higher education communities, and for the last six years has served the funeral service profession through her role as the Director of Communication for the Funeral Service Foundation. In her work, Kelly carries out the Foundation’s vision of an improved end-of-life experience for families and their loved ones by promoting the value of funerals and memorialization to organizations across the end-of-life continuum, and helping funeral professionals build meaningful relationships within their communities. Kelly was instrumental in creating resources for the Foundation’s highly regarded Youth & Funerals initiative. Launched in 2018, hundreds of firms and organizations across the country and around the globe use the resources to help families and communities understand the important role funerals and memorialization play in the lives of grieving youth.
C3: Loss Through Opioids and Addiction Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This Forum will address issues of loss of life through opioids and addiction

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current statistical data on the loss of life as a result of opioid and addiction causes
2. Identify the unique challenges of providing therapeutic grief/bereavement services to young children experiencing the death of a loved one due to opioids and addiction causes
3. Identify strategies that will improve the delivery of grief/bereavement services to children affected by loss due to opioids and addiction causes

Presenter Information:
Ryan Loiselle, MSW, LICSW

Ryan Loiselle, LICSW, is the program director for FRIENDS WAY. In his role, Ryan manages the day-to-day operations including intake, referrals and community outreach, as well as supervising the volunteer facilitators. Prior to joining FRIENDS WAY, he worked at Merrimack Valley Hospice with a concentration in pediatric palliative care and children’s bereavement. Ryan studied at the University of Rhode Island and received his degree in Human Development and Family Studies, with a minor in Thanatology. He went on to Simmons College in Boston, MA and received his Master in Social Work.
**C4: Executive Directors Forum**

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts, learns, and problem solves with and from each other. This Forum will address issues experienced by Executive Directors of grief organizations.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Share experiences and lessons learned as an executive director of a bereavement/grief agency
2. Identify major obstacles and challenges of executive directors of bereavement/grief agency
3. Identify strategies that will improve the delivery of grief/bereavement services

**Presenter Information:**

**Vicki Jay, B.S.**  
Vicki Jay serves as CEO for the National Alliance for Grieving Children. Ms. Jay was founding director of Rays of Hope Children’s Grief Center in Midland Texas. Her nineteen-year hospice career included End-of-Life Community Education Director and ten years as Founder and Executive Director of Rays of Hope Children’s Grief Center. She is recognized for her role in children’s advocacy and for her strengths in public speaking and community education. Jay has received many awards and recognitions for her work with nonprofits and in the field of bereavement, including the National Jefferson Award for Community Service, a prestigious national recognition honoring community and public voluntarism in America. Recipients are “ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.” A graduate of Texas Tech University, Jay currently resides in Midland, Texas. In addition to her professional and community roles, Jay cherishes her role of wife, mother, friend and recently “Nana.”

**Darcy Walker Krause, MSW, LSW, J.D.**  
Darcy Walker Krause, J.D., L.S.W., is the Executive Director of Uplift Center for Grieving Children, which serves grieving children, young adults and families in the City of Philadelphia and surrounding counties. Having lost her mother at 15, Ms. Krause is a passionate advocate for grieving children and families. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy & Practice and Duke University School of Law, Ms. Krause practiced Labor & Employment law in private practice for five years before moving into the non-profit sector. Ms. Krause has been a guest lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University and has been published by the Philadelphia Daily News, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and Medium. She is also a regular presenter at professional conferences, including ADEC and NAGC, specializing in the long-term trajectory of loss and non-profit leadership. Ms. Krause is Vice President of the National Alliance for Grieving Children’s Board of Directors.
C5: Grief Activities Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts, learns, and problem solves with and from each other. This Forum will address activities utilized in grief counseling with children.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Cite current literature on the benefits of utilizing play activities with children in the delivery of grief/bereavement services
2. Give at least 2 examples of grief activities proven effective with children
3. Explain the importance of selecting activities appropriate to a child’s age and developmental level.

**Presenter Information:**

**Megan Lopez, MSW, LMSW**

Megan Lopez joined the NAGC in 2014 and serves as the National Program Director. Megan has served as a Social Worker and Program Leader throughout her nonprofit career, and has provided support to children, teenagers, and families in a variety of settings. Megan is an experienced presenter and trainer using an interactive style in her teaching and facilitating on a variety of topics related to program management, childhood bereavement support, grief in the school setting, and group facilitation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from Texas Tech University and Master of Science in Social Work from The University of Texas at Arlington. Megan resides in San Antonio, Texas with her husband and two children.
C6: Program Directors Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This Forum will address experiences of program directors of grief organizations.

Learning Objectives:
1. Share experiences and lessons learned as a program director of a bereavement/grief agency
2. Identify major obstacles and challenges of a program director of bereavement/grief agency
3. Identify strategies that will improve the delivery of grief/bereavement services

Presenter Information:
Marian Mankin, MSW, LCSW

Marian Mankin is a Program Director of Bo’s Place, a bereavement center in Houston, TX where she has worked since 2004. Ms. Mankin manages ongoing grief support groups for families with children between the ages of 5 and 18 who have experienced the death of a parent and the Little Friends program for 3-5 year olds and their parent or guardian and is responsible for refining and expanding the curriculum for these programs. Marian has presented on topics related to children’s bereavement both locally and nationally and has represented Bo’s Place on local television and radio programs. Marian supervises clinical program staff staff and graduate level interns. Marian is an active member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children and served on the board of directors from 2007-2013, including a year as board president. Marian is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and previously worked as a therapist in a psychiatric hospital and in therapeutic foster care.
C7: School Based Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each other. This forum will address bereavement/grief services delivery in the school setting.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Cite current literature on the benefits of delivery grief/bereavement services in a school setting
2. Identify primary challenges of delivering grief/bereavement services in the school setting
3. Explain the importance of considering cultural issues and developmental stages of children when delivering grief/bereavement services in a school setting

**Presenter Information:**
Michaeleen Burns, Ph.D.

Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, is the Chief Clinical Officer at Judi’s House and JAG Institute (JH/JAG). She is a Licensed Psychologist with 17 years’ experience providing assessment and therapeutic support to families facing adversity. In her work, she has witnessed the lasting, negative impact of unaddressed grief. She is dedicated to ensuring that appropriate services are available for all and to raising childhood bereavement to a level of critical public health importance. She oversees JH/JAG’s core initiatives—Direct Service, Evaluation and Research, and Training and Education—that work towards the JH/JAG vision that no child should be alone in grief.
C8: Camps Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This Forum will address the delivery of grief/bereavement services in a camp setting. This forum will address the delivery of bereavement/grief services in a camp setting.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on the benefits of delivery grief/bereavement services in a camp setting
2. Identify primary challenges of delivering grief/bereavement services in the camp settings
3. Explain the importance of considering cultural issues and developmental stages of children when delivering grief/bereavement services in a camp setting

Presenter Information:
Bethany A. Gardner, M.A.
Bethany Gardner is Director of Bereavement Programs at Eluna, a non-profit organization with a mission to support children and families impacted by grief or addiction. Bethany has worked with children, young adults, and families in a variety of settings, and has administered grief support programs since 2008. She holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Grieving Children. Bethany is also adjunct faculty at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology where she facilitates vocational, leadership, and interpersonal development.
C9: Hospital/ Child Life Specialists Forum

One of the most valuable aspects of attending the NAGC’s symposium is the area of professional networking. Led by a moderator, this Affinity Group session aims to connect those who work in similar areas to create an inclusive environment where the audience interacts learns and problem solves with and from each another. This Forum will address issues of the delivery of bereavement/grief services in a hospital setting by child life specialists.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Cite current literature on the benefits of delivery grief/bereavement services in a hospital setting
2. Identify primary challenges of delivering grief/bereavement services in a hospital setting
3. Explain the importance of considering cultural issues and developmental stages of children when delivering grief/bereavement services in a hospital setting

**Presenter Information:**
**Michelle Post, M.A., LMFT**
Michelle is a psychotherapist (LMFT) and coach in Los Angeles. She has specialized in grief since 2003. Her grief work has paralleled stress management teaching since 2000. Since 2007, she deepened focus on burnout prevention for professionals. In 2019, Michelle launched her own international business to coach others via live & online training, self-care retreats, and she travels to teach and consult. You can read more about her story and professional credentials at: www.PostInternationalInc.com and www.PostFamilyCounseling.com. Michelle uses transparency, vulnerability, and personal experience in her teaching like the fact that her friends have nicknamed her home, ‘The Magical Fun Palace.’
Session D: Thursday June 18, 2020 8:30am – 10:00am Concurrent Workshops

D1: Managing Energy, Not Time: Keys to Resiliently Coping with Grief, Loss, and Stress

Have you discovered that managing time is nearly pointless when we all only have 24 hours in a day and our work in grief teaches us there is no guarantee that we will even see tomorrow? Don’t give up! Managing energy is not only doable, it is essential for coping with grief, loss and stress. This workshop will use lecture, interaction, personal experience, and assessment tools to review information on energy management barriers as well as Positive Energy Rituals to overcome barriers and stay in PEAK states to face life’s challenges.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on the management of time in the professional setting of grief counselors
2. Utilize an energy assessment worksheet to evaluate areas for improved energy management strategies
3. Identify strategies to increase family, teen, child, and professionals’ capacity to renew energy in 4 domains: body, emotions, mind and spirit

Presenter Information:
Michelle Post, M.A., LMFT
Michelle@Postinternationalinc.com

Michelle is a psychotherapist (LMFT) and coach in Los Angeles. She has specialized in grief since 2003. Her grief work has paralleled stress management teaching since 2000. Since 2007, she deepened focus on burnout prevention for professionals. In 2019, Michelle launched her own international business to coach others via live & online training, self-care retreats, and she travels to teach and consult. You can read more about her story and professional credentials at: www.PostInternationalInc.com and www.PostFamilyCounseling.com. Michelle uses transparency, vulnerability, and personal experience in her teaching like the fact that her friends have nicknamed her home, ‘The Magical Fun Palace.’

Literature References:


D2: Next PAGE - an overnight camp experience for adult caregivers of grieving children

Adult caregivers of grieving children can be challenged by ensuring the physical and emotional wellbeing of their children in the midst of trying to find their own emotional balance. Next PAGE is an overnight camp designed specifically to provide participants with a relaxing and meaningful experience of support, education, and community building to help them meet some of their own emotional needs as well as those of the grieving children in their care.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify the benefits of providing a camp specifically designed for adult caregivers of grieving children
2. Identify specific steps to planning and implementing a grief camp for adults who are caring for grieving children
3. Identify at least 2 specific activities to help adult campers reflect on experience of their death loss

**Presenter Information:**
Barb Kamlet, M.A., LPC
shimmeringwings3@gmail.com

Barb Kamlet, LPC, is a co-founder and Executive Director of Shimmering Wings, a nonprofit organization that provides grief support and education to individuals who have experienced a childhood death loss. She is Director of Camp Erin Denver as well as Next PAGE, an overnight camp for adult caregivers of grieving children. Barb is a grief counselor for a Denver based hospice and has a private practice specializing in grief and loss. She earned her Masters in Counseling Degree from Regis University and served on the faculty of the NHPCO Clinical Team Conference for three consecutive years.

Barb is a grief counselor in private practice as well as for a Denver area hospice organization. She is a co-founder of Shimmering Wings, a non-profit organization that provides grief support and education to individuals who have experienced or been impacted by a childhood death loss. She is the Director of Camp Erin Denver as well as Next PAGE (Parent and Guardian Experience). As the director of Next PAGE, Barb co-designed the camp curriculum and facilitates several of the modules. Barb has presented locally and nationally on various grief and loss related topics including grief support for helping professionals who have experienced a personal death loss and the use of grief masks as a therapeutic tool. Barb has presented the following: PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS Masks of Grief: Ours and Those of Our Clients, People House, Denver, CO 2013 Time Doesn’t Heal . . . We Have to Heal Time, Metro Denver Parents of Suicide, Denver, CO 2013 You Matter to the Last Moment of Your Life, Colorado Association of Healthcare Auxiliaries/Volunteers, Denver, CO 2012 When Volunteers Grieve, Colorado Healthcare Directors of Volunteer Services, Denver, CO, 2012 Grief Support for Young People and the Adults Who Care for Them, Co-Presenter, MOPS, Westminster, CO 2012 When Children Grieve, Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care Fall Conference, Denver, CO 2012 Masks of Grief in Hospice Care: Do They Help or Hinder Us? National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Clinical Team Conference, Orlando, FL 2012 Masks of Hospice Professionals Grieving a Personal Death Loss, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Clinical Team Conference, San Diego, CA 2011 Curtains and Walls: Grief Support for Hospice Professionals Dealing with the Loss of Their Own Family Member or Close Friend, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Clinical Team Conference, San Diego, CA 2011 Exploring Our Masks, Stand-alone self-care session, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Clinical Team Conference, San Diego, CA 2011 Curtains and Walls: Grief Support for Hospice Professionals Dealing with the Loss of Their Own Family Member or Close Friend, National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization Clinical Team Conference, Atlanta, GA 2010
Literature References:


D3: Thinking Outside the Box: How Program and Development can work together to create unique partnerships, programs, and potential

What does a strong partnership look like? How can program and development teams work together for successful outcomes? This presentation will outline necessary components for both interdepartmental and community collaboration using case examples and helpful tools that can lead to new opportunities, more resources, and improved working relationships.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify components of a strong community partnership and explain how to use those components to expand resources
2. Identify the essential needs of a successful interdepartmental collaboration
3. Describe practical tools to translate potential opportunities into solidified partnerships

Presenter Information:
Alysha Lacey, M.A.
alysha@dougy.org

Alysha Lacey has been the Program Director at The Dougy Center: The National Center for Grieving Children and Families in Portland, OR since 2016. In addition to overseeing the program at an administrator level, she coordinates several peer bereavement support groups for grieving children and teens as well as the children’s group in the Pathways program for families living with an advanced serious illness. She holds a Master of Arts (MA) in Art Therapy Counseling from Marylhurst University and is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in the state of Oregon, and a Registered Art Therapist (ATR). Prior to joining The Dougy Center Staff, Alysha spent a decade working with children and families who have experienced trauma, including suspected abuse or neglect.

Brennan has been presenting on behalf of grieving children and families since she first told her Dougy Center story in 1989 to a group of folks being trained by Dr. Donna Schuurman and Dr. Alan Wolfelt. She was 14 at the time, and has continued to share that story ever since as an advocate for grieving children. She has been on staff at The Dougy Center since 2004, and Executive Director for the last 4 years. Her passion is supporting grieving children and families through fundraising, administration, board development, and outreach. Brennan trains often on fundraising through The Dougy Center’s Summer Institute and as a presenter for the Willamette Valley Development Officers. She was named “United Way Speaker of the Year” and presented at the 2017 and 2018 NAGC Conference.

Alysha has consistently trained on supporting grieving children and families for the past three years through Summer Institute, volunteer facilitator trainings, and in the local community. Last year, she presented at NAGC Symposium on The Dougy Center’s Pathways program and will be presenting at the Pediatric Palliative Care West Coast Summit on October 29, 2019 on Supporting Grieving Siblings.

Brennan C. Wood, M.A.
brennan@dougy.org

Brennan has been a staff member at The Dougy Center for Grieving Children & Families since 2004 and became Executive Director in October 2015. She previously served as the Chief Development & Communications Officer and fundraising to support grieving children and families is her passion. Brennan first walked through the doors of The Dougy Center in 1987 when she was twelve years old and her mother had died. She believes that her experience at The Dougy Center shaped her life and she has strived to help provide the same opportunity that she had to other grieving children.
and families in her community, across the country, and around the world ever since. One of Brennan’s most notable accomplishments is having led a team of staff and volunteers in completing a 4.2 million dollar capital campaign to rebuild The Dougy Center’s home after a devastating fire in 2009. Brennan is a member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, and Willamette Valley Development Officers where she served on the Board of Directors. She was a WVDO Star Bright Award Finalist and a United Way Speaker of the Year. Brennan is a graduate of the University of Montana with a B.A. in Psychology, and prides herself on creating dynamic relationships and always striving for courageous leadership.

**Literature References:**


Behavior challenges in the support group setting can become an obstacle for grief work. This interactive presentation will demonstrate five easily implemented strategies to prevent and work through difficult behavior related situations. First presented at an Advanced Facilitator Training at Bo’s Place, the S.M.I.L.E. techniques are now part of a biannual training to better prepare new volunteer facilitators with skills to maintain a respectful atmosphere and promote positive interactions. Through video examples and interactive learning exercises, participants will gain practical ideas to address common obstacles in group, with a safe and supportive approach.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify common behavioral challenges that occur in the grief support group setting
2. Identify 5 behaviors that cause disruption or other challenging issues in a support group setting
3. Describe strategies to effectively deal with disruptive and/or challenging behaviors in a support group setting

Presenter Information:
Lori Bokone, M.A., LPC
lori@bosplace.org

Lori Bokone is the Katy Program Manager at Bo’s Place, a bereavement center in Houston, Texas. She oversees ongoing grief support groups for families with children ages 5-18, at the Bo’s Place satellite location in Katy, Texas. Lori also manages the Little Friends program for preschool-aged children. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Certified School Counselor. Lori volunteered at Bo’s Place for eight years before joining the staff in 2016. She has previously worked as a behavior support teacher and has several years of experience as a special education teacher.

Lori has over seventeen years of experience working with children with special needs in a variety of settings. She spent nine years as a special education teacher at a school for children with autism spectrum disorder, and she worked for one year as a behavior support teacher on a preschool and kindergarten campus. Her professional education and training combined with her hands-on experience has allowed Lori to better understand and teach others how to respond to challenging behaviors in a constructive and considerate manner. Most recently, Lori has co-presented Good Grief for School Professionals at Bo’s Place, to local school district personnel and Good Grief for Helping Professionals for mental health specialists and religious leaders at the Islamic Society of Greater Houston. She also presented Pave the Way for Behavioral Change at the 2019 NAGC Symposium.

Literature References:
When we experience the death of someone close to us, we often say “no” to our changed reality in an effort to protect ourselves and maintain control. Can we retrain our brains to say “yes?” To open up and move forward with creating a new normal?  Yes, And: Utilizing Improvisation Techniques in Grief Work with Children and Adolescents will explain the art form of Improvisation and explore its healing qualities. Through experiential activities, participants will become acquainted with a variety of Improvisation games and exercises they can apply to their work with grieving children, teens, and the individuals who support them.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Define improvisation techniques and identify its role in facilitating healing among grieving children and teens
2. Explain the importance of improvisation in building relationships with volunteers and staff
3. Identify at least 3 improv games and exercises to utilize in work with grieving children, teens, and the staff and volunteers who support them

**Presenter Information:**
**Caitlin Koch, MS, MSW, CCLS, LSWAIC - Presenting**
caitlin@our-treehouse.org

Caitlin Koch has an innate passion for journeying with children and families through their grief, as well as empowering the professionals who support them. She has worked in pediatric palliative and hospice care, in addition to bereavement support. Prior to her role at Our TreeHouse, she served as the Clinical Director at The Healing Center. She also interned at The Dougy Center in Portland, Oregon. Her education includes a BA in psychology, a MS in child life, and an MSW. In addition to her role as Executive Director at Our TreeHouse, she has a private counseling practice.

Experiential, academic, and professional experiences have prepared Caitlin Koch and Lizanne Schader to present as experts on the topic of improvisation in grief work. Caitlin Koch has a wealth of graduate level training in the use of creative arts modalities in supporting bereaved children, teens, and adults, and has had multiple opportunities to apply this knowledge in her years of work with those who are grieving. She has presented on various topics related to children and grief at local and national conferences, including the Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (2013 and 2018) and the Pediatric Hospice & Palliative Care Essentials Annual Conference in Texas (2013). At the Association for Child Life Professionals Annual Conference on Professional Issues (2013), she was awarded a Disney Scholarship for Outstanding Innovation in Play, and was ranked among the top ten conference presenters. See resume for details.

Lizanne Schader’s experience in entertaining and engaging children through drama and theatre, as well as her educational background in theatre arts, complements her clinical knowledge related to supporting grieving children and their families. For 15 years, Lizanne served as Executive Director, Artistic Director and Education Director for The Neighborhood Playhouse, Bellingham’s Theatre for Young Audiences. Together, Caitlin and Lizanne possess the knowledge and experience to deliver a dynamic, innovative workshop to conference attendees.

**Lizanne Schader**
Lizanne@our-treehouse.org

For 15 years, Lizanne Schader served as Executive Director, Artistic Director and Education Director for The Neighborhood Playhouse, Bellingham’s Theatre for Young Audiences. The transition from entertaining and engaging
children to supporting them in their grief has been an important and unexpected healing experience for her. She brings compassion and dedication to children, teens and families at Our TreeHouse, helping them find their present moment where they can exist with their grief. She loves training volunteers and bringing people together in their peer groups, helping them find hope to go on.

**Literature References:**


D6: Revisiting Loss: Grief Triggers, Meaning Making, and Continuing Bonds Across the Lifespan

Viewing grief as an evolving process not as a single event helps us understand how people revisit and integrate childhood or adolescent bereavement into their lives at different developmental stages. Adults were surveyed and interviewed to learn how they processed their grief throughout their lives and how early loss continues to shape their lives. We will discuss grief triggers, continuing bonds, and meaning making across the lifespan and learn how viewing grief over time can inform the services and programs we offer.

Learning Objectives:
1. Explain how people revisit and integrate childhood or adolescent loss at different stages of development
2. Identify the importance of grief triggers, continuing bonds, and meaning making across the life span
3. Recognize that grief is an evolving process to inform bereavement services and programming

Presenter Information:
Lane Pease, M.S., NCC
lane.pease@katesclub.org

Lane Pease is the Director of Programs at Kate’s Club. Kate’s Club empowers children and teens after the death of a parent or sibling. Lane oversees the quality of all programs offered to Kate’s Club members and their families. She also leads KC Connects, the outreach program of Kate’s Club. She trains professionals locally and nationally on working with grieving children and families. She is a National Training Associate with the Boys and Girls Club of America and is on the editorial board of the American Cancer Society and the Education Committee of the National Alliance for Grieving Children. She recently worked with the Georgia Commission of Family Violence to create resources to be used with families around the state. Lane holds a BA in Philosophy from Georgia State University and a MS in Clinical Mental Health counseling from Mercer University.

I oversee all programs at Kate’s Club and many of our adult volunteers experienced the death of a parent or sibling at a young age. My young adult daughters also lost their father when they were very young. I was curious how people adapt over time and how it affects their life not only when they are young, but as they go through adulthood. I decided to do a survey to capture both qualitative and quantitative data. I have presented at the symposium in the past and regularly lecture and train students and professionals in my community as well as nationally.

Literature References:
This presentation reports on the effects of adding the Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families Program (RPBF) to the services offered to bereaved families by four community-based agencies. RPBF teaches parents specific self-care and family-care tools. The RPBF was adapted from the Family Bereavement Program and was designed in collaboration with bereaved parents and experienced providers for practical, sustained delivery by community-based agencies. Intent to treat analysis found greater positive change in quality of parenting at posttest (e.g., higher acceptance) and larger reductions in parents’ complicated grief for those in the RPBF (N=44) added condition as compared with existing services (N=30).

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on the quality of parenting as resilience resource for bereaved children
2. Describe a program that promotes resilient parenting of bereaved children, Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families Program
3. Describe outcome data on the Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families Program

Presenter Information:
Irwin Sandler, Ph.D.
irwin.sandler@asu.edu

Irwin Sandler received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 1971 from the University of Rochester. He and his colleagues have published multiple studies on sources of resilience in bereaved children including, a special focus on understanding how bereaved parents can promote resilience of their children. He and his colleagues have developed programs to promote effective parenting of bereaved children and their research has demonstrated their effectiveness to reduce long-term grief and mental health problems of the children and their bereaved parents. Dr. Sandler has received the outstanding contribution to research award from the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

I have done research on resilience of bereaved children and parents and developed and evaluated programs to promote resilience. The Family Bereavement Program, on which the current program is based is the most extensively researched program for parentally-bereaved children with over 30 publication in research journals. I have presented my work at NAGC and ADEC previously.

Additional presenters will include people from several agencies who have led Resilient Parenting for Bereaved Families groups in their agency. They will report on their experience in running the groups and their plans for making it a sustainable part of their agency’s services.

Literature References:
D8: "YEET!" Translating the unique needs of grieving young adults into effective support group services

The 2019 CBEM indicates that by age 25, 12.8 million young adults in the U.S. will experience the death of a parent or sibling. Too old for teen groups and developmentally too young for most adult ones, young adults, especially those not in higher education settings, are left with few options for community grief support. In this workshop we’ll explore the unique needs of grieving young adults and discuss effective ways to serve this population. Attendees will hear directly from a variety of grieving young adults via audio clips from The Dougy Center’s international podcast, Grief Out Loud.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on the unique needs of grieving young adults
2. Identify the benefits of a group support group setting for grieving young adults
3. Identify the components of an effective grief support group for this population

Presenter Information:
Jana DeCristofaro, MSW, LCSW
jana@dougy.org

Jana DeCristofaro, LCSW, is the Community Response Program Coordinator at The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families. On staff since 2002, Jana coordinates peer support groups for children, teens, and young adults, and provides consultation and training for grieving families, students, community members, and professionals locally and nationally. She created an online toolkit (www.tdcschooltoolkit.org) to make it easier for schools and organizations to access the information they need when grief hits their communities. One of her favorite parts of her role is hosting and producing Grief Out Loud, The Dougy Center’s podcast.


Literature References:
D9: Connection, Compassion and Communication: Enhancing our groups by honoring the unique individual

This workshop will support the success of groups, from staff and volunteer teams to program offerings. We’ll explore three aspects of self that impact a person’s internal and external engagement in group settings - processing styles, attachment styles, and windows of tolerance. By increasing understanding of self and others, we can encourage self-compassion and respect for others, as well as enhance communication and interventions. Our time will include presentation of foundational information, an interactive experience, and group discussion to ensure clear takeaways and applicability to your everyday setting.

Learning Objectives:
1. Define three aspects of self that impact an individual’s experience in a group context –processing styles, attachment styles, and one’s window of tolerance.
2. Utilize one interactive approach that helps participants communicate their unique experience in group settings.
3. Identify three types of groups that would benefit from this approach in a bereavement support setting.

Presenter Information:
Bethany Gardner
bethanygardner@elunanetwork.org

Bethany Gardner is Director of Bereavement Programs at Eluna, a non-profit organization with a mission to support children and families impacted by grief or addiction. Bethany has worked with children, young adults, and families in a variety of settings, and has administered grief support programs since 2008. She holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Grieving Children. Bethany is also adjunct faculty at the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology where she facilitates vocational, leadership, and interpersonal development.

I have both administered grief support programs and taught interpersonal skills to graduate level students for over ten years. This presentation combines this experience with knowledge gained in my MA in Counseling Psychology program and continued education. I have extensive speaking experience with the NAGC and NW Conference on Childhood Grief, and NW Christian Women’s Conference. My speaking and facilitating experience includes:


Gardner, B. (2014). Exclusive Screening and Discussion of HBO’s Documentary One Last Hug: Three Days at Grief Camp. Presented at the Annual Symposium of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, Atlanta, GA.


Literature References:


D10: Perspectives on Diversity & Inclusion

Inequalities in race, gender, sexual orientation, and age impact the understanding of grief and loss. The grief journey is often complicated by secrecy, economics, traumatic loss, and the impact of poverty on quality of life. Inclusive and intentional programming continues to be a source of growth and of concern in our field. As grief professionals, it is important to understand the dynamics of these experiences so that we can offer support that is relevant, and sensitive to grief needs (Rosenblatt, 2016). The very diverse and unique nature of grief calls us to be innovative, progressive, and “culturally conscientious” (Bordere, 2009, 2016) in our approach within less resourced communities.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Cite the importance of and benefit of recognizing diversity and inclusion to a grief/bereavement organization and its organizational development goals
2. Recognize the importance of incorporating inclusion and restorative perspectives on diversity and inclusion as a central part of all family support and community outreach efforts
3. Articulate an understanding of how inequalities in race, gender, sexual orientation and age impact the understanding of grief and loss.

**Presenter Information:**
Kevin R. Carter, MSW, LCSW
Kevin@upliftphilly.org

Kevin R. Carter, LCSW, currently serves as the Clinical Director for the Center for Grieving Children. Prior to the current position Kevin practiced in a variety of settings as a clinician, administrator and educator in community mental health, residential care for adolescents, hospice child/teen bereavement and also served as a field director in social work education. His primary interests are in grief/loss/trauma and in particular, how these issues impact children, youth and families in African American communities across the United States.

**Literature References:**

Session E: Thursday June 18, 2020 10:15am – 11:45am Concurrent Workshops

E1: Sound Healing: Singing Bowl Small Group

Join this session to learn more about sound healing and the use of singing bowls. In this session we will be learning how to actually use the bowls (bowls will be provided) and how the body responds to the different frequencies. You will walk away refreshed and with a new tool to use in your own organization.

Learning Objectives:
1. Explain how the body responds to different frequencies of sound
2. Describe the use of singing bowls in individual and large group sessions to create and facilitate intentional settings
3. Demonstrate the use of singing bowls

Presenter Information:
Monica Gonzalez, B.A.

Monica Gonzalez is a native Nevadan, medicine woman, sound healer, massage therapist, spiritual teacher, inspirational speaker and bereavement consultant.

Unknowingly, Monica’s grief journey began as a young child of a homicide and more profoundly when she was hit by a car and had a near death experience at the age of 6. The journey to “the otherside” left her with a deep knowing she was gifted life to heal her own past and present traumas and transcend those experiences to consciously journey with humanity and earth.

Monica served as a grief camp director, facilitator, coordinator of volunteer training, and consultant to the Solace Tree for 7 years and is now sharing her expertise throughout Northern Nevadan communities and schools, behavioral health organizations; teaching workshops, developing curriculum for all ages to provide creative solutions to drug, alcohol and other traumatic events through the use of sound healing, meditation circles, art, nature explorations and storytelling. Her services have been summoned from the business world, educational leaders, hospices, cancer centers, non-profit organizations, individuals and families experiencing emotional trauma and across intercontinental borders such as Nicaragua, Oaxaca, and Chiapas, Mexico.

Monica has received recognition from Reno’s Alliance for Victims Rights as “Outstanding Volunteer Advocate-Kind Heart Award” -2012; Solace Tree “Volunteer of the Year” -2008 -2011, “Staff of the Year” -2013; Sierra Nevada College “Student Leadership Award” -2005, among others.

Her collaborative partners have included the Boys and Girls Club, Red Cross, serving on their disaster action team, church groups building homes in Mexico, Circle of Life Hospice- “Heart and Film” series speaker, The Eddy House Reno’s homeless youth center, PBS Special “You’ll Always Be With Me” -2010, Washoe County School District transitioning youth of sex trafficking back in the schools and mental health first aid responder, Americorps, hunger relief efforts, and most recently appointed to the Board of Winnemucca Domestic Violence Services. She has also had the opportunity to volunteer for the Dougy Center and present at the National Grief Camp Conference “Healing Through
Collaborative Rituals” -2014. Her deep connection to the earth, spiritually, and infectious presence serve as the foundation of her being.

**Literature References:**


E-2. Are All Connected- Activities that Make an Impact

Whether you deliver support groups in a house, school, camp, or on top of a mountain, you will leave with icebreakers and symbolic activities that will connect you and your clients quickly and make a positive impact that they will carry away with them.

Learning Objectives:
1. Cite current literature on the importance of activities that build rapport quickly, with all ages
2. Identify at least 2 meaningful activities that result in normalizing feelings and fostering a positive coping outcome
3. Describe the skills and strategies that enhance the promotion of creating and facilitating effective tone setting for group settings

Presenter Information:
Jason Stout
jstout@outwardbound.org

For more than two decades, Jason’s work has centered around personal transformation. He has helped youth & adults find inner-strength and form connections, through physical, emotional, and nature-based challenges. After Jason's sister and father both died before age 15, Jason struggled to deal with the losses. As a young adult, he completed a 78 day Outward Bound Wilderness course, and discovered purpose; and through purpose, found healing.

He has since instructed courses for teens, created a wilderness program for grieving teens / young adults, which has been featured in Backpacker Magazine, the Denver Post, and Associated Press. He now serves as National Outreach Director for Outward Bound USA.

I have been facilitating icebreakers, team building, and grief group activities for teens, adults, and professionals since 2002. I used my experience building rapport with youth in the wilderness to connect and recruit them from high schools from across Colorado. I took what I learned as an Outward Bound staff and used it to break the ice and facilitate grief groups throughout Denver and then on Outward Bound for Grieving Teens and Young Adults. I have used this activity on in schools, grief programs, in the mountains, and I have taught it to professionals.

Literature References:
3. Stephenson, Bret 2006, From Boys to Men, Spiritual Rites of Passage in an Indulgent Age: Park Street Press
E3: Blue Butterfly Ball – Using Awareness Events to Provide Grief Education and Support in Your Community

The Drew Michael Taylor Foundation is located in a rural university town in Pennsylvania. Learn how the foundation, founded by two bereaved parents, collaborates with university and community entities to meet the needs of grieving children, teens and adults. We will demonstrate how grief theories provide the groundwork for grief awareness events that we use to provide grief education and support in our community, as well as increase attendance at our grief support programs. The main focus is our Blue Butterfly Ball that we created in November 2018 as an alternative to the many Daddy/Daughter dances held in our area.

Learning Objectives:
1. Recognize William Worden’s Four Tasks of Mourning, Stroebe and Schut’s Dual Process Model and Klass, Silverman and Nickman’s Continuing Bonds theory in the grief awareness events developed by the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation.
2. Describe at least 2 unique grief awareness events that provide a valuable resource that local counselors, therapists, schools, funeral directors and others can share
3. Describe how grief awareness events can be used to increase grief education and support in the community, and offer other event ideas that can be utilized

Presenter Information:
Allison E. Mahon, M.Ed., Ed.D. (candidate)
amship2012@gmail.com

Allison Mahon is the Program Coordinator for the Drew’s Hope grief support program for children, teens and families. She earned her M.Ed. with a Certification in K-12 School Counseling through Shippensburg University of PA and is an Elementary School Counselor. Allison also serves as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Grief and Loss Counseling and Counseling Children courses. Currently, she is pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Counseling Education and Supervision. Her research interests for her dissertation are children and families who have experienced a loss and improving counselor competency in the realm of grief and loss.

All of the presenters have worked with Drew Michael Taylor Foundation programs for several years and led a 2019 NAGC presentation entitled “Small Town, Small Budget – Big Impact!” Marcie Taylor is the co-founder of the DMTF who has been with the organization from the beginning. Allie Mahon has with the Drew's Hope grief support program since 2012 and moved into the role of Drew's Hope Program Coordinator in 2014. Bethany Gardner volunteered with the Drew's Hope program for several years, before being hired as the DMTF Center for Grieving Families Children/Family Workshop Coordinator and Administrative Assistant in 2017.

Allie Mahon (expertise): I am an elementary school guidance counselor and am currently pursuing my doctorate degree in Counselor Education and Supervision at Shippensburg University of PA. I presented on the topic of grieving students and how we can support them with interventions in the K-12 setting at the Western Maryland School Counseling Conference in September 2017 and the American School Counseling Association in July of 2018. The session provided school counselors with techniques and activities that could be used in individual and group settings and are aligned with Worden’s Four Tasks of Mourning.

Marcie Taylor (expertise): Marcie was a high school Spanish teacher for fifteen years, prior to co-founding the DMTF in 2007. Since her work with the DMTF began, she has presented information about the Drew's Hope program at the NAGC Symposium in 2011 and, she was the keynote speaker at the WITF Children & Grief Forum (June 2014), speaking
to community members and grief professionals at the WITF television studio in Harrisburg, PA. Additionally, she was the keynote speaker, leading two sessions at the Geisinger Hospice Bereaved Parents Retreat in Danville, PA in 2017 (the audience was bereaved parents and the hospice staff members in attendance). She most recently spoke at the PA Society of Medical Assistants conference on May 19, 2018, in Harrisburg, PA at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel.

Bethany Gardner (expertise): Bethany has led several children's grief workshops in her work as the DMTF Center for Grieving Families Children/Family Workshop Coordinator. Bethany also has six years of teaching experience in various classroom settings and has a Master’s degree in Counseling.

Marcie Taylor, M.Ed.
drewmichaeltaylor@pa.net

Marcie Taylor co-founded the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation with her husband, Randy, after the death of their three-year-old son in a June 2006 auto accident. Marcie retired from teaching to devote herself to the grieving families served through the foundation’s grief support programs. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the DMTF, serves as the Family Services Coordinator for the Drew's Hope grief support program, leads several adult grief support groups and speaks throughout South Central Pennsylvania on a variety of grief-related topics. Marcie obtained a Certificate in Thanatology from Hood College in Frederick, MD in 2012.

Our Children & Family Workshop coordinator, Bethany Gardner, will also be accompanying us.

**Literature References:**
E4: Healing Through Creativity, a New Arts and Writing Program for Bereaved Teens

For nearly one hundred years the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have inspired bold ideas in creative teens throughout the country. The New York Life Foundation Awards elevate the voices of bereaved teens and promote healing conversations around grief. These works of art and writing are outlets for self-expression and provide opportunities to be heard by others. For the first time these award-winning curated works will be exhibited throughout the country. Participants will explore how they can use the works of art and writing, and the discussion guide for their work with bereaved teens.

Learning Objectives:
1. State the significance of the arts and writing as tools to facilitate self-expression in bereaved teens.
2. Identify specific strategies, discussion questions and writing prompts for bereaved teens when responding to pieces of art and writing.
3. Explain how bereaved teens use images and words to describe their experiences with loss, grief and healing.

Presenter Information:
Donna Gaffney, DNSc, PMHCNS-BC
donnaagaffney@gmail.com

Donna Gaffney, psychotherapist and educator, has long addressed loss and grief in children’s lives. She developed discussion guides for YA books and for the NY Council for the Humanities’ 9/11 Community Conversation program. Donna designed “Growing Heroines”, an AAUW-funded bibliotherapy program, for NYC elementary school girls. After 9/11 Donna and author Joan Bauer co-led “Healing Through Writing” workshops for teens. She is the author of The Seasons of Grief, Helping Children Grow Through Loss and taught at Columbia University. Donna holds master’s degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University, Rutgers, and earned her doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania.

Donna Gaffney has presented at national conferences and workshops throughout her career. She has lectured on bibliotherapy and grief, writing, and literacy through photography with grieving children (NAGC 2019). Tendo Mutanda has presented at numerous conferences, exhibitions and facilitated workshops (NAGC 2019). Donna and Tendo and the Scholastic team, have facilitated sessions with artists and teens in museums and studios.

Tendo Mutanda, BA, MS
TMutanda@scholastic.com

Tendo Mutanda worked as a bilingual teacher for the NYC public school system working with elementary and middle school youth before transitioning to private educational settings abroad and in the U.S. continuing her work with English language learners. During her tenure, she was especially successful integrating creative arts into classroom instruction. After several years of teaching, she transitioned out of the classroom into program management. She currently serves as the Director of Programs & Partnerships at the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the nonprofit organization that presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

Literature References:
3. Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. (2019). Healing through creativity, an art and writing anthology and discussion guide. Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.


E5: Bigger, Bader, Bolder and Louder: What Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers are Trying to Tell You About Their Grief

Early loss of a primary attachment figure for infants, toddlers and preschool children are inherently complex and pervasive experiences, impacting a child’s experience over a lifetime. These youngest community members are highly vulnerable, often forgotten and lack emotional understanding and capacity to manage early grief on their own. This presentation will explore ways in which providers can develop an understanding for the use of practical trauma-informed perspectives to overlay within current programming models (peer support or clinical) to develop an environment that is conducive for healing to those who experienced early traumatic losses and enhancing healing experiences for all children.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify the significance of early attachment relationships as well as cornerstone cognitive, social, emotional and behavioral developmental milestones within a child’s first years of life

2. Identify skills to interpret children’s behaviors, including those considered difficult or highly challenging, as a justifiable communication of the child’s need for safety and security in the face of profound loss

3. Identify practical strategies, interventions and activities to overlay within current programming models to develop a more trauma-informed environment that assist in the development of adaptive functioning in early childhood following a traumatic event(s)

Presenter Information:
Patrick McKelvey
patrick.mckelvey@highmark.com

Patrick McKelvey earned his master’s degree in counseling psychology at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. A licensed professional counselor and nationally certified counselor, Patrick is the outreach and education coordinator and child grief specialist at the Highmark Caring Place in Pittsburgh, where he oversees peer support groups for grieving children and their families. Patrick works to heighten awareness of children’s grief through consultations and trainings for various groups. Previously, Patrick served as a program manager overseeing pediatric behavioral health programs specializing in evidenced-based trauma treatments for children in community and school-based settings. Additionally, Patrick is a rostered child-parent psychotherapy therapist.

Patrick McKelvey has over 7 years of presentation experience on the concepts of early childhood, attachment and trauma - including grief and loss.

Terri Bowling
terri.bowling@highmark.com

Terri Bowling is the Program Manager and a Child Grief Specialist at Highmark Caring Place in Lemoyne, PA. She has been working with grieving children and their families in various capacities for the past 16 years. Finding unique ways to reach children and families in need and to educate professionals about the needs of grieving children is a passion. Terri received her MS in Clinical Psychology from Millersville University and her BS in Psychology from Pennsylvania State University.
Literature References:


Patrick has provided training and professional development opportunities to thousands of mental health professionals, educators, community groups and child serving systems during his tenure. Recent conference and workshops have included:


Terri Bowling has over a decade of experience working with children and families in a variety of roles with experience presenting to a wide variety of stakeholders. Recent presentations include:


E6: Grief and Anxiety in Bereaved Children and Adolescents

Anxiety in bereaved children and adolescents is under studied and often overlooked. Yet, stress and anxiety are commonly present in grieving children. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control, in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, in the 1990s affirmed the impact that stress from adverse experiences has on the long-term health of children and adolescents. Though the original study did not include questions about childhood bereavement, focusing primarily on issues of abuse, neglect, and household changes, the death of a primary caregiver or close family member during childhood or adolescence is a highly stressful and anxiety-ridden experience. Children’s minds are not fully formed, making them vulnerable to the adverse effects of stress and anxiety after someone close to them dies. This presentation will discuss how anxiety and stress manifests in bereaved children and adolescents, putting them at risk for development disruption. We will look at factors that promote healthy growth and bolster against the negative effects of toxic stress and anxiety in bereaved children and adolescents. This presentation will also include ways to support bereaved children and adolescents who are experiencing anxiety and stress.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify how anxiety impacts bereaved children and adolescents, with examples
2. Identify best practices that support bereaved children and adolescents who are experiencing anxiety and stress
3. State the major findings of the Adverse Childhood Experiences study and the long-term implications of toxic stress on the lives of children into their adulthood

Presenter Information:
Pamela Gabbay, Ed.D.
Pamela.Gabbay@theSatoriGroup.org

Pamela Gabbay, Ed.D., FT, has been in the field of thanatology for more than 20 years, serving in a variety of roles including being the Director of The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children and Camp Erin, Palm Springs. Dr. Gabbay is the co-author, along with Andy McNiel, of Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals. She served as the President of the SoCal Chapter of ADEC and was on the Board of the NAGC. Dr. Gabbay is a co-founder of The Satori Group, a national education and consulting company, providing education to the end-of-life and bereavement fields.

Andy McNiel and I have presented nationally on numerous topics related to grief, children, and families for more than 20 years. We have both served in leadership positions running grief centers. Andy was the CEO of NAGC, and both of us served on the BOD of NAGC. Together, we co-wrote the book Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals.

Andy McNiel, M.A.
Andy.McNiel@theSatoriGroup.org

Andy McNiel, MA, is a co-founder and executive partner with The Satori Group, an education, management, and consulting company with emphasis on grief and loss. Andy served in leadership with The National Alliance for Grieving Children, The Amelia Center, and Treasure Health in South Florida. He is the co-author of Supporting and Understanding Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals. Andy is a trainer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He serves on the Board for the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) and is a member of the International Workgroup on Death, Dying, and Bereavement.
Literature References:


The purpose of this session is provide attendees with practical skills and knowledge regarding data collection for their organization. This session will assist attendees with developing their own research questions and identifying proper data collection tools and methods based upon their line of inquiry. This session will be open to those interested in quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method data collection. Opportunities for group discussion and collaboration will be included in this session.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Describe what is meant by qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method data collection
2. Identify strategies to formulate hypotheses and research questions
3. Demonstrate how to effectively implement a data collection strategy for their organization

**Presenter Information:**
Daniel Sheridan, Ph.D.  
daniel@childbereavement.org

Dr. Daniel Sheridan received his doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Miami. Dr. Sheridan is trained both clinical work and empirical research. Clinically, he has provided therapeutic support to children and adults in both individual and group settings. Dr. Sheridan is also a published author and invited presenter at both national conferences and community agencies within South Florida. As Chief Program Officer for the Children’s Bereavement Center, Dr. Sheridan is responsible for the CBC Peer Support Group Services, community outreach and training, and the dissemination of CBC outcome research.

I am licensed psychologist and obtained my doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Miami. This program utilized a scientist-practitioner model which emphasized empirical research informing clinical practice. Therefore, throughout my graduate studies, I was heavily involved in empirical research and have published several articles in peer-reviewed journals. As the Chief Program Officer for the Children's Bereavement Center, I am responsible for community education and research/data collection of our grief support groups.

**Literature References:**
Although the death of a child is a rare occurrence, the impact is great. Funeral homes offer a unique touch point of support, education, and advocacy for grieving families. From the initial point of contact to navigation through many difficult decisions, funeral professionals and staff shape the final moments and memories of a family and their community. This session shares lessons learned from an innovative project with healthcare providers, funeral professionals, and parents in developing guidelines for the emotional and complex responsibility of supporting a family and their community through the funeral experience following the death of a child. Join us for an engaging conversation with funeral professionals to understand funeral service options and for bereavement professionals to bring knowledge of memorialization activities unique to children to the funeral experience. Learn from the perspective of funeral professionals the needs of parents and how grief centers can build a system of support with healthcare providers and funeral professionals that enhances access to services following the death of a child.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify the unique challenges for teams, communities and the family in planning funerals after the death of a child
2. Describe funeral/memorialization ideas that are unique to a child death
3. Identify steps that promote relationships with hospitals, hospices and funeral homes to increase access to grief support

**Presenter Information:**
**Kristin R. James, M.S.**
kjames@gippcc.org

Kristin James, LCPC, currently coordinates the Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition and Child Loss Coalition of Chicago. She has specialized in working with families coping with illness, trauma and loss for over twenty five years. Kristin has provided clinical consultation and extensive training, advocacy and education to medical teams, community agencies, and school systems throughout the Chicagoland area. She is an experienced clinician and has provided individual, family, and group counseling. Kristin developed a benchmarked program for Pediatric Bereavement Care at Lurie Children's Hospital/Children's Memorial Hospital and is nationally recognized as an expert in grieving children and bereaved parents. She has also participated in and published numerous research studies. Ms. James received her Masters in counseling from Loyola University.

Kristin has over 20 years experience working with grieving children and families, and receives frequent requests from schools, hospitals, community organizations and grief centers to provide education and training. Please reference attached resume. This past year, Kristin has worked closely with funeral professionals, including attending their NAFD Women's Conference and International NAFD Conference to be hosted in Chicago (October 2020) to support healthcare providers, funeral professionals and grief centers in supporting communities impacted by the death of a child.

**Vicki Jay, Executive Director/NAGC**

Vicki Jay serves as CEO for the National Alliance for Grieving Children. Ms. Jay was founding director of Rays of Hope Children’s Grief Center in Midland Texas. Her nineteen-year hospice career included End-of-Life Community Education Director and ten years as Founder and Executive Director of Rays of Hope Children’s Grief Center. She is recognized for her role in children’s advocacy and for her strengths in public speaking and community education. Jay has received many awards and recognitions for her work with nonprofits and in the field of bereavement, including the National Jefferson Award for Community Service, a prestigious national recognition honoring community and public voluntarism in...
America. Recipients are “ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition.” A graduate of Texas Tech University, Jay currently resides in Midland, Texas. In addition to her professional and community roles, Jay cherishes her role of wife, mother, friend and recently “Nana.”

**Literature References:**
E9: Listening and Led by Youth: A Trauma-Informed Intervention for Grieving Youth in Foster Care

As children navigate their way through foster care, their lives are inundated with grief and loss. Many children in foster care are left alone to cope with their grief because the child welfare system often fails to recognize or acknowledge the losses that children experience. This presentation will discuss children’s experiences of death and non-death loss, introduce a new intervention for grieving youth in foster care (the L.Y.G.H.T. program), and share preliminary findings from the program’s implementation with youth, ages 12-16, in the foster care system.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. State the importance of addressing and acknowledging loss and grief for youth in foster care
2. Describe a new peer grief support program for youth experiencing death and non-death loss in foster care
3. Assess the needs, benefits, and challenges for implementing a peer grief support program in a child welfare community

**Presenter Information:**

Monique B. Mitchell, Ph.D.
monique@dougy.org

Monique B. Mitchell, PhD, FT has more than 15 years of experience serving grieving children. Her experience includes conducting child-centered translational research on the lived experience of grieving children and youth in foster care, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on grief and loss, and developing child-centered curricula to serve grieving children. Her specific expertise includes life transitions, grief and loss, trauma, ambiguity, and youth empowerment. Dr. Mitchell’s recent publications include, The Neglected Transition: Building a Relational Home for Children Entering Foster Care (2016) and Living in an Inspired World: Voices and Visions of Youth in Foster Care (2017).

Please see resume. The first presenter is a national trainer and has provided numerous keynote presentations nationwide on the lived experience of youth in foster care. Dr. Mitchell has more than 15 years of research and practice experience working with this youth population.

Juliette L. Martinez, MSW
juliette@dougy.org

Juliette earned her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice in 2017 and her Master of Science in Social work in 2019 from the University of South Carolina. Her education and career have always focused on her passion for working with children and families. She has experience running the L.Y.G.H.T. program, a loss and grief peer support group, at multiple group homes across the state of South Carolina. Juliette enjoys working with youth in foster care and feels it is a privilege to be a part of the helping profession that is dedicated to serve the young people of our future.

**Literature References:**


E10: Being “Culturally Conscientious”: Beyond Cultural Competence

The very diverse and unique nature of grief calls us to be innovative, progressive, and “culturally conscientious” (Bordere, 2009, 2016) in our approach within less resourced communities. This session will engage research and theories that hold promise for innovation and national and personal development around inclusive practice with children and communities of difference. Participants will engage and challenge perspectives on inclusion as a tool for building confidence and empowerment for themselves, and for the populations they serve.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Differentiate cultural competence and culturally conscientious practice and identify barriers to inclusion in programming and staff development
2. Identify at least 5 barriers to inclusive practice in communities of difference. And describe at least three approaches to clinical intervention with populations of difference.
3. Identify existing tools and techniques that engage and reflect communities of difference.

**Presenter Information:**
Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, FT
borderet@missouri.edu

Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, FT is an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science and State Specialist in Youth Development at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is past editor of the The Forum, and a past ADEC Board member. Dr. Bordere has done numerous workshops, consultations, trainings and publishes works relating to diversity and resilience through loss including a co-edited/co-authored book, Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief (Harris and Bordere, 2016). Her research areas include African American youth grief, coping, and homicide loss. She also developed S.H.E.D. Grief Education in the Schools.

**Literature References:**
F1: Crafting Your Organization's Culture

Culture has been called “the subtle, subterranean sense of how the work gets done.” All organizations have a culture—planned or not. Successful organizations have clearly articulated culture and values, and use them to attract, engage, and retain staff and volunteers. This session will explore how culture is built, the role of leaders in crafting culture, and how being purposeful about communicating the attributes of the desired culture contributes to successful teams.

Learning Objectives:
1. List the elements of organizational culture
2. Recognize and state the primary role of leaders in shaping and communicating culture
3. Describe the role of culture management in strategic planning and change management

Presenter Information:
Lara George, MPH
lara@christicenter.org

Lara George is the Executive Director of The Christi Center, which provides grief support for kids, teens, adults and professionals in Central Texas. She is a recent graduate of the Executive Master of Public Leadership program at the University of Texas at Austin's LBJ School of Public Affairs, and holds a bachelor's in cultural anthropology from Temple University.

My undergraduate focus on cultural anthropology focused my orientation to think about culture and the way it is transmitted. My master's program focused on organizational leadership, and culture provides a framework for how organizations are organized. I have presented this theory portion of this topic as a student at the LBJ School at UT Austin. I will integrate learned experience and practical application in shaping culture at The Christi Center in the presentation, as well as prior experiences in the nonprofit sector.

Literature References:
F2: Coping Circuit: Interval Coping Skills Training

Mirroring the concept of Interval Training, the Coping Circuit allows participants to create a series of tangible coping tools in quick bursts. Coping skills interventions are designed to help children learn how to handle stress and deal more competently with academic, interpersonal and physical demands in their environment (Forman, 1993). In this session, attendees will examine the materials, facilitation, and execution of creating six new coping skills to use across the ages with children and adolescents.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. List five coping skill categories to use with children and adolescents
2. Demonstrate and recreate an interactive Coping Circuit
3. Describe an interactive Coping Circuit and explain its role in the delivery of bereavement services to children

**Presenter Information:**
Samira Moosavi, CCLS
samira.moosavi@ehospice.org

Samira Moosavi, CCLS is the Children’s Group Coordinator at The Elizabeth Hospice. After spending the beginning of her career supporting families at end-of-life, Samira sought out opportunities in grief and loss. Her current role supports the comprehensive Children’s Bereavement Program: facilitating groups at two Children’s Grief Centers, providing crisis intervention and being on the leadership team of Camp Spero, the agency’s bereavement camp. Offering trainings to a range of professionals within the community on childhood bereavement is one of her passions. To compliment her toolbox of appropriate interventions, Samira is trained in complimentary modalities of yoga, Reiki and mindfulness. Samira has taken these insights and connected them into a tangible practice to support the needs of grieving children, teens and families.

As the Children’s Group Coordinator at The Elizabeth Hospice, Samira’s role extends to facilitate our children’s peer-based support groups along with supporting the leadership of Camp Spero. Teaching of coping skills are essential and foundational to both programs.

Jessica Porté, B.A.
Jessica.Porte@ehospice.org

Jessica Porté. B.A., has worked with children, teens and their families for almost a decade. As School Group Coordinator for The Elizabeth Hospice, she is part of a team that initiates, prepares and implements bereavement support programming to over 23 districts in the San Diego and Riverside County area. Her role also includes leadership with Camp Spero, the two annual grief camps. Jessica is still involved in her role of supporting children and teens impacted by a loved one’s substance use through Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, and has done presentations and trainings serving both vulnerable populations. She is a member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children and she volunteers as an advocate for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

**Literature References:**

F3: Rhode Island’s response to the opioid crisis: A dedicated night to loss through opioids & addictions

This workshop will discuss how Rhode Island has funded many opportunities for support and prevention in the opioid epidemic. FRIENDS WAY has launched a program night, dedicated to working with children, teens and families after a death, due to opioids and addictions. This workshop will explore how children and teens have expressed their feelings, coping skills and memories, while dealing with a stigma-related death. Training opportunities were made available to our volunteers, dedicated to this night and implementation will be discussed. Challenges and success stories will be discussed, as well as sustainability.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify specific needs, unique to those families who have experienced a death, due to opioids and addictions
2. Identify at least 3 grief specific expressive arts activities that aid in expression of feelings.
3. Identify common biases towards a stigma related death and how this affects the ability to facilitate

Presenter Information:
Ryan Loiselle, MSW, LICSW
r.loiselle@friendsway.org

Ryan Loiselle, LICSW, is the program director for FRIENDS WAY. In his role, Ryan manages the day-to-day operations including intake, referrals and community outreach, as well as supervising the volunteer facilitators.

Prior to joining FRIENDS WAY, he worked at Merrimack Valley Hospice with a concentration in pediatric palliative care and children’s bereavement.

Ryan studied at the University of Rhode Island and received his degree in Human Development and Family Studies, with a minor in Thanatology. He went on to Simmons College in Boston, MA and received his Master in Social Work.

I have been working in the field of children’s bereavement for 18 years and bring with me the knowledge and experience from the volunteer’s perspective as well as a program director. I have presented at many conferences over the last 8 years, under FRIENDS WAY and have worked with countless families affected by an opioid or substance related death. Many of our presentations offered explain our services at FRIENDS WAY, as well as targeted presentations, for school personnel (Cranston, RI & Warwick, RI, as well as Portsmouth, RI communities).

Literature References:
1. Heartbroken: Grief and Hope Inside the Opioid Crisis. (2019). Krohne, E; Ellis, M and Cuddleback, D.
F4: The Grief Journey and Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Often, Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ID) are not taught how to process their grief. Generally, we have seen in research Individuals with an ID are sheltered by not being told all the information of a death or are not given the opportunity to attend the grief ceremony. In this session we will examine strategies which can be used by individuals with an ID to process death and grief. We will explore group and therapy approaches and interventions. Finally, we will discuss ongoing grief and loss support for Individuals with an intellectual disabilities.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify at least 2 strategies which can be used by individuals with an ID to process death and grief
2. Articulate the benefits of group therapy approaches and interventions
3. Describe the unique challenges of providing ongoing grief and loss support for Individuals with an intellectual disabilities

Presenter Information:
Jordan Park, MS, LMFT-Candidate
jordan@calmwaters.org

Jordan Park, LMFT-C is the Assistant Program Director at Calm Waters, where she manages the organization’s grief and school support groups and provides therapy for individuals, couples, and families. She has a heart for working with families experiencing grief and trauma and enjoys teaching others about grief theory.

Jordan attended Oklahoma State University where she received a bachelor’s degree in Human Development and Family Sciences with a specialization in Child and Family Services as well as a Masters in Human Development and Family Sciences with a specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy.

During my undergraduate and graduate studies I spent time on a research grant team focused on identifying and measuring indicators related to the quality of life of individuals with an intellectual disability who were receiving services from the state of Oklahoma.

At Calm Waters, as the Assistant Program Director, I have been able to work with group participants with an Intellectual Disability and educate our volunteers on providing an inclusive environment at our center. We provide workplace crisis interventions and assistance to residents of group homes and their house and agency staff.

Literature References:
F5: Incorporating Fun Family Programming Into Your Grief Support Program

This informative presentation will explore creative family programming ideas for professionals working with bereaved families. We will discuss how these family activities can create special opportunities for remembrance and enhance your existing grief support program. Participants will identify ways to create a supportive environment for relationship building and develop interactive activities for grieving families. We will examine various types of family programming, such as themed family nights, family camps, and family collaborative art projects.

Learning Objectives:
1. Describe the benefits of incorporating family programming into existing programs
2. Identify at least 2 creative family program ideas
3. Describe the process of creating interactive family activities that fulfill client needs

Presenter Information:
Dana Minor
dana@thewarmplace.org

Dana Minor is the Program Director at The WARM Place, a grief support center for children, in Fort Worth, TX. She started at The WARM Place in 1994 and has served as a houseparent, facilitator, monitor, and group director. Dana has over 25 years of experience working in children's bereavement and began her work at El Tesoro de la Vida Grief Camp. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified School Counselor. Dana served on the Speaker's Bureau for the National Center for Youth Issues and teaches a variety of courses in the field of psychology at Tarrant County College.

Adjunct Instructor, Psychology - 2000-Present

Courses: General Psychology, Child Development, Life Span Growth and Development, Social Psychology, Human Relations, and Transition to College

Location: Tarrant County College, Southeast and Northwest Campuses (Texas)

Gina Brown
gina@thewarmplace.org

Gina Brown is a Group Director at The WARM Place, a grief support center for children, in Fort Worth, TX. Gina first came to The WARM Place in 2013 and has served as a group facilitator and monitor. She earned her B.A. in Psychology from Baylor University and her M.S. in Professional Counseling from Grand Canyon University. Gina is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has provided individual and group counseling services for both Alliance for Children and The Parenting Center.

Literature References:

F6: How to Listen So Kids Will Talk and Talk So Kids Will Listen: Training your Volunteers to Facilitate the Expression of Grief in Support Programs

In our highly evolved society, adults continue to struggle to be present with children who've experienced the death of someone close. Grief support groups who rely on volunteers are tasked with teaching them how to listen and respond to grieving children in a way that encourages a deeper expression of their grief and fosters resilience. In this workshop participants will learn intervention strategies to effectively facilitate grief groups or grief counseling sessions along with validated tools to use when training volunteers how to help kids with their narrative, identify safety concerns, and techniques for deepening the expression of grief.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify at least 2 specific tools to use when training volunteers to help kids deepen their expression of grief
2. Identify at least 2 strategies that help kids express their narrative about the death and it's impact on their life
3. Identify at least 2 tools beneficial for listening to children regarding suicidality, child abuse and substance abuse

Presenter Information:
Lauren Schneider, MSW, LCSW
lauren@ourhouse-grief.org

Lauren Schneider, LCSW
Clinical Director of Child and Adolescent Programs

Lauren, a nationally recognized expert on Child & Adolescent Grief, has directed the Children’s Programs for OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center for sixteen years. In that role Lauren provides training for mental health clinicians, educators, clergy, health care providers and graduate students throughout the community equipping them to work with grieving clients. Lauren is the author of "Children Grieve Too: A Handbook for Parents of Grieving Children" and writes on the topic of grief for on-line and print media. She also created “My Memory Book...for grieving children” as well as grief-related curricula for use at Camp Erin Los Angeles and in OUR HOUSE grief support groups. Lauren is the Associate Producer of “One Last Hug...and a few smooches” an Emmy award winning HBO documentary about Children’s Grief. Lauren is the recipient of the 2017 Dr. Michael Durfee Award and the 2014 H.U.G. award. In her free time Lauren enjoys playing with her grandsons, cooking and nature walks. Lauren maintains a private practice in Los Angeles specializing in grief and trauma.

I have been in charge of training volunteers at OUR HOUSE for over 16 years to lead grief groups and work at Camp Erin (10 years). In addition I train MSW interns and mental health clinicians in the community on the topic of Childhood Bereavement and Grief Counseling since 2000.

Literature References:
Cohen, Judith;
2. Doka, Kenneth, Editor. Living With Grief after Sudden Loss. Hospice, Foundation of America (1996)

Creating a warm and inviting environment for children to explore their thoughts and feelings surrounding loss is a key component to supporting bereaved children. Creating such an environment requires planning and a sensitive understanding of the child’s play world. Innovative spaces offer the child the ability to not only choose the space that he or she would like to utilize, but targets specific interventions and activities. Whether supporting bereaved children at a center or a program, this workshop will offer practical solutions in how to set up various themed rooms or areas. These include an art room, play hospital room, sand tray room/area, music area, volcano room, grief cave, puppet/theater room, and much more. We will discuss the physical settings, furnishings, and the specific items to outfit various rooms, along with visual images of unique spaces created by children’s bereavement centers across the country.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Articulate what constitutes a safe and inviting environment to support grieving children
2. Describe creative spaces that constitute an inviting environment to support grieving children
3. Describe innovative themed spaces that support grieving children

**Presenter Information:**

Pamela Gabbay, EdD, FT
pamela.gabbay@thesatorigroup.org

Pamela Gabbay, Ed.D., FT, has been in the field of thanatology for more than 20 years, serving in a variety of roles including being the Director of The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children and Camp Erin, Palm Springs. Dr. Gabbay is the co-author, along with Andy McNiel, of Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals. She served as the President of the SoCal Chapter of ADEC and was on the Board of the NAGC. Dr. Gabbay is a co-founder of The Satori Group, a national education and consulting company, providing education to the end-of-life and bereavement fields.

Lynn Snyder and I have presented nationally on numerous topics related to grief, children, and families for more than 20 years. We have both served in leadership positions running grief centers. I served on the BOD of NAGC.

Lynn Snyder, M.A.
Lynn@commongroundgriefcenter.org

Lynn M. Snyder, LPC, ATR-BC, FT is the Founder/Director of Common Ground Grief Center located in Manasquan, New Jersey. Lynn is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered, Board Certified Art Therapist, and a Fellow in Thanatology (the study of death, dying and bereavement) and has presented both locally and nationally on childhood bereavement. Lynn is a 2014 Women of Achievement Award recipient sponsored by the State Federation of Women’s Clubs and Douglas Residential College as well as a 2015 nominee for First Lady Mary Pat Christie’s New Jersey Heroes. Lynn also designed and taught a course on grief counseling for children at Monmouth University’s graduate mental health counseling program.

**Literature References:**
F8: Exploring Resilience-Focused Therapeutic Songwriting for Adolescents who are Grieving

Sometimes it can be difficult to articulate thoughts and feelings in relation to grief and loss. Therapeutic songwriting is a music therapy intervention that offers ways for adolescents to creatively engage in verbal and non-verbal emotional expression and grief processing. The Resilience Songwriting Program is a newly developed group program designed to nurture one’s inner resources and promote resilient adaptation to bereavement. Come learn about the program as well as findings from a mixed methods study evaluating it.

Learning Objectives:
1. List at least 2 ways that adolescents typically use music in their lives
2. Identify at least 2 processes in therapeutic songwriting aimed at promoting coping, self-esteem, emotional expression, and/or meaning making
3. Identify reasons for integrating quantitative and qualitative research approaches when piloting a new intervention or program

Presenter Information:
Katherine Myers-Coffman, PhD, MT-BC
kam635@drexel.edu

Katherine Myers-Coffman, PhD, MT-BC is a Board-Certified Music Therapist and Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies at Drexel University. Her clinical work and research focus on developing and evaluating strength-based music therapy interventions for youth who have experienced trauma and loss. Dr. Myers-Coffman has presented her work nationally and internationally and has published articles in a number of journals, including The Nordic Journal of Music Therapy, Music Therapy Perspectives, and The International Journal of Qualitative Studies on Health and Wellbeing.

I have been practicing music therapy for almost nine years, six of which have focused on working with youth in trauma and/or grief contexts. I developed the Resilience Songwriting Program for Adolescent Bereavement as part of my dissertation research. In addition to my postdoctoral research position, I serve as adjunct faculty in Drexel University’s Master in Music Therapy and Counseling program and am on faculty at the BuildaBridge Restorative Arts Institute, which trains educators, therapists, and artists in trauma-informed therapeutic art-making. I have presented on my clinical work and research regionally, nationally, and internationally, the most recent presentation being, “The BuildaBridge Safe Spaces Model: A Trauma-Informed, Community Arts Model” to an interdisciplinary audience at the Third Annual Philadelphia Trauma Training Conference.

Literature References:
   https://doi.org/10.1080/08098131.2019.1642373


F9: Counseling Children Following Mass Violence

As mass violence increases, so does the need for specialized trauma-focused grief services for children. Treatment and interventions for trauma caused by mass violence will be explored through case study and research to equip mental health professionals with tools to treat traumatized, bereaved youth and their families.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Explain complicated grief and trauma associated with mass violence
2. Identify specific interventions for counseling children following mass violence based on client need
3. Describe the key need to recognizing ongoing trauma, unprocessed grief and retraumatization in mass violence counseling of children

**Presenter Information:**
Ashley Jesse, MA, LPC-S
ajesse@palomaplace.org

Ashley Jesse, MA, LPC-S is Program Director for Paloma Place, a satellite office of the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, where she is a therapist working with children affected by the Sutherland Springs tragedy. She is a member of the Sutherland Springs Collaborative, a coalition of agencies working together to aid victims. She specializes in trauma, grief, anxiety, and Depression using EMDR, CBT, play and sandtray therapy, and group therapy. She has over twelve years of experience in the mental health field and received her Master of Arts degree in 2006 from Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA.

Ashley Jesse and Kim Fox are counselors for Paloma Place, a collaboration of The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas (CBCST) and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and supported by the Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. Paloma Place counselors provide therapeutic services to children, families, and the community after the mass violence at the Sutherland Springs Baptist Church in 2017. Kim Fox has prior presentation experience at NAGC and other organizations (see CVs). Ashley Jesse has been a guest on Texas Public Radio with David Martin Davies discussing mass violence and its effect on children and communities. She also has experience presenting on mass violence, trauma, and grief and loss for local civic organizations and community members.

Kimberly Fox, M.A., LPC, NCC
kfox@palomaplace.org

Kimberly Fox, MA, LPC, RPT (pending). Kim is a full-time counselor at Paloma Place, a satellite office of The Children’s Bereavement Center of South Texas. Her passion is working with underserved youth. Through her education at Texas State University and work with the Children’s Bereavement Center of South Texas, she utilizes Play Therapy, Solution Focused, and Choice based therapies and specializes in depression, anxiety, trauma, and complex, traumatic grief. With a background in improvisational theater and art, she incorporates intense therapeutic work through play with her clients.

**Literature References:**

F10: Active Inclusion in Children’s Grief Programming

This fun and experiential training will offer a new lens to view work with underserved populations, to include activities (Alexander Layne & Williams, 2013), cultivating peer support, inclusive and resonant facilitation skill building, and empowerment focused family-based group and processing considerations. Together we will explore an inclusion framework for a 21st century approach to reach across divides to make healing connections in community grief, loss and trauma.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify at least 2 sustainable community and programmatic interventions with youth of difference
2. Describe at least 3 approaches to clinical intervention with populations of difference
3. Identify at least 2 responsive and resonant activities that promote inclusive programming

Presenter Information:
Alesia K. Alexander, LCSW, CT
alesialcsw@comcast.net

Alesia K. Alexander, LCSW, CT is a passionate, and spirited advocate for young people and communities. Ms. Alexander’s work over the last two decades has focused on inclusive practice, children and teens in school and community settings, specifically with children and teens that have lost a loved one to death. A licensed clinical social worker in Florida, Georgia, and Virginia, she has served as consultant to grief and loss centers across the nation on loss and inclusive practice. She is a former member of the Board of Directors for The National Alliance for Grieving Children. Ms. Alexander is a regular presenter and trainer regionally, nationally and internationally on grief, loss, inclusion, and at-risk youth development. She is the author of four resources for grieving children and communities. Tapestries: A Creative & Inclusive Approach to Grief Support for Youth & Communities (2013), Dream Clouds (2011), Un Mural Para Mamita/A Mural for Mamita (2001), Sunflowers & Rainbows for Tia: Saying Goodbye to Daddy (1999).

Literature References:
G1: Filling the Well: Increasing Volunteer Retention and Longevity of Your Volunteer Program Through Personal Loss History Exploration and Self-care

This presentation emphasizes how self-care and exploring one’s personal loss history positively impacts a volunteer-driven organization servicing grieving children and families. Good self-care for volunteers increases a volunteer’s ability to support those who are grieving, evidenced by retention rates and volunteer feedback. Loss history exploration allows volunteers to discover their readiness to support grieving children and works to prevent burnout. Research supports the importance of building self-care rituals for volunteers from the recruitment stage, through training and beyond as done at the Highmark Caring Place, a Center for Grieving Children, Adolescents and Their Families—a program with four facilities across Pennsylvania.

Learning Objectives:
1. Explain the role of self-care and personal loss exploration in a volunteer-driven peer support program
2. Identify three self-care techniques that can be implemented for volunteers supporting grieving children.
3. Identify at least 2 ongoing effective self-care strategies for diverse volunteer populations that will promote longevity for volunteers.

Presenter Information:
Meghan O'Mahoney, M.S., Ed., CT
meghan.omahoney@highmark.com

Meghan O'Mahoney, M.S., Ed., CT is the volunteer services coordinator, child grief specialist at Highmark Caring Place, Warrendale. For the past eleven years, Meghan has built a volunteer team of over 200 volunteers. She is responsible for recruiting, training, and placing volunteers in a variety of roles in addition to coordinating events to recognize her team. Meghan oversees the facilitation of peer support groups for children and teens ages 0-18 and adults who have suffered the death of a loved one. Prior to her work at the Caring Place, Meghan worked in the mental health/drug and alcohol field for 12 years. Meghan earned her Master of Science in education from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA and became Certified in Thanatology in 2017. Meghan is currently a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and the NAGC, PA Association for Volunteer Healthcare Resource Professionals, and Volunteer Administrators of Southwest PA. In her spare time, Meghan enjoys walking, yoga, and traveling.

I have been the Volunteer Services Coordinator/ Child Grief Specialist for the past 11 years at the Highmark Caring Place in Warrendale, PA. It is my primary responsibility to recruit, train, place and supervise the volunteers at the facility. Currently, I manage a team of over 200 volunteers. The volunteers fulfill a variety of roles including peer support group facilitators for children ages 0-18 and adults, food servers, greeters, quilting/sewing, special events, and special projects.

The training provided to incoming volunteers covers topics on active listening, group process, group facilitation, safety, boundaries, child development and grief, team building, Grief Spiral model, Reconciliation Needs or Tasks of Grief. I conducted training on all of these topics twice annually for the past 11 years.

The Highmark Caring Place has built-in self-care components in its programming from the recruitment stage throughout a volunteer’s service. Those components contribute to longevity as there are several volunteers with 15 or more years of experience across all four sites of the Highmark Caring Place.
Literature References:


G2: Pets as Partners: Integrating Pet-Assisted Activities in Grief and Loss Family Peer Support Services

The diagnosis of a life-impacting illness impacts all members of the family. The Center for Grieving Children’s Tender Living Care (TLC) Program utilizes family peer support model to provide social and emotional support for children and adults affected by serious illness.

Recognizing research supporting the effectiveness of pet-assisted activities as complementary technique in reducing anxiety and depression, the Center initiated a pilot integrating certified therapy dog with TLC peer support programming.

We will identify potential hurdles, strategies to minimize disruption, and ways to incorporate art and literature in programming. Included will be benefits derived from the experience for children and adults.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify opportunities and barriers to utilize pet-assisted activities in grief/bereavement programs
2. Identify pet-partnering strategies to enhance emotional regulation in children and adults experiencing grief and loss
3. Identify additional techniques and resources that enhance contact time between therapy dog and participants

Presenter Information:
Diana Stark, M.S., LCPC
diana@cgcmaine.org

Diana Stark, LCPC, Tender Living Care Program Coordinator at the Center for Grieving Children, is responsible for engaging with families who are experiencing life-impacting illness, managing volunteer facilitators, and raising community awareness about children’s grief issues and CGC services. Diana also assists with the Center’s Facilitator Training, Bereavement and Intercultural Programs.

Diana works with families facing serious illness and loss in her time at the Center, and in her private counseling practice. She holds a BA in Art History from Colorado College and MS in Counseling with an area of expertise in family systems from the University of Southern Maine.

Diana Stark has in-depth experience in issues of grief and loss and childhood development. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, and integrates trauma informed practice with Family Systems, Poly-Vagal Theory, Person Centered, and Play Therapy in her work.

In Diana’s role at the Center for Grieving Children she engages with parents, clinicians, medical partners, and volunteer facilitators to support children through interventions such as reflective listening, emotional regulation techniques, modeling healthy coping skills, and providing opportunity for expressive and physical activity. Over the past year Diana has been the lead Center staff in planning, implementing, and evaluating pet-assisted integration pilot in the Tender Living Care Program.

Florence Young, MSW, LCSW
florence@cgcmaine.org

Florence Young, LCSW, is the Director of Programs at the Center for Grieving Children and is responsible for the Center’s program delivery including ensuring excellent care and service for families, high quality support and training for volunteers, program planning, implementation, and evaluation.
Florence brings extensive experience in serving individuals and families in our community, including working with youth and families experiencing trauma, poverty, mental illness, and substance use disorder. Florence graduated from University of New England’s MSW program and currently sits on the UNE School of Social Work Community Advisory Committee.

Florence Young has many years of clinical and community experience working with vulnerable children, individuals and families. This includes providing and overseeing clinical and case management services in settings serving those experiencing serious mental illness, substance use disorder, homelessness, and trauma. Florence has also provided clinical and peer support services with foster and adoptive children and families.

Florence has lead a number of community collaborative efforts in the Greater Portland area and across Maine. The focus of the collaborations have included supporting families at risk of child welfare intervention, building family financial stability, and promoting collaboration and coordination of school systems and community partners to increase K-12 school success.

**Literature References:**


Community collaborations can provide a rich environment for program design and development while serving unmet needs of the community. At the same time, they can be challenging when individual agency priorities and needs intersect and potentially conflict.

In our mission to create a comprehensive network of support for families before, during, and after the death of a child, we learned to navigate the challenges of working within multiple organizations with distinct missions and identities.

Presenters will share how they prepared for and navigated the difficulties of a multi-agency collaboration and the successes and failures along the way.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify at least 2 challenges of multi-organization collaborations
2. Identify appropriate techniques to work through obstacles and challenges
3. Identify key leadership roles to maintain focus on long term objectives

**Presenter Information:**

**Amanda Sahli, MS, MFT – Presenting**
asahli@phoenixchildrens.org

Amanda is the Bereavement Coordinator at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and the Pediatric Bereavement Counselor for Hospice of the Valley. She has worked in grief and loss for her thirteen-year career as a marriage and family counselor and child therapist. Amanda is Phoenix native and avid University of Arizona hockey fan. In her down time, she enjoys cuddling with her two cats and dog, and boyfriend (Hotchy) while binge watching Netflix or reading non-grief related books. She is passionate about supporting grieving families as well as educating clinicians and the community about how to care for and support grieving people.

**Lisa E. Schmitt**
lschmitt@newsongcenter.org

Lisa joined the New Song staff in 2001 after serving three years on the board of directors and brings a background in PR, marketing and advertising. Asking “What if?” and “What’s next?” are her favorite questions to pose to her colleagues as they meet the needs of grieving children and families. She enjoys playing with her pups and flexing her thumb in her garden. Designing and sewing classical ballet costumes and wedding gowns, singing in her Church choir or hiking the mountain trails, keep her busy. Her favorite of all is spending time with family, and especially her first grandchild Charlotte.

**Literature References:**
3. 5 Tips for Nonprofit collaborations, National Council of Non-Profits, Sept. 2016 Chandler, Jennifer, posted in Collaboration

Below are references for the content of our collaboration, relating to grief following the death of a child.


G4: Grief in the Workplace: What returning to work means for the griever, co-workers and management

Over 30 million people grieve daily the loss of someone close. Following a loss of a loved one or receiving a terminal diagnosis, returning to the workforce creates an array of challenges. As griever return to work, both managers and co-workers are in search of ideas to embrace the bereaved while maintaining business as usual. This workshop will provide agencies/individuals with the appropriate tools to guide the company through the challenges while building alliances in the community in support of the agencies mission.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Illustrate the dynamics of griever entering the workplace and the challenges of the community supporting this griever population
2. Examine specific characteristics of grief associated with the challenges of an anticipatory loss of an employee.
3. Examine case examples of real-life challenges that have occurred in the workplace as a result of a death to improve future outcomes for the co-workers and management

**Presenter Information:**
Rachel Kodanaz, BS
Rachel@rachellkonaz.com

Rachel has traveled her own journey of loss, overcoming adversary following the sudden death of her husband, leaving her with a two-year-old daughter coupled with her experience in the management of large corporations has provided her insight to the challenges associated with loss in the workplace.

Rachel speaks nationally to organizations, has published numerous articles, books and blogs and has appeared on Good Morning America. Her books, best-seller Living with Loss One Day at a Time, Grief in the Workplace: A Comprehensive Guide for Being Prepared and her latest Finding Peace, One Piece at a Time have received international acclaim.

I have been writing and presenting on Grief in the Workplace for 20+ years. The original material was developed based on personal experience of widowhood while in a management role at a Fortune 100 company. Over the years, the material has been updated based on experience, research, corporate input and griever feedback. I have presented to a variety of audiences including conferences/symposiums, corporate HR and company workgroups. A variety of titles supporting the workplace, families, communities. www.rachellkonaz.com

**Literature References:**
2. Book: Kodanaz, R (2013), Living with Loss One Day at a Time, Fulcrum Publishing

Blogs & Podcast: Numerous, available upon request or www.rachellkonaz.com


G5: When words are not enough: Art Therapy and Music Therapy with Bereaved Children. Helping children to integrate grief and loss through creativity.

This presentation will engage the conference attendees in an experiential workshop on how Avow Hospice (Naples, Florida) has integrated Art Therapy and Music Therapy in the children’s bereavement department. At Avow, Art and Music Therapists have been integral to children processing grief and loss in addition to standard verbal processing techniques for grief. Conference attendees will experience art and music interventions during workshop and will learn how clinical disciplines of art and music therapy help with grief processing. Examples of art and music activities for therapists in non-creative arts disciplines will be presented showing how these activities can be used to enhance children's bereavement support by all clinicians for grief support.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify 2 ways that art therapy can be used to help children and teens process and cope with grief and loss
2. Identify 2 ways that music therapy can be used to help children and teens process and cope with grief and loss
3. Describe 3 art and music activities that can be used with bereaved clients without being an creative arts therapists

Presenter Information:
Jenni Ford, M.S., ATR-BC
jenni.ford@avowcares.org

Jenni Ford is a board certified art therapist and licensed professional counselor license in the state of Illinois. She has worked an art therapist for the past 11 years. Jenni has worked across the lifespan using art therapy with clients from age 5 to 100. Jenni is the art therapist at Avow Hospice in Naples Florida. She serves in both the children’s bereavement department, Avow Kids, as well as with hospice clients and families. Jenni has presented at the Illinois art therapy conference and Sustaining Innovation Art Therapy Conference. She is also continues her own art and recently donated a mural to Avow Hospice Children’s Bereavement free standing center (Aunt Janet’s House).

Jenni has over 11 years of art therapy experience and has presented at the Illinois art therapy conference and Miami art therapy conference in the past. She has also supervised interns and art therapists when they are gaining clinical hours for art therapist registration and clinical licenses. Jenni has also lead workshops on using art for self care and emotional expression. Jillian is a board certified music therapist has experience presenting about music therapy at Southwest Florida’s HPNA chapter. Additionally, she helps to educate local community programs about using music for self-care, emotional expression, and general wellness. Jenni also continues to present to Avow staff and community partners about the benefits of music therapy during the year.

Jillian Iurlano MT-BC
Jillian.Iurlano@avowcares.org

Jillian Iurlano is a board-certified music therapist for Avow Hospice Inc. in Naples, Florida. In 2018, Jillian obtained her M.S. in Music Therapy from Baldwin Wallace University after completion of her internship at Trustbridge Inc. At Avow, Jillian works alongside a complementary therapies team to meet the bereavement needs of children and teens, as well as psycho-social, spiritual and physiological needs of hospice patients. She assists children’s counselors in integrating music to help children process through grief and gain important coping skills. She enjoys her involvement in the many day camps, annual overnight camps, and groups that AvowKids has to offer. Jillian has experience presenting about music therapy at Southwest Florida’s HPNA chapter. Additionally, she helps to educate local community programs about using music for self-care, emotional expression, and general wellness. Jillian is very passionate about how music therapy brings comfort and support to those in need.
Literature References:


Mounting evidence suggests that the practice of mindfulness and meditation is good for body, mind and spirit and is essential in fostering wellness. Learn how to integrate simple practices into group or individual time. We have the onus to invest in self care for our own well-being which allows us to better assist our clients. Join us in beginning to slow down for some mindful moments and take some time for you! YOU ARE WORTH IT!

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Demonstrate an increased awareness of the use of mindfulness to care for themselves and help to prevent / address caregiver burnout
2. Describe the implementation of mindfulness based strategies that can be incorporated into groups or individual sessions
3. Identify at least 2 techniques that can be used to find inner stillness and prevent stress and burnout

**Presenter Information:**
Deborah L. Bauer-Brooks, M.S.
deborah@suncoastkidsplace.org

Deborah Brooks is the Director of Suncoast Kids Place ("SKP"), A Center for Grieving Children, Teens and Families. Recently, Deborah achieved success internationally, spearheading an ultimately successful effort to open SKP Africa, which is now actively providing childrens' grief services at a brand new location in Tanzania. Through her work with children at SKP, Deborah provides critical help to children impacted by death, while effectively advocating in community and corporate settings to raise awareness for this vulnerable group.

Deborah also operates a private practice in psychotherapy, specializing in anxiety, grief and loss, and corporate wellness. Deborah holds a Masters Degree as a Mental Health Counselor, is a Certified Thanatologist and is trained in Accelerated Resolution Therapy (ART), and is currently working on specializing in ADD/ADHD. I am dedicated to the practice of self care and continue to modify and incorporate what I value and find enjoyment and peace into my daily routine. I have practiced yoga for 20 years and within the last 3 years began to incorporate meditation and mindfulness practice into support groups, therapy and my private life.

**Literature References:**
G7: When a Friend Dies- Clinical Considerations in Supporting Youth After a Peer Death

When we are young, we believe we are invincible, that death is reserved for older people and is far removed from us. It is a shattering realization for children when death comes to visit and takes a friend. The aftermath of a peer death can be precarious, and the surviving friends and classmates require unique support and understanding. This presentation will explore the clinical considerations of working with youth in a group setting after their friend's death, provide insight into lessons learned in providing such support in schools, and present ideas and activities that will resonate with this population.

Learning Objectives:
1. Identify the unique qualities of youth experiencing a peer death and what may differentiate it from other death experiences
2. Identify key components of forming and facilitating a grief support group for youth after a friend has died
3. Name at least 2 activities they can utilize in grief support groups for youth experiencing a peer death in their own communities.

Presenter Information:
Meghan Szafran, M.S., LPC, CT
meghan@upliftphillyph.org

Meghan Szafran, MS, LPC, CT has extensive experience working with children, specializing in addiction, trauma, and grief. She has been with Uplift Center for Grieving Children since January 2015 as the Director of School & Community Services where she oversees school and community grief groups in over 130 Philadelphia schools. She provides training and post-crisis support to schools, often after the sudden death of a student. Meghan received her Masters of Science in Counseling Psychology with certification in Trauma Studies from Chestnut Hill College and is a licensed counselor. She is passionate about her work to support grieving children.

I have presented numerous times to various audiences, but not this specific presentation. This presentation is new and has come out of an abundance of experience leading grief support groups in schools for peer groups after another friend has suddenly died. I have found this specific group of bereaved individuals to be in need of support and for that support to be lacking.

Some highlights of other presentations I have given include:

2018 National Alliance for Grieving Children Fall Conference, “Partnering With Schools to Support Grieving Students,” Princeton, NJ

2018 National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium, “Using a Movement Based- Approach with Survivors of Homicide,” San Antonio, TX

2018 Cambria/Somerset Victim Services Agency Staff 3-Day Training, “Bringing Grief Support Groups to your Community” (Johnstown, PA)

2017 Greater Philadelphia Trauma Conference, “Supporting Grieving Students in the Classroom” & “Understanding Childrens’ Bereavement”

2017- Congreso Clinician Training, “Supporting Grieving Children While Caring for Yourself”, Philadelphia
2016- Juvenile Justice Services Center of Philadelphia, Six Week Training Series “Understanding Childrens’ Bereavement in a Residential Setting”

**Literature References:**


G8: Using Narrative Expression with Families Who Have Experienced Trauma and Grief

This workshop will address the importance of providing safe spaces for families to address their experiences of trauma and grief and explore creative techniques and formats for families to develop narratives of their experiences. Studies show that art can relieve stress and many cultures use artist expression as a way of healing. Narrative Identity Theory posits that how people tell their stories may predict particular outcomes, including quality of life. When children are able to hear and tell their stories, it gives them resources.

Learning Objectives:
1. Explain how narrative techniques can help improve outcomes for children and families
2. Identify the importance of providing safe spaces for families who have experienced loss
3. Identify at least 2 creative techniques to assist families with developing narratives for their experiences

Presenter Information:
Angelle Richardson
angelle.richardson@jefferson.edu

Angelle E. Richardson, Ph.D., LPC, is an Assistant Professor, in the Community and Trauma Counseling Program at Thomas Jefferson University and maintains a part-time private practice. She holds a Doctorate in Couple and Family Therapy from Drexel University, a Master’s in Counseling from Rider University, and is a licensed professional counselor. For over 14 years, Dr. Richardson has worked with families who have been affected by loss, specializing in adoption, foster care, grief and trauma.

For over 14 years I have worked with families who have experienced trauma and loss in various ways. I have used narrative techniques in practice with individuals, families and groups and have found it a beneficial tool for expressing grief, especially when words do not always come easily.


Richardson, A. (April, 2019). Supporting Resilience in Families Who Have Experienced Trauma in Adoption or Foster Care Through Narrative Expression. 30th Annual PHENND Trauma and Arts Conference. Philadelphia, PA.


Richardson, A. (February, 2019). Working with Families of Color. Rowan University Faculty and Staff Workshop, Sponsored by U Good F.A.M. Glassboro, NJ.


Gloucester, NJ.


Literature References:


G9: ACKNOWLEDGING ANTICIPATORY GRIEF: Empowering families and caregivers of seriously ill children with language and resources to help them find their way

A serious illness diagnosis in a child threatens the emotional and physical well-being of the entire family, including siblings, parents and caregivers. Anticipatory grief (AG) is a natural response. However, AG is poorly understood -- by the parent/caregivers and often by providers who focus on the underlying medical condition but not the accompanying grief. This lack of understanding results in an unarticulated and unmet need. This session will provide attendees with a framework for understanding AG, including how it manifests, and discuss specific resources to offer families to help them cope. Its goal is to help providers be more comfortable with, available to and supportive of families of seriously ill children.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Describe and explain “Anticipatory Grief”
2. Explain how anticipating their child’s death threatens a parent’s sense of identity and may influence medical decision-making and family coping
3. Identify at least 3 ways, including concrete tools, to support parents and children experiencing grief upon a life-threatening diagnosis or a shift in prognosis

**Presenter Information:**

Oralea Marquardt, MSW
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Oralea Marquardt is a Grief Counselor at Treasure Coast Hospice. After Oralea’s son, William, died from a rare disease in 2014, Oralea earned her MSW from Walden University, concentrating her studies in medical social work practice, palliative care, and grief and loss. Since 2007, Oralea has been involved in the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases organization as a family member, mentor, chair of family services, and is presently serving as Vice President. Oralea also serves on the advisory board for the Matthew Forbes Romer Foundation, assisting in developing nursing school training programs that simulate in-home pediatric care and delivering lectures about the psychosocial impact of illness on the family system. Since 2014, Oralea has been a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine’s Parent Advisory Group. She has authored articles for AAP’s Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine and for Courageous Parents Network. Oralea lives in Florida with her husband and two children.

Oralea Marquardt, MSW has been working as a grief counselor with Treasure Coast Hospice in its Good Grief program since 2017. Her role includes providing anticipatory grief support to children whose family member is receiving hospice care, including pediatric patients. During her MSW program, Oralea interned in Treasure Coast Hospice’s Little Treasures Pediatric Palliative and Hospice Care Program, providing counseling to pediatric patients and their families. Oralea’s expertise in the area of anticipatory grief and bereavement stems from her personal knowledge of having a child with a terminal illness, parenting healthy siblings who experienced the illness and death of their brother, and through her 12 years of being engaged with families throughout the world who have a child diagnosed with a life-limiting disease. Oralea has served on various patient advocacy committees, advisory boards, and board of directors of patient groups to enhance the care provided to children living with life-limiting illness and their families. Oralea has presented on the topics of anticipatory grief and the psychosocial impacts of illness since 2012 in a variety of settings and for audiences that include families and health care professionals. Oralea co-presented, "Children and Grief" to mental health professionals and community agencies working with children and families in St. Lucie County, Florida. The focus of her portion of the presentation was on anticipatory grief and the sibling experience.
Blyth Lord's daughter and nephew were diagnosed with infantile Tay-Sachs disease in 1999 and died 12-18 months later, during which time Blyth became personally versed in anticipatory grief. Years later, Blyth transformed her own experience and her growing expertise in the field of pediatric palliative care, and founded Courageous Parents Network - a Web-based educational platform for parents and providers caring for seriously ill children that includes more than 500 short videos of parents and providers framing the lived family experience. Blyth has sat with more than 100 families -- including siblings -- of seriously ill children, capturing their perspective and feelings on anticipatory grief, among other things, to orient and help new families understand their feelings, and to educate providers. Blyth has a Masters in Educational Technology. Blyth also trained at and served as a parent facilitator for 5 years at The Children's Room, a bereavement program for children and families. Courageous Parents Network is recognized by a growing number of pediatric providers nationwide as a definitive and credible voice for the experience and needs of families of children living with serious illness.

Blyth Lord, Ed.M.
blord@courageousparentsnetwork.org

Blyth Lord is the founder and Executive Director of COURAGEOUS PARENTS NETWORK, a nonprofit Web and Mobile platform that empowers parents caring for children with serious illness, including the promotion of pediatric palliative care. Blyth’s daughter, Cameron, died of Tay-Sachs disease in 2001. Blyth is also co-chair of the of the AAP’s Section on Hospice and Palliative Medicine’s Parent Advisory Group. Prior to founding Courageous Parents Network, Blyth worked for over 20 years as a television producer, including at WGBH in Boston, and ABC News in Washington, and she produced the award-winning film, Cameron’s Arc, with the American Academy of Pediatrics to educate primary care pediatricians in working with families from the time of diagnosis through to the end-of-life. Blyth is also a trustee of the Cameron and Hayden Lord Foundation which funds pediatric palliative care research and medical research for treatments of lysosomal storage diseases. Blyth received her BA in History from Yale College, has a Masters in Education from Harvard, and lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two daughters.

Literature References:

G10: YOUTH AND FUNERALS: Your role in preparing families for meaningful memorialization

The death of a loved one is a painful and often overwhelming experience at any age, but for children it may be confusing or scary if they are not given honest information or are left out of the funeral and memorialization process. Using the Youth & Funerals initiative as the foundation, we will explore the important role funerals and memorialization play in the lives of grieving youth, and how the tools and resources available to you can help you build meaningful relationships with the families and communities you serve.

Learning Objectives:
1. Explain the important role memorialization and rituals play in the lives of grieving youth
2. Identify and debunk the common myths surrounding youth attendance at funerals
3. Identify at least 2 ways to include children and families in funeral and memorialization

Presenter Information:
Kelly Manion, B.A.

Kelly Manion has spent nearly 20 years immersed in mission-driven work. She has served organizations in the arts and higher education communities, and for the last six years has served the funeral service profession through her role as the Director of Communication for the Funeral Service Foundation. In her work, Kelly carries out the Foundation’s vision of an improved end-of-life experience for families and their loved ones by promoting the value of funerals and memorialization to organizations across the end-of-life continuum, and helping funeral professionals build meaningful relationships within their communities. Kelly was instrumental in creating resources for the Foundation’s highly regarded Youth & Funerals initiative. Launched in 2018, hundreds of firms and organizations across the country and around the globe use the resources to help families and communities understand the important role funerals and memorialization play in the lives of grieving youth.

Literature References: