



NO CHILD GRIEVES ALONE

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Host Support Guide

With thanks to our funding partner:



**NEW YORK LIFE
FOUNDATION**

About the No Child Grieves Alone Conference in a Box

The National Alliance for Children's Grief (NACG) completed our inaugural six-state Regional Conference tour entitled "No Child Grieves Alone" in 2022. Thanks to the support of our host members in bereavement centers across the United States and our funding partner, the [New York Life Foundation](#), we supported communities in building back after the tremendous losses and isolation following the COVID-19 pandemic. Three leading voices in the field of childhood bereavement, Dr. Tashel Bordere, Dr. Michaelleen Burns, and Dr. Donna Schuurman, at six locations across the United States, connected in honor of the children we collectively serve. This conference, and all of the sessions, are suited for counselors, social workers, bereavement support professionals, and volunteers and are targeted at those new and experienced in the field of childhood grief and loss.

A note from the NACG

We are delighted you are hosting a community presentation of the pre-recorded NACG "No Child Grieves Alone" conference event. As part of this process, the conference was recorded live in New York City on November 1st, 2022 with the intention of the recording being available at no charge for those who want to initiate conversations around childhood bereavement in their community. As you are planning your event, you may also consider adding opportunities for dialogue and relationship-building between your attendees and other organizations. Community collaboration is critical to succeeding in our shared goal that no child grieves alone and this event is intended to support you in starting and continuing these conversations. We encourage you to make the most of this opportunity and share the playback with the widest audience possible.

Sessions:

1. Meeting the Needs of Children, Teens, and Adults who are Grieving: 12 "Take-aways" from 35 years in Bereavement Work | Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT

Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT will present a dozen "lessons learned" through her work at Dougy Center, bearing witness to the lived experience of children as young as 3, up through teens, young adults, and their parents or adult caregivers grieving the death of a family member or friend. Weaving examples from clinical practice, practice-based evidence, and research into practical "take-aways", the material is relevant to anyone wanting to better understand and support those who are grieving.

Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the long-term effects of early childhood bereavement
- Analyze the impacts of language on people who are grieving
- Evaluate the implications of framing grief as a mental disorder

2. Childhood Bereavement Prevalence: The Story Behind the Numbers | Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD

Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, LP, Clinical Director, Judi's House will share preliminary data from the 2022 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) indicates 7.7% of U.S. youth—more than 5.6 million—will experience the death of a sibling or parent by age 18 – an astounding increase driven by pandemic-related losses. Research demonstrates that the death of a significant attachment figure places children at increased risk for emotional, relational, behavioral, and academic problems, as well as earlier mortality. Unaddressed childhood bereavement can contribute to a litany of adverse outcomes as youth move along the developmental continuum. In contrast, protective factors including positive role models, healthy coping skills, peer support, and encouraging educators and caring adults can provide the scaffolding bereaved youth need to heal. Exploring bereavement prevalence at the local and regional levels supports strategic resource allocation to ensure no child is alone in grief.

Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Explain how the pandemic is influencing childhood bereavement prevalence trends
- Quantify national differences in U.S. childhood bereavement rates based on race and Hispanic origin
- Locate state information on childhood bereavement rates, including differences based on race and Hispanic origin
- Hypothesize how systemic and structural disparities contribute to prevalence differences
- Explore what barriers must be overcome to ensure equal access to comprehensive grief care

3. Centering Culture and Equity in Youth Bereavement and Grief Support | Tashel Bordere, PhD, CT

Tashel Bordere, PhD, CT will address culture and inequities in loss and service provision to youth and families occupying marginalized identity statuses. Drawing from research and case examples, the presentation describes ways in which loss and grief processes are uniquely complicated for socially disadvantaged youth and often involve patterns of suffocated grief (Bordere, 2011, 2016, 2019). Participants will learn about culturally conscientious and responsive strategies and practices with youth and families

Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the roles of culture, identity, and inequities in outreach and service provision to youth and families from underrepresented backgrounds
- Delineate factors associated with the Covid-19 pandemic that have implications for outreach and patterns of suffocated grief
- Explicate and apply culturally responsive and culturally conscientious practices

Preparing to Host the Event:

- Think about all the potential community members, agencies, and organizations you can invite to join you. Examples include after school providers, school divisions, local AFSP chapters, funeral professionals and university departments.
- Secure your venue and set your schedule. A sample event schedule is shared below. You can decide if you would like to add time at the close to have conversation. We encourage you to do this where it is possible. As you engage partners, consider inviting them to participate in a panel discussion at the close of the event. This allows for conversation between participants about how the issues raised in the conference can be tackled collectively to your community.
- Edit the event poster with your logo and specific event details. ([Link here](#))
- Edit the event social posts with your logo and specific event details. ([Link here](#))
- Decide how you will manage registration.
- Decide if you wish to charge a fee to attendees. You can consider local sponsorship to underwrite the event.
- Market extensively to your population.
- Print the handouts if you wish to share a copy. For an additional handout on children's bereavement statistics in your state, visit Judi's House CBEM site [HERE](#).
- Invite media to cover your event. You are welcome to use the press release provided – edit the yellow highlighted content to provide information specific to your event.
- Brainstorm ways you can showcase your program and services, such as giving a tour to attendees following the event.

Hosting the Event:

- Set up your AV for your audience and prepare the space for your audience.
- Access the video at least 15 minutes before the event to make sure you are ready to go at the start of the event.
- Use the break (or any discussion time you choose to add to the end) to discuss the questions posed by the presenters with your community.

After the Event:

- We would love to hear your feedback and ask that you complete the NACG's feedback form if you held an event. You can access the form [HERE](#).

The NACG is available to answer questions you have as you plan the event. Email info@nacg.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How long should I schedule my event for?

You may develop your own schedule, but a suggested time schedule is included below.

Should there be a charge for attendees?

This is completely up to you. You can consider charging a fee to cover lunch or expenses or can make it free for all.

Will CEs be available for my attendees?

There are no CE credits available for the recording playback.

Are there additional charges from the NACG?

No. There are no additional charges from the NACG. This has been made possible by the [New York Life Foundation](#).

What technology should I have in place?

You need a wireless connection to connect to the video webpage and the ability to have those in the room see and hear the presentation.

What should I do during breaks?

This time can be used for a break or to discuss some of the questions provided by the speakers for group discussion. You can access the community questions [HERE](#). We also encourage you to schedule a panel or discussion after the event.

Can I get a local sponsor?

Yes, you are welcome to get a local sponsor for the event to underwrite your costs.

How long before the event should I set up the video?

You should test the video the day before to ensure all technology is working and connected correctly. Allow at least 15 minutes to open the video and prepare your technology before the event.

What should I do if I have issues with the video?

If you have issues with the video playback, please email info@nacg.org.

Example Schedule

12:00pm to 12:30pm	Check-In
12:30pm to 12:40pm	Welcome
12:40pm to 1:40pm	Session 1: Meeting the Needs of Children, Teens, and Adults Who Are Grieving: 12 "Takeaways" from 35 Years in Bereavement Work
1:40pm to 1:50pm	Break (Pause Video)
1:50pm to 2:50pm	Session 2: Childhood Bereavement Prevalence: The Story Behind the Numbers
2:50pm to 3:00pm	Break (Pause Video)
3:00pm to 4:00pm	Session 3: Centering Culture and Equity in Youth Bereavement and Grief Support
4:00pm to 4:10pm	Closing and Farewell
4:10 to 5:00pm	On-Site Discussion