



JUNE 17-19, 2024 | DENVER, CO

# SYMPOSIUM SESSION CATALOG

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 12:00-1:20PM (Opening Plenary)

[OPENING PLENARY- Take Care: Sustaining Our Vital Work and Ourselves \(1.0 CE\)](#)

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 1:40-2:40PM (Session A)

[A1- Ethical Considerations for Understanding Childhood & Adolescent Bereavement Support \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A2- What's Going on in There? Supporting Infants & Young Children through Loss \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A3- Communal is Personal: Helping Grieving Youth Process Public Violence & Death \(Non-CE\)](#)

[A4- Creative Arts in School-Based Grief Groups: Utilizing an Art Therapy Lens with Grieving Youth \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A5- #CollegeLife: Supporting Grieving Young Adults & Navigating Grief as a College Student \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A6- How to Develop a Bereavement Camp for Children \(Non-CE\)](#)

[A7- Books & Art: Integrating Bibliotherapy and Art Making \(Non-CE\)](#)

[A8- Present Together: Nature-based team building and family programming \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A9- Teamwork makes the Dream Work: The Importance of an Equity Lens in Partnerships \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[A10- Utilizing the Expressive Therapies Continuum for Continuing Bonds with Grieving Families \(1.0 CE\)](#)

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00PM (Session B)

[B1- Ethical Storytelling: Sharing the Impact of Our Work Through Our Participants \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B2- To thy own self be true The Impact of a Professionals lived experience on Grief Support \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B3- A Student-Led Initiative to Expand Peer Grief Support Services in Higher Education \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B4- The Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss: a 27-item strength-based measurement tool \(Non-CE\)](#)

[B5- At the Intersection of Children's Grief and the Rural Mental Health Crisis: Practical Applications \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B6- Supporting Children, Teens, and Families after Traumatic Death \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B7- A Grief Center's Guide to Volunteer Training: Experience it for Yourself \(Non-CE\)](#)

[B8- Using Minecraft to Support Grieving Children \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[B9- Empowering Equity: Communication Strategies for Organizations Responding to BIPOC Community Crises \(Non-CE\)](#)

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

## [B10- Grief for Grown-ups: Enhanced Programming for Parents of Grieving Children \(1.0 CE\)](#)

Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:30PM (Regional Forums)

## [C- REGIONAL FORUMS: Monday, June 17 from 4:30-5:30pm](#)

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 9:20-10:20AM (Session D)

## [D1- Overcoming Brand Barriers, Building Bountiful Organizations \(Brand or Bust\) \(NON-CE\)](#)

## [D2- Creative Activities to Engage Students who are Grieving \(Non-CE\)](#)

## [D3- When Grief Comes to Court: Supporting Bereaved Youth in the Juvenile Court System \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D4- How do I know my program works? Ethical & Sustainable Qualitative Analysis of Youth Self-Reported Data \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D5- Reaching Native Youth \(Focus on Pascua Yaqui Tribe\) \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D6- Invaluable Volunteers: Gain, Train and Retain \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D7- Journey to Hope: the unique experiences of young adult grief \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D8- Drop the Dysfunction: Candid Talk about Suicide \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D9- Adventure Therapy: Grief Games and More \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [D10- After The Media Moves On: Supporting Youth Through Mass Casualty Events \(1.0 CE\)](#)

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 10:40-11:40AM (Session E)

## [E1- Grieving the loss of an Attachment Figure \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E2- Reframing Grief and Loss Interventions Through a Culturally Responsive Framework \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E3- Efficacy of Grief Groups in Schools & Resources for Facilitating Groups in K-12 School Settings \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E4- A Text-based Approach to Bereavement Care \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E5- We Grieve Too: Navigating our Losses as Bereavement Professionals \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E6- Laughing Through Grief: Humor as a protective factor for professionals and the bereaved \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E7- Integrating The Companionship Model into Training Volunteer Facilitators \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E8- Let's Think Outside of the Memory Box: Memories Matter in Maintaining Connection \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E9- The Dance of Grief: Using a movement-based approach to foster hope, healing, and resilience after loss \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## [E10- Healing Power of Nature \(Non-CE\)](#)

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 1:20-2:20PM (Session F)

[F1- Brick by Brick: Building mission alignment and commitment in leaders and teams \(Non-CE\)](#)

[F2- Hope Through Hockey: Community Collaboration for Grieving Youth \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F3- Supporting schools when a member of the school community dies because of a natural disaster \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F4- Driving Your Data Bus: Methods, Messages, and Tools of Program Evaluation \(Non-CE\)](#)

[F5- Incorporating Technology into Legacy Building Interventions \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F6- From Pain to Power: Transforming LGBTQ Youth Grief Through Community and Culture \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F7- The Space Around Us: The Role of Loneliness in Grief Work \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F8- Utilizing Play Therapy and Expressive Art Principals in Individual Therapy and Peer Grief Support Groups \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F9- Thriving in Turbulence: Adapting to Group Chaos \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[F10- Utilizing Video Games to Understand and Process the Grief Experience \(1.0 CE\)](#)

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 2:20-2:50PM (Poster Sessions)

[POSTER SESSIONS- Tuesday, June 18 from 2:20-2:50pm](#)

Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:00PM (Topic Forums)

[G- TOPIC FORUMS: Tuesday, June 18 from 3:00-4:00pm](#)

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00-9:00AM (Session H)

[H1- Nurturing a Healthy Workplace Culture in Grief Centers \(Non-CE\)](#)

[H2- Building a Trauma Informed School Based Grief Program \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H3- Am I Still a Brother? A Sister? Sibling Loss During Childhood \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H4- Exploring outcomes for adults in a family-focused group bereavement intervention \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H5- "Bridging the Gap: EOL and Bereavement Care in a Children's Hospital" \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H6- Building Courageous Spaces: Utilizing Trauma-Informed Strategies to Address Increased Behavioral Reactions at Camp \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H7- Unlocking Resilience: Building Connections and Healing with Lego Play \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H8- Small Town, Small Budget; Grief Support Program Ideas that Won't Break the Budget \(1.0 CE\)](#)

[H9- Self-Care for Therapists: Balancing Compassion and Well-being \(Non-CE\)](#)

[H10- Queering + Colouring Shakespeare: an embodied approach to working through suffocated grief \(1.0 CE\)](#)

## **2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog**

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 9:20-10:20AM (Session I)

**I1- Team Work Makes the Dream Work: Running a small community grief center (Non-CE)**

**I2- Reimagining...Discovering the Value of Virtual Services (Non-CE)**

**I3- Research Panel (Non-CE)**

**I4- Better Together: Building Coalitions & Partnerships Across the Continuum of Care (1.0 CE)**

**I5- Supporting "Glass Children" on the Road from Anticipatory Grief to Sibling Loss (1.0 CE)**

**I6- Peers-As-Leaders (PALs): Transitioning Campers to Mentors (1.0 CE)**

**I7- Role Playing Games in Adolescent Grief Groups (1.0 CE)**

**I8- Building Teen-Approved Grief Content and Communal Spaces (Non-CE)**

**I9- I Can't Breathe: Life at the Intersection of Black Grief and White Supremacy (Non-CE)**

**I10- Engaging Youth through Grief Support and Community Outreach: Creative Strategies for Meaningful Connections (1.0 CE)**

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 10:45-12:15PM (Closing Plenary)

**CLOSING PLENARY- No Mountain High Enough Black Achievement in Grief and Bereavement (1.5 CE)**

Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00-6:00PM

**CREATIVE ARTS INTENSIVE- 3 Sessions (4.5 CE Total)**

**CA Session 1- Artful Minds: Navigating Grief through Creativity (1.5 CE)**

**CA Session 2- The Power of Music in Working with Youth Who Are Grieving (1.5 CE)**

**CA Session 3- The Playful Power of Puppets: Using Puppetry and Role Enactment to Process Collective Loss with Youth (1.5 CE)**

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID:** OPENING PLENARY- Take Care: Sustaining Our Vital Work and Ourselves  
**Opening Plenary** (1.0 CE)

Application Entry Reference: N/A

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Brook Griese, Ph.D.

Judi's House/JAG Institute

Co-Founder and Board Chair

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Dr. Brook Griese is a licensed clinical psychologist who has devoted her career to promoting resilience and growth in children and families who have experienced loss, trauma, and adversity. In 2002, Brook and her husband, Brian, co-founded Judi's House in memory of his mother who died when he was 12. Since that time, this family bereavement center has provided care to more than 13,000 youth and caregivers, reaching many thousands more through the national research and education initiatives of JAG Institute. By disseminating resources like the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM), offering training in a continuum of Comprehensive Grief Care, and collaborating with Childhood Bereavement Changemakers throughout the country, this Colorado nonprofit is dedicated to elevating childhood bereavement as a public health priority and ensuring equitable access to support that prevents complications of unaddressed grief. Brook spearheaded the organization's research and trauma-informed programs and served as CEO before transitioning to her current role on the Board of Directors. She has served as an adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Colorado, as well as on the Governor's Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force Children's Subcommittee, Mayor's Denver Education Compact, Denver Public Schools Foundation Board, Colorado Mental Health Consortium, CU Johnson Depression Center Board, and the Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience Advisory Board. She was honored to receive the 2019 National Alliance for Children's Grief Excellence in Service Award. Brook finds her greatest joy in the mountains of Colorado with Brian and their two teenagers and miniature golden retriever, where she enjoys painting in her studio and skiing and hiking among the aspen groves.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Psychology

License Information: Licensed Psychologist

### Session Information

Title of Session: Take Care: Sustaining Our Vital Work and Ourselves

Session Description: The world changed for everyone over the past few years, and those of us working in children's grief felt the impact of the pandemic and its aftermath in profound ways. Rates of childhood bereavement due to parent death saw staggering increases, attributed to

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

not only Covid but a rise in causes such as overdose and homicide. Deep disparities in access to physical and mental health care undoubtedly contributed to these marked increases and without support for the families bereaved by these losses, the cycle will likely perpetuate. The need for grief support for children and families and the subsequent cost of inaction has never been higher, and yet the price of this crucial work has become harder for our field to sustain. A shortage of providers, rising staff costs, widespread burnout, and a changing philanthropic and funding environment pose significant challenges that require adaptation and innovation. Thankfully, more than two decades of collective learning and growth fostered through this symposium provide fertile ground for the creative problem solving and collaboration needed to achieve our shared vision that no child or family should grieve alone. This plenary session will explore ways that we as individuals and as an alliance can deepen our connections to this work—and one another—to help ensure the sustainability of our field, highlighting the critical importance of allowing for the care of ourselves so that we can continue to care for others.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe key changes and challenges currently impacting the childhood bereavement field and the communities we serve.
- Identify specific actions we can take individually and collectively to help ensure sustainable and equitable access to grief care, support, and resources for children and families.
- Recognize ways that we as caregivers and colleagues can support each other in not only caring for ourselves but *receiving* care.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Diversity and Social Justice
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Wellness and Prevention

References:

Burns, M., Griese, B., King, S., & Talmi, A. (2020). Childhood Bereavement: Understanding prevalence and related adversity in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(4), 391-405. doi: 10.1037/ort0000442.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Burns, M., Landry, L., Mills, D., Carlson, N., Blueford, J., & Talmi, A. (2023). COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on childhood bereavement for youth of color: Reflections and recommendations. *Frontiers in Pediatrics, 11*. doi: [10.3389/fped.2023.1063449](https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2023.1063449).

Griese, B., Burns, M. R., Farro, S. A., Silvern, L., & Talmi, A. (2017). Comprehensive grief care for children and families: Policy and practice implications. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 87*(5), 540-548. doi: [10.1037/ort0000265](https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000265).

Griese, B., Burns, M., & Farro, S. (2018). Pathfinders: Promoting healthy adjustment in bereaved children and families. *Death Studies, 42*(3), 134-142. doi: [10.1080/07481187.2017.1370416](https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2017.1370416).

Posluns, K., Gall, T.L. Dear Mental Health Practitioners, Take Care of Yourselves: A Literature Review on Self-Care. *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling, 42*, 1-20 (2020). doi: [10.1007/s10447-019-09382-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10447-019-09382-w).



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A1- Ethical Considerations for Understanding Childhood & Adolescent Bereavement Support (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 421

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Andy McNiel

The Satori Group

CEO

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Andy McNiel, MA, is an author, trainer, bereavement support professional, and non-profit leader with three decades of experience providing support to bereaved people of all ages. He is the CEO of The Satori Group, LLC, a national non-profit consulting company. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer for The National Alliance for Grieving Children, the Executive Director for The Amelia Center at Children's of Alabama, and the Director of Grief Counseling Services and Director of Development for Hospice of Martin and St. Lucie (now Treasure Health) in South Florida. In his current work with The Satori Group, Andy serves as Senior Advisor to Youth Programs and Young Adult Programs for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Advisor to Programs for HealGrief and Actively Moving Forward, and Consultant and Advisor for The Compassionate Friends. He is the author of Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals in addition to numerous chapters related to bereavement support. He is a trainer for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He is a member of the International Workgroup on Death, Dying, and Bereavement. Andy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and a Master of Arts in Counseling.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: N/A

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Ethical Considerations for Understanding Childhood & Adolescent Bereavement Support

**Session Description:** The field of childhood and adolescent bereaved support has caring individuals from a cross-section of human service professions. This offers a wide range of approaches to care and constructs for understanding childhood and adolescent grief. With this vast representation from across many professional constructs, what ethical principles should help guide the care we provide bereaved children, teenagers, and their families. This presentation will explore the Universal Realities of Grief (McNiel/Gabbay) and Becoming Grief Informed (Schuurman/Mitchell). We will discuss the recent DSM V Diagnosis of Prolonged Grief Disorder and ethical implications surrounding this construct. Ethical considerations for childhood and adolescent bereavement support and service delivery will be presented.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. describe a model for understanding the nature of grief and how grief manifests the lives of people of all ages.
2. identify factors that impact grief in children, adolescents, and adults and be able to identify these factors within populations they serve.
3. describe ethical considerations when working with bereaved populations of all ages.
4. describe becoming grief informed.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Ethics

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Schuurman, D. L., & Mitchell, M. B. (2020). Becoming grief-informed: A call to action. Dougy Center: National Grief Center for Children & Families. [www.dougy.org](http://www.dougy.org)
- DeSpelder, L. A., & Strickland, A. L. (2015). *The last dance: Encountering death and dying*. McGraw-Hill Education.
- McNiel, A., & Gabbay, P. (2018). *Understanding and supporting bereaved children: A practical guide for professionals*. Springer Publishing.
- Neimeyer, R. A. (Ed.) (2016). *Techniques of grief therapy: Assessment and intervention*. Routledge Publishing.
- Mitchell, M.B., Schuurman, D.L., Shapiro, C.J. et al. The L.Y.G.H.T. Program: An Evaluation of a Peer Grief Support Intervention for Youth in Foster Care. *Child Adolesc Soc Work J* 41, 15-32 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-022-00843-7>
- Ainscough T, Fraser L, Taylor J, et al, Bereavement support effectiveness for parents of infants and children: a systematic review, *BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care* 2022;12:e623-e631.
- Nabors, L., Ohms, M., Buchanan, N., Kirsh, K. L., Nash, T., Passik, S. D., ... & Brown, G. (2004). A pilot study of the impact of a grief camp for children. *Palliative & supportive care*, 2(4), 403-408.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A2- What's Going on in There? Supporting Infants & Young Children through Loss (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 360

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Sara Asch  
Center for Grieving Children  
Director of Outreach and Education

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Sara holds responsibility for identifying Center volunteer training needs, developing the training curriculum to meet those needs, and co-facilitating initial, ongoing, and topical facilitator trainings throughout the year. As a public speaker, with years of service to the community for crisis response, and education through webinars, newsletters, and trainings, Sara hosts our Wednesday night Bereavement Peer Support groups. Sara holds a Master's Degree in expressive therapies/counseling from Lesley University with an emphasis in art therapy. She developed an interest in art therapy while working as a K-12 art teacher, witnessing the ways students naturally processed their experiences through their artwork. Sara used art modalities in her private practice offering support to children, teens and adults during bereavement and other life transitions, and has worked as a clinician with adolescents in a group home setting. As well as creating art, Sara enjoys bicycling, kayaking, snowshoeing, reading, and- above all else- the company of family and friends.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Counseling and Expressive Therapies

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Valerie Jones  
University of New England  
Associate Clinical Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Valerie Jones is an associate clinical professor in the School of Social Work in the College of Health Professions at the University of New England. Valerie received her Masters of Social Work degree from the University of New England and her Bachelor of Science Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from the University of Maryland. Throughout her career, she has worked with populations across the lifespan with a particular focus in the areas of aging, grief and loss, children and families.

Prior to coming to the University of New England, Valerie was the Coordinator of Bereavement Services at the Center for Grieving Children where she worked closely with families experiencing grief following a loss by death or a life threatening illness diagnosis. In the larger community, Valerie continues to work with the Center as a clinical consultant, is a trained hospice volunteer through Hospice Volunteers in Brunswick, Maine, and a community educator for the Alzheimer's Association.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Highest Degree Earned: MSW

Field of Study: Counseling and Expressive Therapies

License Information: Licensed Master Social Worker conditional clinical

### Session Information

Title of Session: What's Going on in There? Supporting Infants & Young Children through Loss

Session Description: In response to hearing all of the laughter and noise coming from our "Littles" group room, parents and guardians of the youngest group participants at the Center for Grieving Children frequently ask, "what's going on in there?" This question inspired the content of this session, a look at what goes on internally for an infant or young child, and what can go on "in the room", or in their environment, to help support them as they grow with their experience of loss and grief. These very young grievers are often overlooked, thinking that they are not impacted by, or cannot understand, loss. Through the threefold approach of narratives, research to explore the narratives, and activities to help support the illustrated scenarios, participants will gain insight to the experience of loss through the eyes and bodies of infants and young children. Participants will come away with a toolbox of activities, resources and knowledge to lean on when supporting this age group

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify some of the ways loss impacts and is expressed by young children through the sharing of narratives of early childhood losses.
- gain insight into implementing best practices in order to impact the trajectory of loss on childhood development.
- engage in activities that they will be able to utilize while supporting young children.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development

References:

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Alvis, L. (2021). Zhang, Na, Sandler, I., Kaplow, J. Developmental manifestations of grief in children and adolescents: Caregivers as key grief facilitators. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 16, 447-457. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00435-0>
- Alwaely, S., Yousif, N., Mikhaylov, A. (2020). Emotional development in preschoolers and socialization. *Early Child Development and Care* 191(16), 2484-2493. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2020.1717480>.
- Ferow, A. (2019). Childhood grief and loss. *European Journal of Educational Sciences*, Special Edition, v6a1, 1-13. URL:<http://dx.doi.org/10.19044/ejes.s.v6a1>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A3- Communal is Personal: Helping Grieving Youth Process Public Violence & Death (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 342

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Janelle Greco  
Youth Communication  
Director of Training

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
As Director of Training at Youth Communication (YC), Janelle Greco has provided numerous after-school organizations, schools, foster care agencies, and other institutions (e.g. NYC Department of Probation, NYC Administration for Children's Services) with training on transformative SEL, supporting grieving youth, youth voice and choice, and equity. Her more than ten years of experience presenting at conferences and working with middle and high school students, students obtaining their high school equivalency diplomas, youth workers and educators, and houseless and formerly incarcerated individuals informs and bolsters her current work in educational spaces. While working at YC, Janelle and her colleagues have also published several student-facing SEL curricula using YC's teen-written stories as the focus of each lesson plan. As a recipient of a New York Life Grant related to helping middle school practitioners support grieving children, Youth Communication has worked with several consultants in the field to develop relevant training materials. Janelle has been at the forefront of our workshop development aspect of this grant, connecting grief processes to social and emotional learning and systemic oppression.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's  
Field of Study: English & Secondary Ed.  
License Information: N/A

### Session Information

Title of Session: Communal is Personal: Helping Grieving Youth Process Public Violence & Death

Session Description: Mass shootings, death at the hands of police, and mass displacement cannot help but seep into our culture and trigger a type of mourning very different from our traditional ideas of grief. During this workshop, we'll read a true story by one of Youth Communication's teen writers, Kayla Ruano-Lumpris. Her story, "Not Your Lesson," is about a teacher who shows a video of the killing of Tamir Rice, which triggers and traumatizes Kayla. While reading this story, we'll discuss how witnessing public violence and death, particularly tied to race, impacts youth and identify strategies for navigating conversations of public violence and identity. We'll also identify ways to help youth and youth workers, who may feel helpless, advocate for change.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- define the differences between public violence and death and personal bereavement
- describe how witnessing public violence and death, particularly tied to race, impacts youth
- identify ways that students process public violence and death
- create ways to help students advocate for change

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A4- Creative Arts in School-Based Grief Groups: Utilizing an Art Therapy Lens with Grieving Youth (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 418

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Erin Huntley

The Jewish Board

Administrative Supervisor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Erin is the Administrative Supervisor for the Loss and Bereavement Program for Children and Adolescents at The Jewish Board. In her role she coordinates grief groups for youth, fosters partnerships with schools and community programs, and she develops and delivers trainings and workshops for parents, caregivers, clinicians, and school professionals. Erin is a New York-based Licensed Creative Arts Therapist and Board-Certified Art Therapist and has 10 years of experience working with clients of all ages in a variety of settings including schools, after-school programs, correctional facilities, and children's grief centers.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Art Therapy

License Information: New York State Licensed Creative Arts Therapist, American Art Therapy Association Board-Certified Art Therapist

Presenter #2:

Stephanie Laureano

The Jewish Board

Art Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Stephanie is a Creative Art Therapist with the Jewish Board Loss and Bereavement Program clinical team. Within the program, her responsibilities include co-facilitating groups in schools throughout New York City, as well as on tele-health platforms. In her clinical work, Stephanie strives to provide a safe and supportive environment for caregivers and children affected by their individual experiences with grief and loss. Through the expressive arts Stephanie has served various populations within NYC schools, medical, and inpatient psychiatric settings.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Art Therapy

License Information: New York State Limited Permit Creative Arts Therapist

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Crystal Gauen

The Jewish Board

Program Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Crystal is the Program Director of the Loss and Bereavement Program for Children and Adolescents at the Jewish Board. She coordinates and facilitates groups for children, adolescents and their



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

caregivers who are coping with the death of a loved one. She also provides consultation, supervision, trainings, and workshops related to grief and loss to parent/caregivers, school professionals, clinicians, and anyone else who will listen.

Crystal is a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist and has over 15 years of experience working with children, adolescents and adults both individually and in groups in NYC schools, day treatment programs, outpatient clinics, private practice and inpatient psychiatric settings. She is also the mom of two pretty awesome kids.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Art Therapy

License Information: New York State Licensed Creative Arts Therapist, American Art Therapy Association Registered Art Therapist

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Creative Arts in School-Based Grief Groups: Utilizing an Art Therapy Lens with Grieving Youth

**Session Description:** The Jewish Board Loss and Bereavement Program works to serve grieving youth in schools and in communities throughout New York City. For over 20 years, the Program has partnered with schools to co-facilitate short-term grief groups for NYC kids and teens. The Program staff is comprised of art therapists, all who utilize creative arts in their youth grief services. While one doesn't need to be an art therapist to use art when working with grieving kids and teens, this presentation will discuss some of the considerations, activity examples, and barriers of using art with youth in community settings.

In this session, presenters will begin with an overview of the Program's group model used in schools, as well as the general structure of the sessions. These short-term groups are co-facilitated by a school-based clinician and a Program art therapist. Informed by the model, the co-facilitators then integrate various creative arts activities into each session to guide the group process. Presenters will speak about how facilitators use their expertise in art therapy, child development, and cultural considerations to inform choices about directives to implement within the grief groups. Case narratives, art activities, and directive examples will be discussed.

Art and creative activities can be powerful tools for expression. The presentation aims to discuss this idea, while also inviting attendees to consider grief directives within an art therapy-based lens. Following the presentation, there will be time left for any questions or conversation.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the arc of art activities used within a short-term grief group.
2. Identify barriers, challenges, and important considerations when using creative arts activities in groups.
3. Apply the use of an art therapy-based lens when determining creative arts activities to use in groups.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Green, D., Karafa, K. & Wilson, S. (2021) Art Therapy With Grieving Children: Effect on Affect in the Dual-Process Model, *Art Therapy*, 38:4, 211-215, DOI: 10.1080/07421656.2020.1823197
- DiSunno, R., Linton, K., & Bowes, E. (2011). World trade center tragedy: Concomitant healing in traumatic grief through art therapy with children. *Traumatology*, 17(3), 47-52. Retrieved from <http://tmt.sagepub.com.proxy.lib.fsu.edu/content/17/3/47.full.pdf>
- Weiskittle, R. E., & Gramling, S. E. (2018). The therapeutic effectiveness of using visual art modalities with the bereaved: a systematic review. *Psychology research and behavior management*, 11, 9-24. <https://doi.org/10.2147/PRBM.S131993>
- Huntley, E. (2015). Altered Book-Making for Children and Adolescents Affected by Traumatic Loss. Retrieved from [http://purl.flvc.org/fsu/fd/FSU\\_migr\\_etd-9618](http://purl.flvc.org/fsu/fd/FSU_migr_etd-9618)
- Edgar-Bailey, M. & Kress, V.E. (2010). Resolving child and adolescent traumatic grief: Creative techniques and interventions. *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health*, 5(2), 158-176. Retrieved from <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/15401383.2010.48>
- Linder, L., Lunardini, M., & Zimmerman, H. (2022). Supporting Childhood Bereavement Through School-Based Grief Group. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221082756>
- Loumeau-May, L. (2019). 8. Art Therapy with Traumatically Bereaved Youth. In J. Brandell & S. Ringel (Ed.), *Trauma: Contemporary Directions in Trauma Theory, Research, and Practice* (pp. 206-255). New York Chichester, West Sussex: Columbia University Press. <https://doi.org/10.7312/ring18886-009>
- Bat-Or, M. & Garti, D. (2019). Art therapist's perceptions of the role of the art medium in the treatment of bereaved clients in art therapy. *Death Studies*, 43(3), 193-203. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2018.1445138>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A5- #CollegeLife: Supporting Grieving Young Adults & Navigating Grief as a College Student (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 369

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Cathy Fox  
Creighton University  
Field Education Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Cathy Fox has served as Assistant Professor and Field Education Director for the Social Work Program at Creighton University since 2018. As an alum of the program herself, she enjoys educating and supporting students as they prepare to become future helping professionals. The majority of her research and practice is in the field of grief and loss, grounded in trauma, child development, and family systems, with a strong background in mental health and suicide. Prior to moving to academia, she served over eight years as the Program Director and Director of Operations at Grief's Journey, a grief center in Omaha, Nebraska. Her grief work has continued at the university as well where she not only teaches "Grief, Loss, & Bereavement" but also has continued to provide direct support to many grieving students. She loves working with emerging adults, and these experiences have enhanced her understanding of their unique grief needs, access to resources, and strengths.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Social Work

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Certified Social Worker

Presenter #2:

Clare Pfeil  
Student at University of Denver  
MSW student

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Clare Pfeil graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work from Creighton University in May 2023 and is currently obtaining her Master of Social Work at University of Denver. Following the unexpected death of her father when she was 17, Clare struggled to find resources and support that could relate to how she was feeling as a teen experiencing such a significant loss. Clare decided to start her own teen support group, called "Low Tides", for teens who experienced the death of parents or siblings within her school. Clare hopes to expand her knowledge and experience in grief work as she grows in the Social Work profession.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor of Social Work

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: N/A

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Mandy Zueger

Student at University of Denver  
MSW Student

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Mandy Zueger graduated with her Bachelor of Social Work and Psychology from Creighton University in May 2022. She is currently studying for her Master in Social Work at the University of Denver. During the final months of Mandy's undergraduate career, a friend had died tragically in a car accident. Her entire friend group, and the Creighton community, was deeply sorrowed by this loss. Mandy brought her bunny, Miso, to connect with grieving friends during that time. She noticed love, hope, and positivity emerge from the group. Today, Mandy and Miso are a registered Pet Partners animal therapy team. Mandy is currently completing her internship at Animal Assisted Therapy Programs of Colorado, which mainly supports children and young adults with psychotherapy and Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT). Mandy hopes to enhance her learning of the power of animals, and how they can support grieving young adults.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor of Social Work & Psychology

Field of Study: Social Work; Health & Wellness, Human-Animal-Environment Interactions

License Information: N/A

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: #CollegeLife: Supporting Grieving Young Adults & Navigating Grief as a College Student

Session Description: Emerging adulthood (ages 18-29) is a period marked by excitement, stress, and transition. Navigating the many demands of this developmental stage - academics, employment, friendships, romance, and developing independence - is challenging for most; when you are grieving a significant death in addition, it can feel near impossible. Unfortunately, research on young adult grief is limited and support is often overlooked or incompatible with this population's needs and preferences. Through this workshop, attendees will gain an understanding of the developmental needs and challenges emerging adults face, strategies to connect with this population, and what grieving young adults want helping professionals to know. Join this session for an interactive discussion with a college faculty, who will share insights into engaging with and supporting college students, along with two of her former students - young adults who will share their personal grief experiences following the death of a parent, a friend, and a client, with recommendations for helping professionals.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify common characteristics of emerging adulthood, particularly among the Gen Z population.
- Describe factors impacting young adults' grief and associated coping.
- Implement developmentally-appropriate strategies to support grieving young adults.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development

References:

- Plocha, A., Modrak, S., Hoopes, M., Donahoe, A. & Priest, A. (2023). Resilience among bereaved college students: Indicators, facilitators, and barriers. *Death Studies*, (47)2, 121-129. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2022.2032483>
- Lipp, N.S. & O'Brien, K.M. (2022). Bereaved college students: Social support, coping style, continuing bonds, and social media use as predictors of complicated grief and posttraumatic growth. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 85(1), 178-203. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2022.2032483>
- Plocha, A. & Bacigalupe, G. (2020). How do parentally bereaved emerging adults define resilience? It's a process. *Journal of College Counseling*, 23: 247-261. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jocc.12169>
- Eddinger, J.R., Humiston, T.M., Sutton, M.L., Jobe-Shields, L., & Williams, J.L. (2019). Alcohol use and drinking motives among suddenly bereaved college students. *Journal of Dual Diagnosis*, 15(1), 16-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15504263.2018.1531185>
- Harrsen, K., Tølbøll, M.M., & Larsen, L.H. (2022). Effects of an integrated treatment program on grief and distress among parentally bereaved young adults. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0), 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228211069713>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A6- How to Develop a Bereavement Camp for Children (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 312

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jennifer Frush

New Hope Center for Grief Support

Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jennifer came on board as outreach and event coordinator in the summer of 2018. Her passion and energy helped increase New Hope's reach and impact, leading to her taking on the position of interim and then full Executive Director in January of 2020. She participates in the National Alliance for Children's Grief online learning and webinars and other training. Jennifer sits on the following councils: Northville Community Cares, Ascension Community Health Advisory Committee, Community Mental Health Association through St. Mary Mercy Hospital's Let's Continue the Conversation Committee. She collaborates with eight Wayne Western School Districts. She is a trained facilitator for The Leader in Me school programs. She developed and led training for The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Families for Marine Elementary School. Additionally, Hegira Health invited Jennifer to speak at their Focus on Zero suicide prevention conference and to moderate their celebrity panel. Like other staff and volunteers, she received Trauma Informed Training and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Crisis Training, attended and participated several 2023 NACG Grief Conferences, recently attending the 2023 NACG Grief Conference and Training. Jennifer conducts Grief Sensitivity Training, Childhood Bereavement Training, Facilitator Training, and more serving as the Executive Director.

Highest Degree Earned: Associate of Arts

Field of Study: General Education

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Laurel Neitling

New Hope Center for Grief Support

Circles of Hope Program Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Laurel joined the team in July 2023 as the Circles of Hope Program Manager. She previously graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and minor in management. She previously volunteered with New Hope as a support group facilitator. She experienced the loss of her father as a young child, and that led to a passion for helping bereaved families get the support they need. Laurel has had the privilege of watching many of our participants grow through their grief journeys, and she is grateful to work alongside such dedicated volunteers and staff members to offer grief support services to the bereaved.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor of Science  
Field of Study: General Education  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** How to Develop a Bereavement Camp for Children

**Session Description:** Bereaved children and adolescents benefit from peer-to-peer grief support facilitated by trained volunteers. This presentation will cover practical steps for developing and implementing a day camp for bereaved children. The plan's components will be discussed, including the creation of developmentally appropriate activities. Additional topics covered will include leveraging community relationships for fundraising and volunteer efforts and utilizing local first responders to be a part of the healing process. Creating a marketing strategy to encourage sponsors and donors to witness the camp and contribute future funding will also be discussed. This presentation will also include a demonstration of camp activities and discussion regarding the developmental process of a bereavement camp.  
**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Camps

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Develop a thorough plan to successfully implement a bereavement camp for children.
- Identify community partners that could provide philanthropic contributions. Leverage community relationships and resources to offset minimal staff and funding.
- Establish a marketing plan to invite current and potential donors and sponsors to visit the camp and encourage future funding based on the impact they witness.
- Apply developmentally appropriate modifications to conceptual activities to maximize comprehension.
- Utilize local first responders at the camp to reestablish a positive relationship between children and the first responders who are often on the scene.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A7- Books & Art: Integrating Bibliotherapy and Art Making (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 444

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Rebecca Wu  
Rooster & Hen Resources  
Founder and Chief Education Officer

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Rebecca Wu is a dynamic educator, author, artist, entrepreneur, and mother who consistently emphasizes community-building and extending hospitality to nurture trust and openness. With over two decades in education, spanning teaching and curriculum design, she's also a catalyst in teacher development in the U.S. and Asia.

Her grief work centers on social-emotional learning and creative expression, exemplified in her book "Moving In Forever," offering a gentle insight into hospice care. Rebecca uses her book as a launching pad at meet-the-author events to promote grief awareness and education. Collaborating with specialists and communities, Rebecca provides resources and workshops for families navigating sensitive topics like death and dying.

Dedicated to serving diverse communities, Rebecca uses art making and storytelling as the universal language of expression. Whether facilitating the creation of self-portraits or paper snowflakes, Rebecca ensures that the process of creation stimulates curiosity and fosters empathy. Due to the nature of storytelling, Rebecca has found much participation among the elderly and neurodiverse communities when prompted to share memories and events of lost loved ones. The experience of listening and re-telling are cathartic for many individuals, especially those who may feel alone in their experiences.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters  
Field of Study: Education  
License Information: Elementary Education License in Illinois

### Session Information

Title of Session: Books & Art: Integrating Bibliotherapy and Art Making

Session Description: Books often serve as windows and mirrors for our young people looking for comfort and understanding in their grief experience. Therefore, literature is often a common resource used in our work. This presentation delves into the power of integrating bibliotherapy with art making as transformative tools in our grief practice and services. By combining the structured use of literature with the creative process of visual expression, attendees will gain insights into an innovative approach to help our young people process feelings, gain healing, self-discovery, and emotional well-being.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

The session will start with a brief exploration of the theoretical foundations of bibliotherapy, and then move into highlighting a variety of books that span various kinds of grief. The majority of the presentation will unveil the profound impact of incorporating art making into this therapeutic process.

Through hands-on activities and case studies, attendees will discover how the act of creation provides a unique avenue to externalize and process complex emotions. The tactile and sensory aspects of art making offer a holistic and embodied means of self-expression, complementing the cognitive engagement through reading and listening to books. Attendees will leave with a list of adaptable techniques and resources to implement this dynamic approach in their own practice and library of tools.

Ultimately, this presentation advocates for a creative approach to healing and self-expression, recognizing the profound impact that literature and visual arts can have on each person's grief journey.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Learn the basics of bibliotherapy and the benefits of art-making
- Explore various literature titles associated with different kinds of grief
- Experience art making that is specifically integrated with a piece of literature
- Apply ideas and techniques drawn from presentation examples to modify service offerings and training opportunities to be more book- and art-filled

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A8- Present Together: Nature-based team building and family programming (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 442

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Scott Anderson  
Self Employed  
Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Scott Anderson has a profound understanding of the hardships that families face when dealing with illness, death, and loss. His journey began from ages six to ten when he battled a life-threatening illness, which affected him but also placed enormous pressure on his family. During this trying period, he was fortunate to have the support of trusted adults who played a vital role in making the experience more graceful. This led to Scott's lifelong dedication to support children navigating trauma, illness, grief, and loss. With over 20 years experience in group facilitation, much of which through his training and work with the National Outdoor Leadership School and Outward Bound, Scott has fine-tuned his skills in using nature as a classroom and a safe space for learning, recovery, and healing. Scott's primary focus has been harnessing the power of nature to assist children and teenagers who are grieving, helping them become more mindful and present in their lives and with those around them. Moreover, he is deeply committed to supporting mental health professionals in developing their own skills, enabling them to be more present and serve as better models for both their staff and the children and teens in their programs.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelors of Science  
Field of Study: Communications  
License Information: NA

Presenter #2:  
Stephanie Heitkemper  
Resilient Minds Counseling, PLLC  
Private Practice, Owner

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Dr. Stephanie Heitkemper is a compassionate and dedicated Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and the proud owner of Resilient Minds Counseling, PLLC. Stephanie is a beacon of support for individuals and families navigating the complexities of grief and trauma.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD  
Field of Study: Communications  
License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist Supervisor,

### Session Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Title of Session: Present Together: Nature-based team building and family programming

Session Description: By implementing nature-based programs into children's grief work staff and volunteers can experience improved emotional and physical resilience leading to more natural and effective modeling of mindfulness and presence.

The implementation of nature-based programs in children's grief support has the potential to provide staff and volunteers with enhanced emotional and physical resilience. This, in turn, enables them to serve as more effective models of mindfulness and presence for the children and families who attend peer-based bereavement support. Research has shown that nature has a profound and positive influence on both children and adults. Some of the benefits of this "Green Influence" include increased attention capacities, improved cognitive functioning, pain reduction, mood enhancement, and faster healing (Greenleaf et al., 2013).

Moreover, incorporating outdoor program experiences into grief support can positively impact the five key domains of life affected by childhood bereavement: psychological, physical, spiritual, social, and academic. Nature-based activities create opportunities for social expression and connection among bereaved families, fostering a sense of community and support (Greenleaf et al., 2013).

Incorporating nature-based elements into grief program curriculum also provides participants with opportunities to achieve important developmental milestones and acquire skills that can help mitigate the risk factors associated with childhood bereavement.

To successfully implement nature-based support and activities, effective leadership is essential. Strong leadership can motivate participants and mobilize the necessary resources, both of which are crucial for supporting the organization's mission (Xiamoing et al., 2023). This kind of leadership empowers improved communication and collaboration among program participants and family members, thereby countering potential bereavement risk factors such as isolation, anxiety, and depression. Nature-based programs not only benefit children and families in their grief journey but also offer an avenue for personal and collective growth and healing.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify and apply key leadership principles observed in nature to enhance their leadership skills and effectiveness in nature contexts.
- have the knowledge and skills to effectively plan, lead, and debrief three team-building activities aimed at fostering support which leads to co-creation amongst team members or family participants.
- have the knowledge and tools to actively engage in collaborative decision-making processes, demonstrating effective co-creation skills that promote innovative and inclusive leadership practices.

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Greenleaf, A. T., Bryant, R. M., & Pollock, J. B. (2014). Nature-Based Counseling: Integrating the Healing Benefits of Nature Into Practice. *International Journal for the Advancement of Counselling*, 36(2), 162-174.
- McKenna, P. P. (2021). Where Practice/Industry Group Leadership Training Fails. *Of Counsel*, 40(12), 5-9.
- Tillmann, S., Tobin, D., Avison, W., & Gilliland, J. (2018). Mental health benefits of interactions with nature in children and teenagers: A systematic review. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 72(10), 958.
- iaoming, Y., Samsudin, S., Shasha, W., Qi, G., & Geork, S. K. (2023). The effect of outdoor education intervention to improve leadership among students: A systematic review. *International Journal of Multicultural Education*, 25(1).
- Lane, D., & Reed, P. (2022). The nature space. A reflexive thematic analysis of therapists' experiences of 1:1 nature-based counselling and psychotherapy with children and Young People: Exploring Perspectives on the influence of nature within the therapeutic process. *Counselling and Psychotherapy Research*, 23(2), 432-445. <https://doi.org/10.1002/capr.12531>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A9- Teamwork makes the Dream Work: The Importance of an Equity Lens in Partnerships (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 328

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Cristina Chipriano

Dougy Center

Director of Equity & Community Outreach

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Cristina M. Chipriano, LCSW, has been in the field of childhood bereavement since 2015. Her work has focused on overseeing the programming for and outreach to underserved communities. Cristina has also developed trainings/workshops for professionals on how to support Latino/Latinx bereaved populations.

Cristina completed her 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 College of Social Work.

She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the states of Oregon and Texas.

Cristina currently serves on the National Alliance for Children's Grief Membership Committee, WPSU Public Broadcasting Station/National Public Radio: The Grief Initiative Project Content Advisory Board, and Latino Social Workers of Greater Houston Advisory Board. She also previously served on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Children's Grief and the Executive Board of the Latino Social Workers of Greater Houston.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Supervisor status

Presenter #2:

Alysha Lacey

Dougy Center

Director of Program Services

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Alysha Lacey, L.P.C., A.T.R., F.T., is the Director of Program Services at Dougy Center.

As Director of Program Services, Alysha provides organizational oversight for Dougy Center's expansive local programming and coordinates peer grief support groups for both the Bereavement program for families who have experienced a death and the Pathways program for families living with an Advanced Serious Illness. Alysha is also responsible for facilitating community responses after a death and trains professionals and community members on various grief-related topics.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

She has worked in the non-profit sector supporting youth and families since 2004, initially supporting families who had experienced suspected abuse or neglect.

Alysha Lacey completed her Master of Arts in Art Therapy Counseling from Marylhurst University and her Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from the University of Colorado Boulder.

She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Oregon and a Registered Art Therapist. She also earned a Fellow in Thanatology from the Association of Death Education and Counseling.

Alysha currently serves on the National Alliance for Children's Grief Education Committee and is a member of the Suicide Rapid Response Workgroup in partnership with Lines for Life and the Oregon Health Authority.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: LPC, ATR, FT

Session Information
---------------------

**Title of Session:** Teamwork makes the Dream Work: The Importance of an Equity Lens in Partnerships

**Session Description:** Creating community partnerships with a focus on justice, belonging diversity, equity, and inclusion (JBEDI) is essential for building strong, resilient and equitable bereavement programs. Such partnerships can strengthen addressing the unmet needs of historically marginalized communities. They can also aid in advocating to address the disparities in childhood bereavement. Join us to discuss the valuable impact of using an equity lens while forming and engaging in partnerships, hear relevant examples from our experience, and engage in discussion on how this lens can be transformative within your own community.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- define the importance of justice, belonging, equity, diversity and inclusion in community partnerships.
- apply techniques in their communities towards establishing community partnerships with a focus on justice, belonging, equity, diversity and inclusion.
- classify how examples provided contain both successful and unsuccessful interactions to set precedents for future partnership opportunities.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations

References:

- Edwards, H., Monroe, D. Y., & Mullins, C. D. (2020). Six ways to foster community-engaged research during times of societal crises. *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research, 9*(16), 1101-1104.
- Sgoutas-Emch, S., & Guerrieri, K. (2020). Utilizing a model of social change to examine and foster equitable, democratic, and mutually beneficial networked community partnerships. *International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement*
- Taylor, L. A. & Aveling, E., Roberts, J., Bhuiya, N., Edmondson, A., & Singer, S. (2023). Building resilient partnerships: how businesses and nonprofits create the capacity for responsiveness. *Frontiers in Health Sciences, 3*(155941). doi: 10.3389/frhs.2023

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: A10- Utilizing the Expressive Therapies Continuum for Continuing Bonds with Grieving Families (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 343

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Megan Andriano  
Willow House  
Program Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Megan Andriano started with Willow House on Halloween 2022 as co-Program Director. After experiencing the loss of a close family member as a young adolescent, supporting grieving families is work close to her heart and she was honored to join the Willow House team in serving their mission.

Megan is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Registered Art Therapist. She graduated with her Masters of Art in Art Therapy from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2011 and her Bachelor of Arts from Eastern Illinois University with an art major and psychology minor in 2008. Before joining the Willow House Team, Megan worked as an Art Therapist, Manager of Integrative Care Services and Manager of Bereavement Services at JourneyCare from 2011-2022. In these roles, Megan worked alongside individuals on hospice services, utilizing the art making process to elevate mood, reduce anxiety, and promote comfort. She also facilitated art therapy groups for grieving children, adolescents and families to create a safe and creative space for expression, reminiscing and practicing coping skills.

Highest Degree Earned: MA in Art Therapy  
Field of Study: Art Therapy  
License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Art Therapist

Presenter #2:  
Lauren Raney  
Willow House  
Assistant Program Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Lauren started at Willow House in December of 2019 as the Program Director. As of 2023, Lauren is the part time Assistant Program Director. She has her Masters in Counseling and Art Therapy from Adler University and her Bachelors in Studio Arts/Painting from Illinois State University. She is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Registered Art Therapist. In addition to her role at Willow House, Lauren founded and owns an art therapy private practice, Hope Forest Therapeutic Art Studio, PLLC. Lauren has previous experience working as the Children's Grief Coordinator and Bereavement Counselor at JourneyCare Hospice where she facilitated grief support groups and directed a week-long bereavement camp for children and families. She has also spent time as an Art Therapist at Chicago Children's Center for Behavioral Health working with children and teens who have experienced trauma, grief, and mental health diagnosis.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Lauren was drawn to the grief and bereavement community due to her own loss of her mom as a young adult, and her passion for helping others. Lauren enjoys using the creative process with families and children to help them honor and remember their person while coping and processing their loss in a meaningful way.

Highest Degree Earned: MA in Counseling and Art Therapy

Field of Study: Art Therapy

License Information: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. Registered Art Therapist

Session Information
---------------------

**Title of Session:** Utilizing the Expressive Therapies Continuum for Continuing Bonds with Grieving Families

**Session Description:** Grief is unique to every person and sometimes words cannot be accessed to share and process their narratives around loss.

This presentation will empower our clinicians and community providers to utilize creative arts as a means of non-verbal expression with grieving individuals. You will learn about the Expressive Therapies Continuum (ETC) and how to choose specific art materials to match your goal with the clients/families and help them process their grief story. Why do we sometimes choose clay over drawing? Music instead of collage, etc? How do I know if a material will benefit the grieving individual? We will look at the benefits of art mediums as they relate to the three levels of the ETC: kinesthetic/sensory, perceptual/affective, and cognitive/symbolic. By utilizing these modalities in a thoughtful, personalized approach, we can better support our grieving families as they process the many layers within their grief narratives.

Once we've explored the benefits of the ETC, we will share art based interventions you can utilize in your practice that will aid in helping families continue bonds with their person who has died. Continuing bonds is a tool encouraged for people to stay connected through ritual, tradition, and other means.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Demonstrate benefits of Art therapy as it relates to grief and the parent-child relationship; providing a safe space to express, giving a voice to feelings and experiences that may not be able to be verbally expressed and building family coping skills together.
- Define the Expressive Therapies Continuum as an art therapy approach.
- Identify specific materials and creative interventions as they relate to the ETC for continuing bonds to support children who are grieving.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Lisa D. Hinz (2015) Expressive Therapies Continuum: Use and Value Demonstrated With Case Study (Le continuum des thérapies par l'expression : étude de cas démontrant leur utilité et valeur), Canadian Art Therapy Association Journal, 28:1-2, 43-50, DOI: 10
- Darlene Green, Kacie Karafa & Stephanie Wilson (2020) Art Therapy With Grieving Children: Effect on Affect in the Dual-Process Model, Art Therapy, DOI: 10.1080/07421656.2020.1823197
- Page L. Thanasiu & Nicole Pizza (2019) Constructing Culturally Sensitive Creative Interventions for Use with Grieving Children and Adolescents, Journal of Creativity in Mental Health, 14:3, 270-279, DOI: 10.1080/15401383.2019.1589402
- Molly Rafaely & Rebecca M. Goldberg (2020) Grief Snow Globe: A Creative Approach to Restorying Grief and Loss through Narrative Therapy, Journal of Creativity in Mental Health, 15:4, 482-493, DOI: 10.1080/15401383.2020.1725704
- Hinz, L. (2009). The expressive therapies continuum: A framework for using art in therapy. New York, NY: Taylor & Francis Group.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B1- Ethical Storytelling: Sharing the Impact of Our Work Through Our Participants (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 242

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lynn Snyder

Common Ground Grief Center

Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lynn M. Snyder, LPC, ATR-BC, FT is the Founder and Executive Director of Common Ground Grief Center located in Manasquan, New Jersey. The center supports children, teenagers and their family members who have experienced the death of a parent/adult caregiver or sibling. Lynn is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered, Board Certified Art Therapist, and holds a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). In addition to her position as Executive Director at Common Ground, Lynn supervises graduate students and provides skill training to new volunteers. Lynn is an active member of the community, continually working to build relationships with organizations and schools. She has presented both locally and nationally including: NACG, the Compassionate Friends, ADEC, ASAP-NJ, American Counseling Association, Rutgers University, and many local schools and hospitals throughout New Jersey.

Lynn was part of the adjunct faculty at Monmouth University, where she designed and taught a course on children's grief for their graduate mental health counseling program. Lynn authored her first children's book, *Little Ruby's Big Change: Talking with Children About Loss, Change and Hope*. *Little Ruby's Big Change* has been used in schools and other organizations that support children.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: LPC

Presenter #2:

Pamela Gabbay

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Trainer and Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Pamela Gabbay, EdD, FT is a nationally recognized trainer and consultant who has served the bereavement field in many capacities during her 25-year career. Dr. Gabbay is part of the training corps of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and travels throughout the country conducting trainings on their behalf. She is also on the TAPS Advisory Board. Formerly, she was the Director of Operations and Training for The Compassionate Friends. In California, she was 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 is on the executive committee of ADEC's Credentialing Council and served as the President of

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

the Southern California Chapter of ADEC. She was also an adjunct faculty member in the psychology department at Brandman University. Dr. Gabbay holds a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) and earned a Master of Arts degree in Cognitive Psychology from Claremont Graduate University. She earned her Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

Highest Degree Earned: EdD  
Field of Study: Counseling  
License Information: Fellow in Thanatology

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Brennan Wood  
Dougy Center  
Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Brennan Wood has served as the Executive Director of Dougy Center: The National Grief Center for Children & Families based in Portland, Oregon since 2015, where she has been on staff in various rolls since 2004. She is the author of, *A Kids Book About Grief* and a member of the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Children's Grief. She was the 2020 Light-a-Fire Award Extraordinary Executive Director and a 2022 Women of Influence Award recipient. Brennan is passionate about Dougy Center's mission to provide grief support, resources, training, and community response to those who are grieving before and after a death, and those who support them. Brennan walked through the doors of Dougy Center for the first time in 1987 when her mother died three days after she had turned 12-years-old. Her experience in a peer support group at Dougy Center shaped her life and she has strived to provide the same opportunity that she had to other children and families who are grieving ever since. Brennan is committed to making the world a more grief-informed place where we all acknowledge grief as a natural and normal response to loss that is interwoven into a sociocultural context.

Highest Degree Earned: BA  
Field of Study: Psychology

Presenter #4 (if applicable): Donna Schuurman  
Dougy Center  
Senior Director of Advocacy and Education

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Donna L. Schuurman, EdD, FT, is the Senior Director of Advocacy & Education at Dougy Center. Dr. Schuurman was the Executive Director of Dougy Center from 1991-2015. Dr. Schuurman is an internationally recognized authority on grief and bereaved children, teens, and families, and the author of *Never the Same: Coming to Terms with the Death of a Parent* (St. Martin's Press, 2003), among other publications. Dr. Schuurman has written extensively on topics related to children who are grieving. Her articles and other contributions have been published in scholarly journals and textbooks, and she has been interviewed as an expert on the subject by *Redbook*, *The New York Times*, *SmartMoney*, *USA Today*, and many other consumer publications. She has worked directly with families and communities impacted by large-scale tragedies and natural disasters including the Oklahoma City bombing (1995), Japan's Great

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Hanshin Earthquake (1995), the 9/11 Attacks, Tohoku Earthquake (2011), and the Sandy Hook school shootings (2012).

Highest Degree Earned: EdD  
Field of Study: Communications

### Session Information

Title of Session: Ethical Storytelling: Sharing the Impact of Our Work Through Our Participants

Session Description: Although it is common in the nonprofit sector to invite participants to speak at fundraising or outreach events, how can we ensure we are ethically and cautiously honoring our participants' experiences? In the field of childhood bereavement, we often have children and teens who want to publicly share their stories as a way of memorializing the life of the person who died, as well as to share how the program has helped them. This must be approached with care and a deep understanding of potential harm as well as potential lifelong rewards for the right participants. Please join Lynn Snyder, Donna Schuurman, Pamela Gabbay, and Brennan Wood in a robust discussion about the practice of inviting children and teen participants to speak at center fundraising events, the ethical considerations of doing so, and some tips on creating safety as well as impact. Brennan Wood will speak about her experience as a young Dougy Center participant who, as a teen, was a speaker at Dougy Center events. There will be time for questions and discussion.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Marketing

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify ways in which organizations employ children or teens to speak at events.
- summarize one key takeaway from the testimonial from a former Dougy Center participant about her experience speaking at a fundraising event.
- list helpful and supportive ways to engage children and teens in preparation for speaking at events.

Session Format: Panel

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Sikstrom, L., Saikaly, R., Ferguson, G., Mosher, P. J., Bonato, S. & Soklaridis, S. (2019). Being there: A scoping review of grief support training in medical education. PLoS ONE, 14(11): e0224325. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0224325>
- Pinon, Amy (2022) <https://blueavocado.org/community-and-culture/ethical-storytelling-for-nonprofits/>
- Taylor, N. (2021) <https://communitycentricfundraising.org/2021/01/06/7-ways-to-tell-stories-ethically-the-journey-from-exploited-program-participant-to-empowered-storyteller/>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B2- To thy own self be true The Impact of a Professionals lived experience on Grief Support (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 233

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Corrie Sirota

Private Practice

Clinical Social Worker & Psychotherapist Specializing in Grief and Loss

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Corrie Sirota holds a Masters degree in Social Work from McGill University, (Montreal, Canada) as well as a Graduate Certificate in Loss and Bereavement where she continues to teach. As a licensed psychotherapist, Corrie maintains a private practice specializing in Loss and Bereavement. She is the author of "Someone Died...Now What - A personal and professional perspective on coping with grief and loss" and "Loss & Found - A grief activity journal. Corrie is also the Clinical Director of Myra's Kids Foundation which holds a weekend bereavement camp for children ages 6-17. She is also a well-known guest speaker, having presented at numerous conferences and workshops, both locally and nationally. Corrie is frequently interviewed on many local radio, news and TV programs on various issues relating to loss and bereavement, and coping with crisis. She is married to Andy, has two daughters, one son in law and loves to laugh.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Social Work

Field of Study: Loss & Bereavement

License Information: Order of Social Work, Order of Psychotherapists

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** To thy own self be true The Impact of a Professionals lived experience on Grief Support

**Session Description:** Many grief counsellors come into the field as a result of their own lived experience. This session will focus on the importance of self awareness in the work we do. This workshop is also designed to address the pros and cons of the use of self in supporting the bereaved. An exploration of how to effectively use self disclosure in on our work with clients and the role of countertransference will be reviewed as well.

**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Restate the pros and cons of self disclosure and it's impact on the helping process.
- Use self disclosure mindfully and more productively.
- Recognize when countertransference is occurring and how to address it.

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Social Work Ethics

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues

References:

- O'Phelan, Mooneyen, "An exploration of therapists' personal experience of loss and grief and impact on therapeutic approach" (2012). Theses & Dissertations. 5. <https://commons.stmarytx.edu/dissertations/5>
- Business Bliss Consultants FZE. (November 2018). Improving Countertransference of Bereavement. Retrieved from <https://ukdiss.com/litreview/personal-difficulties-in-countertransference-of-bereavement.php?vref=1>
- Robert B. Shapiro (2021) Transference, Countertransference and Mourning the Death of a Parent, *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 57:3-4, 392-407, DOI: 10.1080/00107530.2021.1997479
- Aasan, O. J., Brataas, H. V., & Nordtug, B. (2022). Experience of Managing Countertransference Through Self-Guided Imagery in Meditation Among Healthcare Professionals. *Frontiers in psychiatry*, 13, 793784. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.793784>
- Judith L. M. McCoyd, Erica Goldblatt Hyatt, Kerry Hennessy & Ayse Akincigil. (2023) Revising ruling discourses: The griefwork evidence-to-practice gap and the mental health workforce. *Death Studies* 47:10, pages 1136-1145.
- Prasko, J., Ociskova, M., Vanek, J., Burkauskas, J., Slepecky, M., Bite, I., Krone, I., Sollar, T., & Juskiene, A. (2022). Managing Transference and Countertransference in Cognitive Behavioral Supervision: Theoretical Framework and Clinical Application. *Psychology research and behavior management*, 15, 2129-2155. <https://doi.org/10.2147/PRBM.S369294>
- Råbu, Marit., McLeod, John., Haavind, Hanne., Strange Bernhardt, Ida., Nissen, Helene., Moltu, Lie & Christian (2021) How psychotherapists make use of their experiences from being a client: Lessons from a collective autoethnography, *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 34:1, 109-128, DOI: 10.1080/09515070.2019.1671319
- Sleater, Andrew M., Scheiner, Julie. (2019) . *The European Journal of Counselling Psychology*. Vol. 8(1), 118-143. <https://doi.org/10.5964/ejcop.v8i1.160>



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B3- A Student-Led Initiative to Expand Peer Grief Support Services in Higher Education (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 431

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Leila Salisbury

The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families

Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Leila W. Salisbury is the executive director of The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families (KCGCF), which she founded in 2020. She currently serves on the Membership Committee of the National Alliance for Children's Grief. She is trained on the Peer Healing Curriculum as part of a pilot program with the University of Chicago Medical School; the KCGCF is one of two pilot sites in the country for this teen-led, evidence-based grief support curriculum. She has also worked as a volunteer with the McClean Fletcher Center (a children's grief center in Jackson, MS) and raised a grieving child after her husband died when her daughter was 5.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: English

License Information: N/A

Presenter #2:

Emily Rommelman

The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families

Clinical Programs Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Emily Rommelman (Johnson) and I am the Clinical Program Manager at the Kentucky Center For Grieving Children and Families. In 2015, I lost my father to cancer and began the grieving process. This experience allowed me the opportunity to realize that I had a growing passion to support others also experiencing the grieving process. From that point on, I knew that I wanted to be a grief-focused therapist.

I began my studies at Auburn University and continued by completing a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy at the University of Kentucky. My focus is working with children and families throughout their grieving process, and I serve as the Clinical Programs Manager here at the KCGCF. I have run two pilot programs for the Peer Healing curriculum with college campuses, after launching a series of online groups for teens using the original version of the curriculum.

My doctoral work focuses on the impact of adverse childhood experiences on attachment, money beliefs and behaviors, and financial beliefs.

Highest Degree Earned: MFT, PhD in progress (Dec. 2023)

Field of Study: English

License Information: LMFT

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Nicole Breazeale  
University of Kentucky  
Professor of Community Leadership and Development

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Nicole Breazeale is an Associate Professor of Community & Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky. She is the 2022 winner of the Outstanding Community Development Educator Award, as named by the national Community Development Society, and was a national finalist for the prestigious Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career faculty. Her professional work focuses on storytelling and community engagement methods. Nicole earned her PhD in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin. She is also a widow and her 10-year-old son attends bi-weekly community grief group provided by the Kentucky Center for Grieving Children & Families (KCGCF). Nicole currently sits on the board of KCGCF.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Community development and service learning so that underrepresented and marginalized communities can create empowering locally-based programs and systems change from within their communities

License Information: N/A

### Session Information

Title of Session: A Student-Led Initiative to Expand Peer Grief Support Services in Higher Education

Session Description: Grief among college students is a pressing concern; at any given time, 22-30% of undergraduates are in the first 12 months of grieving a significant death loss (Balk, 2008). This grief often leads to depression, lack of motivation, and feelings of isolation, negatively affecting academic and social outcomes (Hay et al, 2002). While resources to assist grieving students vary, many universities lack specialized grief support beyond individual counseling. Notably, students prefer to turn to their peers (Glickman, 2020), and find it particularly comforting to talk with those who have also experienced a death loss. This has long been one of the strengths of peer support models used by children's bereavement centers, but these opportunities are less common in university settings. This session explores the development of a unique peer-led grief support program at the University of Kentucky (UK). It was initiated as part of a capstone course by three undergraduates who themselves experienced parental loss, including UK football team captain JJ Weaver. Now, UK Athletics and the Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families (KCGCF) are helping these students to refine and scale this unique evidence-based intervention. The 8-week curriculum is being piloted through athletics, with Weaver serving as the peer leader alongside the KCGCF facilitator. The athletics department's involvement is an important mechanism for breaking the stigma around grief support and in stimulating wider demand for these types of critical services as Weaver uses his media platform to highlight the importance of this work

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

(Roush, 2023). The program is scheduled to launch more broadly to UK students in 2024, in collaboration with UK's Center for Support & Intervention.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify the Urgent Need to Address Grief on College Campuses: □ Gain insights into the critical importance of addressing grief in the context of higher education and its impact on the well-being of college students.
- Explore the Peer-Led Grief Support Model: □ Examine the development and successful implementation of a peer-led grief support program at the University of Kentucky, emphasizing the significance of partnerships in program support and expansion.
- Delve into the comprehensive Peer Healing curriculum, covering its evidence- based foundation, session structure, content, ethical considerations, and its adaptability to cater to the diverse needs of grieving college students.
- Leverage Collaborations for Grief Support Promotion: □ Analyze the role of collaborative efforts with entities like athletics departments and media platforms in raising awareness about grief support services, diminishing the stigma surrounding grief, and
- Identify partnerships and resources needed to launch a Peer Healing group in their community

Session Format: Panel

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Balk, D. E. (2008). Grieving: 22 to 30 percent of all college students. *New Directions for Student Services* 121: 5-14.
- Hay, A., Howell, J., Rudaizky, D., Breen, L. (2022). Experiences and support needs of bereaved students in higher education. *Journal of Death and Dying* 0: 1-32.
- Sandler, I., Gunn, H., Mazza, G., Tein, J.-Y., Wolchik, S., Kim, H., Ayers, T., & Porter, M. (2018). Three perspectives on mental health problems of young adults and their parents at a 15-year follow-up of the family bereavement program. *Journal of Consul*

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Roush, N. (2023, Oct 4). JJ Weaver creates 'Perfect Fit' program to help grieving athletes. KSR. Available at: <https://www.on3.com/teams/kentucky-wildcats/news/jj-weaver-creates-perfect-fit-program-to-help-grieving-athletes/>
- Pham, S., Porta, G., Biernesser, C., Walker Payne, M., Iyengar, S., Melhem, N., & Brent, D. A. (2018). The Burden of Bereavement: Early-Onset Depression and Impairment in Youths Bereaved by Sudden Parental Death in a 7-Year Prospective Study. *The American*
- Chavez, J., Cheng, J., Liu, A., Alexis, H., Boring, J., Sandler, I., & Suskind, D. (2022). A Grief Group for Today's Teens: Using Human-Centered Design to Develop an Evidence-Based Intervention for Teens That Have Lost a Parent. *International Public Health Journal*.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B4- The Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss: a 27-item strength-based measurement tool (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 253

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jenny Kaplan

Jeff's Place

Founder & Research Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Jennifer Kaplan was awarded the Excellence in Service Award at the 2018 Symposium for the National Alliance for Grieving Children for her professional contributions in research and practice on a national level in the field of childhood bereavement.

She is Founding Director for Jeff's Place Children's Bereavement Center, Inc., based in Framingham and serving greater MetroWest and beyond, FRIENDS WAY in Rhode Island, and Founding Clinical Director Experience Camps, weeklong overnight camps for grieving boys and girls across the USA. Dr. Kaplan has worked extensively with bereaved children, teens and families in various settings over the past 25 years providing counseling, professional training and education, and crisis response.

Her publications include *You Are Not Alone: Young Adults Coping With Death*, book chapters, and peer-reviewed journal articles. She is a graduate of Simmons College School of Social Work in Boston, where she has taught as an adjunct faculty member. Dr. Kaplan created the Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss (IYAL), an outcome measurement tool, to understand the feelings and social supports experienced by bereaved youth to develop an evidence-base for bereavement interventions, as well as to impact public policy change so that prevention programs like Jeff's Place are sustainable.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: PhD, LICSW, FT

Presenter #2:

Matt Carper

William James College

Assistant Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Matt Carper is an Assistant Professor in the Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology at William James College and Associate Director of the Center for Psychological Science. He is a licensed clinical psychologist and recognized expert in the treatment of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder in youth. He also specializes in the treatment of behavioral sleep problems in youth.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Dr. Carper obtained his PhD in clinical psychology from Temple University and received additional clinical training in the treatment of behavioral sleep problems in youth through the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). He completed his residency and postdoctoral fellowship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University where he provided clinical care to patients at Bradley Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Dr. Carper has published over 30 peer-reviewed articles and 6 book chapters. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the journal Cognitive and Behavioral Practice and is on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. He also serves on grant review panels for the International OCD Foundation and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: PhD

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Amy Liebman Rapp  
Alex Cares, Inc.  
Founder & CEO

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Amy Liebman Rapp, M.S.Ed., CT is a nationally recognized authority in childhood bereavement known for her abilities as an active listener, collaborator, innovator, mentor and strategic thinker.

After the death of her husband in 1991 when her son Alex was 8 years old, Amy pursued graduate studies in both Thanatology and Grief Counseling when she realized that there were no grief support resources available for children and adolescents on the east coast of the United States.

For the past 28 years she has been committed to providing grief support and education for youth and families nationally. She has facilitated the creation, expansion and strategic vision of more than 200 children's bereavement organizations across the country, impacting the lives of more than 250,000 children throughout her work as Managing Director of A Little Hope, Inc. (2002-2016), of which she is a Founding Board member. Amy is also a Founding Board member of NACG.

Alex Cares, Inc./Alex Cares for Grieving Youth® A Creator of Innovative Initiatives and Partnerships, is the non-profit incubator and accelerator created by Amy Liebman Rapp in 2016. [youthresilience.org](http://youthresilience.org); [thesanctuaryforgrief.org](http://thesanctuaryforgrief.org)

Highest Degree Earned: MEd  
Field of Study: Grief Counseling  
License Information:

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** The Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss: a 27-item strength-based measurement tool

**Session Description:** Understanding the feelings experienced by bereaved youth, as well as the social support they receive is an important step in developing an evidence-base for bereavement interventions. A rigorous assessment tool to assess youth's communication, sense of social support, sense of connection, and social and emotional experiences of loss and resilience related to bereavement is required. The Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss (IYAL) was created to fill this gap and with the most rigorous research standards through the help of more than 20 children's bereavement programs over ten years and is a statistically valid and reliable instrument for youth ages 9-17.

From September 2022 - June 2024 children's bereavement providers across the United States and Canada participated in a research study utilizing the revised 27-item IYAL in a pre/post design to test the efficacy of intervention and to determine the validity and reliability of the shortened version. This workshop will present the data collected from the diverse dataset, findings from year 1, and implications to inform program development and implementation, policy development and standards of prevention and care for youth experiencing traumatic loss. These data would be invaluable for individual programs, therapists, and for the field. Jeff's Place is thrilled to partner with William James College, ALEX CARES and The Sanctuary National Grief Support Network on this important research, as well as all of the partner grief support providers whose youth have participated in the research.

**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Research, Outcomes, and Measurements

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. Identify the domains that make up the Inventory of Youth Adaptation to Loss
2. Discuss findings of the current study and next steps.
3. Understand the challenges and limitations of developing a standardized or empirically based instrument to measure how a child feels, communicates, is supported by, or connects with others.

**Session Format:** Lecture

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B5- At the Intersection of Children's Grief and the Rural Mental Health Crisis: Practical Applications (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 247

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Kris Fulkerson  
Coping 4 Kids  
President

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Kris is the founder and President of Coping 4 Kids, started in 2007, and co-founder of the non-profit Coping 4 Life in 2016. Both organizations provide much needed social work support in low-resourced, at-risk rural communities. Kris has extensive training in grief and trauma, youth mental health needs, suicide prevention, rural mental health, and is a registered yoga teacher (200) as well as a 3rd year doctoral student at Barry University. She has presented both nationally and locally, in person and online. Kris volunteers with both Experience Camps and TAPS providing clinical care to grieving children and adolescents around the country. She was honored with a 2011 NASW Social Worker of the Year award, a 2016 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for her work helping women and children, the 2021 Horace Mann Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award by the Illinois Principals Association for her innovative mobile social work programs in rural schools, and the Dr. Phyllis Scott Leadership Fellowship Award from Barry University. Beyond her calling to help people, Kris kayaks, travels, raises her small army, and is the main blogger on Coping's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Social Work  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

Title of Session: At the Intersection of Children's Grief and the Rural Mental Health Crisis: Practical Applications

Session Description: There has been a large increase in the number of grieving children AND the rural mental health crisis continues to result in more deaths with fewer mental health practitioners to respond. Children's grief centers and clinicians are uniquely posed to respond, join us as we dialogue around trauma informed care, connecting existing resources in rural areas, and meeting the needs of rural grieving youth. Attendees will leave with activities to use with grieving children, teens, or volunteers, as well as much needed practical applications to address rural grieving children.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- describe the rural mental health crisis.
- apply trauma informed care principals to begin to address the needs of rural grieving children.
- create and leverage rural mental health partnerships.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues

References:

- Baker, C. N., Brown, S. M., Wilcox, P., Verlenden, J. M., Black, C. L., & Grant, B. E. (2018). The implementation and effect of trauma-informed care within residential youth services in rural Canada: A mixed methods case study. *Psychological trauma : theory, research, practice and policy*, 10(6), 666-674. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0000327>
- Bryant-Davis, T. (2019). The cultural context of trauma recovery: Considering the posttraumatic stress disorder practice guideline and intersectionality. *Psychotherapy*, 56(3), 400-408. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pst0000241>
- Crouch, E., Probst, J. C., Shi, S., McLain, A., Eberth, J. M., Brown, M. J., Merrell, M., & Bennett, K. J. (2022). Examining the association between rurality and positive childhood experiences among a national sample. *The Journal of Rural Health*, 39(1), 1
- Zuelke, A. E., Luppa, M., Löbner, M., Pabst, A., Schlapke, C., Stein, J., & Riedel-Heller, S. G. (2021). Effectiveness and feasibility of internet-based interventions for grief after bereavement: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *JMIR Mental Health*, 8(12), e29661. <https://doi.org/10.2196/29661>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B6- Supporting Children, Teens, and Families after Traumatic Death (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 378

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Janet McCord

Edgewood College

Professor of Thanatology

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Janet McCord, PhD, FT, Professor of Thanatology and Thanatology Program Director at Edgewood College, has been a thanatologist and suicidologist for nearly 30 years. She is a death educator who teaches a broad array of topics in thanatology and suicidology and has educated hundreds of master's level students around the globe in graduate thanatology programs. She is a member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement (IWG) since 2016 and embraces the IWG's vision as her own: a world where dying, death, and bereavement are an open part of all cultures. Her research interests include the investigation of global and cultural perspectives of trauma, dying, death, grief, suicide, and loss, and the intersection of thanatology with literature and the arts. She is in the process of conducting research on death and funeral rituals among the Acholi and BaGanda peoples of Uganda, and plans to expand this research to other low-income countries. She currently serves as a Thanatology Section Editor for the Routledge Online Resources: Death, Dying, and Bereavement, and has published peer-reviewed articles, book reviews, book chapters, and contributed to a range of projects as an author or reviewer.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Thanatology and Suicidology

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Rebecca Morse

Edgewood College

Adjunct Professor of Thanatology

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Rebecca S. Morse, Ph.D., is a behavioral and developmental psychologist and thanatologist. She has taught at several Universities and Colleges on a broad range of topics in psychology, criminology, traumatology, and thanatology. She is a Past President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling and is the co-chair for the American Psychological Association End of Life Special Interest Group. She is also a collaborator on a project with the Hospice Foundation of America to provide grief education for individuals with Autism, funded by the Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation. She is a Thanatology Subject Editor for Taylor & Francis, and has published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and contributed to numerous textbooks as both an author, and a reviewer.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Thanatology and Suicidology

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

License Information: NA

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: Supporting Children, Teens, and Families after Traumatic Death

Session Description: Traumatic death has become increasingly common, and research shows that traumatic events, especially violent death, lead to increased distress for individuals and families. Traumatic events are an important determinant of the health of communities. Families and communities who experience systems of oppression (including disparities based on race and income) are associated with higher incidence of trauma and the psychological challenges that often occur after traumatic events (Douglas et al., 2020; Bordere, 2020). Traumatic events happen in many forms including gun violence, overdose, suicide, homicide, natural disaster, COVID-19, warfare, and accidents, just to name a few.

In the aftermath of a traumatic event or death, families are left to cope with both trauma and grief, a "double whammy." Traumatic death can impact whole communities, and the grief experienced by families is exacerbated by the symptoms of traumatic exposure. Along with the challenges of primary losses, there are secondary losses as well. Grievers often experience disenfranchised grief (Doka, 1999) or suffocated grief (Bordere, 2020) after traumatic deaths. In communities that experience systems of oppression and racial and economic disparities, polyvictimization and violent death exposure can lead to mental health consequences. These can include long-term or short-term pathology; acute disorders; Post Traumatic Stress; and behavior changes, and these disproportionately affect communities of color (Douglas et al., 2020; MacIntyre et al., 2023). At the same time, the collective efficacy of social cohesion within communities can reduce distress and risk of mental health conditions (Kim, 2020).

The presentation will examine different types of traumatic death, review trauma-informed models of grief (Fondren et al., 2020), and offer practical strategies caregivers and grief professionals can use in caring and supporting families and enhancing resilience within communities.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify and discuss types of traumatic death such as suicide, overdose, homicide, and natural disaster
- Describe models of grief response to traumatic death
- Describe support program ideas professionals can use to support children, teens, and families

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations

References:

- Fondren, K., Lawson, M., Speidel, R., McDonnell, C. G., & Valentino, K. (2020). Buffering the effects of childhood trauma within the school setting: A systematic review of trauma-informed and trauma-responsive interventions among trauma-affected youth. *Ch*
- Douglas, R. D., Alvis, L. M., Rooney, E. E., Busby, D. R., & Kaplow, J. B. (2021). Racial, ethnic, and neighborhood income disparities in childhood posttraumatic stress and grief: Exploring indirect effects through trauma exposure and bereavement. *Journal*
- Kim, J. (2020). The role of social cohesion in addressing the impact of COVID-19 on mental health within marginalized communities. *Local development & society*, 1(2), 205-216.
- MacIntyre, M. M., Zare, M., & Williams, M. T. (2023). Anxiety-related disorders in the context of racism. *Current Psychiatry Reports*, 25(2), 31-43.
- Pica-Smith, C., & Scannell, C. (2020). Teaching and learning for this moment: How a trauma informed lens can guide our praxis. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Higher Education*, 5(1), 76-83.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B7- A Grief Center's Guide to Volunteer Training: Experience it for Yourself (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 284

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Shalen Steinbugl

Healing Patch Children's Grief Program

Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Shalen Steinbugl has bachelor's degrees in health communication and psychology from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Since graduating, the titles that she has held at various jobs have included: Wedding Coordinator, Community Outreach Coordinator, Communications and Events Coordinator, and finally Volunteer Coordinator/Grief Specialist, her current role at the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program since 2019. As suggested by her position titles, Shalen has a passion for coordinating, whether that includes coordinating marketing/communication strategies, community outreach initiatives, wide-scale community events and fundraisers, or volunteers. At the Healing Patch, in addition to working directly with grieving families, Shalen's main focus is to recruit, train, and retain volunteers. She has fine-tuned and further developed the volunteer training curriculum and volunteer manual, and she has a desire to continue collaborating with other volunteer coordinators across the country in the hopes of providing the best possible support to grieving children and their families.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor's Degrees

Field of Study: Health Communication & Psychology

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Melody Ray

Healing Patch Children's Grief Program

Healing Patch Coordinator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Melody earned her Bachelor of social work from St. Francis University and her Master of social work from the University of Pittsburgh. Melody's initial social worker career focused on counseling in the substance abuse/dependency field and special needs foster care/adoption. Since 2012, Melody has been employed at the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program. Her role has evolved over the years, starting as the volunteer coordinator/grief specialist, and over the past four years as the manager of the program. In 2018, Melody's authored book, *Someone I Love Died from a Drug Overdose*, a resource for caregivers and children that lost a loved one to substance abuse, was published. Melody continues to work directly with grieving children and families at the Healing Patch, as well as overseeing program development and supporting the volunteer coordinator with volunteer recruitment, training, and retention.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's Degree

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Field of Study: Health Communication & Psychology

License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: A Grief Center's Guide to Volunteer Training: Experience it for Yourself

Session Description: At the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program and at many other grief centers across the country, volunteers are the heart and soul of the program. Without volunteers, the program could not exist. This interactive presentation focuses on volunteer training, specifically for peer support group volunteers. Experience a mock training session—and you are the participant. Presenters will share examples of a volunteer onboarding process, icebreakers, sample activities, training videos, facilitator outlines, retention tips, and more. Participants will be encouraged to collaborate and share their tried-and-true tips and tricks with others in attendance.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Volunteers

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. identify potential gaps in their volunteer recruitment strategies by collaborating with other volunteer managers in the children's grief field.
2. develop or add additional tools and skills for a comprehensive training manual and curriculum for incoming peer support group volunteers within their organization.
3. practice sample activities to decide if they would be valuable within their own volunteer training sessions.
4. collaborate with fellow volunteer trainers on ideas for best practice volunteer training strategies to fully equip and empower new peer support group volunteer facilitators to lead with confidence.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B8- Using Minecraft to Support Grieving Children (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 267

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Brian Keating

Deep Listening Psychotherapy, LLC

Psychotherapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Brian Keating MA LPC (he, him) is a Certified Synergetic Play Therapist and Certified Group Psychotherapist specializing in grief and childhood bereavement. His work is also informed by trainings in EMDR and Attachment-Based Family Therapy for Depressed Adolescents. Since moving his practice online, Brian has grown a niche specialization in providing tele-play therapy and is a contributing author to the newly published book *Advances in Online Therapy: Emergence of a New Paradigm* edited by Haim Weinberg, Arnon Rolnick, and Adam Leighton. Brian has presented for a variety of organizations on the topics of grief, childhood bereavement, and using the video game Minecraft in play therapy.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Play Therapy

License Information: LPC.0014367

### Session Information

Title of Session: Using Minecraft to Support Grieving Children

Session Description: Minecraft is a dynamic and engaging video game that has grabbed the attention of children, adolescents, and adults since 2011. It is described as an "open world, sandbox-style" video game that can be played individually or with others. For many children Minecraft can be a comfortable and familiar way to initiate play in a creative and therapeutic manner. It is important for mental health clinicians to acknowledge the impact the game has had in the lives of their patients, while understanding the immense therapeutic benefit the game has when played in a clinical setting. Further, the responsibility of a clinician using Minecraft in a therapy session is to understand how playing clinically is very different than the patient playing with a neighbor, friend, or family member.

Drawing from interpersonal neurobiology, polyvagal theory, child-centered play therapy, and modern grief theory, this session will explore the therapeutic benefits of playing the game in a therapy session with a bereaved child. Special focus will be given to how the game can be used to help children process grief and trauma while promoting self-regulation, problem solving, and frustration and distress tolerance.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify the therapeutic benefits of using the Minecraft video game in play therapy with a bereaved child.
- gain an understanding of how to translate game play in Minecraft to clinical treatment goals.
- be given three specific prompts for in-game directive play therapy interventions as well as three specific examples of non-directive game play interventions.
- leave equipped with knowledge of the hardware and technology needed to begin implementing Minecraft into their current clinical practice.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Burns, M., Landry, L., Mills, D., Carlson, N., Blueford, J. M., & Talmi, A. (2023). COVID-19 pandemic's disproportionate impact on childhood bereavement for youth of color: Reflections and recommendations. *Frontiers in Pediatrics*, 11.
- Burns, M., Griese, B., King, S., & Talmi, A. (2020). Childhood Bereavement: Understanding prevalence and related adversity in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(4), 391-405.
- Simmons, J. (2020). Moving Toward Regulation Using Synergetic Play Therapy. *Canadian Journal of Counselling and Psychotherapy*, 54(3), 242-258. Retrieved from <https://cjc-rcc.ucalgary.ca/article/view/69443>
- Townsend, Bethany & Ishman, Lindsay & Dion, Lisa & Holt, Kara. (2021). An Examination of Child-Centered Play Therapy and Synergetic Play Therapy. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Counseling*. 7. 1-14. 10.1080/23727810.2021.1964931.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B9- Empowering Equity: Communication Strategies for Organizations Responding to BIPOC Community Crises (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 307

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Doneila McIntosh

African American Child Wellness Institute

Psychotherapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Doneila McIntosh (she/her), M.Div., M.A., is currently a third-year doctoral student at the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy. Doneila has a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) in Theological Studies and a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (M.A.). She is psychotherapist at the African American Child Wellness Institute (AACWI) in Minneapolis. Prior to becoming a psychotherapist, she worked as a chaplain for nearly 10 years. A systemic interventionist, Doneila primarily works with couples and families. She specializes in compassionate grief therapy helping clients navigate the intersections of trauma, grief, and loss. She utilizes the African Centered Wellness Model<sup>©</sup> to work with clients and is also trained in a variety of modalities including Mindfulness Stress Reduction (MBSR) and Mindfulness Self-Compassion (MSC). Doneila's research aligns with her previous work as a chaplain where she explores the intersections of disenfranchised grief among African American families, particularly in the aftermath of violent death.

Highest Degree Earned: M.Div., M.A.

Field of Study: Marriage and Family Therapy/Family Social Science

License Information: na

Presenter #2:

Adam Stevens

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Adam D-F. Stevens (they|them), MA, RDT. They are a Registered Drama Therapist (RDT) who works primarily with adolescents in the Tri-state area. They have worked with the Hetrick-Martin Institute and Cooke School & Institute in NYC. Adam's role includes supporting queer, POC, and neurodiverse youth in transforming their loss, grief, and trauma into unapologetic, abundant joy and empowerment. Adam serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Creative Arts Therapy Programs at Antioch University, NYU, and Marymount Manhattan College. They have sat on the Board of Directors for the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA) as Chair of the Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity Committee. Adam currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Children's Grief (NACG). Adam works to support theatrical productions on and Off-Broadway as an emotional wellness consultant. They were named Artistic Director for the Collidescope Repertory Theatre Company (CRTC) by NYU in 2020. CRTC's mission is to advance racial justice and healing through artful affinity and performance. Adam recently awarded the NADTA Raymond Jacobs Memorial Diversity Award and the NADTA Performance Award for their work with CRTC and in recognition of their outstanding dedication to diversity in the field of drama therapy.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Highest Degree Earned:

Field of Study: Marriage and Family Therapy/Family Social Science

License Information:

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: Empowering Equity: Communication Strategies for Organizations Responding to BIPOC Community Crises

Session Description: Hate crimes in the United States are on the rise, as reported by the U.S. Department of Justice (2021). These crimes are characterized by biases related to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or disability. Notably, in 2021, 64.8% of identified hate crimes in the U.S. were fueled by racial and ethnic biases, with Black Americans remaining the most targeted group in most U.S. cities, followed by sexual orientation accounting for 15.6%.

Contrary to the notion that grief is a great equalizer, it is evident that identity markers such as race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status expose BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities to a heightened risk of experiencing crimes that violate their humanity. This has led to community crises characterized by collective grief among many BIPOC communities in the aftermath of these crimes.

In recent years, grief organizations have had to respond to both local and national tragedies, including but not limited to victims such as Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, the victims of Tops Friendly Markets in Buffalo, the Youngs Asian Massage victims in Atlanta, Dominique Fells, O'Shea Sibley, Riah Milton, and Ahmaud Arbery. However, the historical significance and complexity surrounding these crimes have left many organizations and grief support workers struggling to find adequate words and approaches to truly acknowledge and support grieving communities of color affected by these incidents.

This workshop is designed to assist organizations in acquiring the tools necessary to cultivate impactful communication strategies that provide support to BIPOC communities during times of crisis. Throughout this workshop, we will delve into the importance of messaging during community crises, provide practical guidance on addressing both local and national events, and offer concrete examples to illustrate key principles of communication. This workshop will be interactional.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Marketing

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. acquire a comprehensive framework to grasp why effective messaging is crucial during community crises, with a specific focus on the unique challenges related to BIPOC communities.

## **2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog**

2. gain practical skills and techniques for crafting and disseminating communication strategies tailored to support BIPOC communities in crisis situations, whether on a local or national scale.
3. apply key principles of crisis communication to hypothetical scenarios, fostering the ability to respond effectively in high-pressure situations.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: B10- Grief for Grown-ups: Enhanced Programming for Parents of Grieving Children (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 275

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lauren Schneider

OUR HOUSE

clinical Director of Children's Program

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lauren, a nationally recognized expert on Child & Adolescent Grief, has directed the Children's Programs for OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center for 20 years. In that role Lauren provides trainings for mental health clinicians, educators, clergy, health care providers and graduate students throughout the community empowering them to work with grieving clients. Lauren is the author of "Children Grieve Too: A Handbook for Parents of Grieving Children" and contributing author of "You Can't Do It Alone: A Widow's Journey through Grief and Life After". She also created "My Memory Book...for grieving children". Lauren is an 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; sits on the Eluna Resource Center Advisory Board as well as being a member of J William Worden's study group. 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.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters in Social Works

Field of Study: social work

License Information: LCS17930

Presenter #2:

Talya Schlesinger

Our House

Senior Clinical Coordinator of Children's Program

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Talya is a licensed clinical social worker dedicated to supporting grieving children and families in the Los Angeles area. Talya is the Senior Clinical Coordinator of the Family Support Program at OUR HOUSE. Talya meets with prospective group members to complete assessments prior to them joining an OUR HOUSE program and provides ongoing support throughout their time receiving services. Talya trains and supervises OUR HOUSE volunteers as well as Master of Social Work students. Additionally, Talya provides grief support trainings to a variety of providers in the community, including mental health professionals, clergy, graduate students, and school personnel. Talya received a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Michigan. Previous to her work at OUR HOUSE, Talya was a clinical social worker at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters in Social Work

Field of Study: social work

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

License Information: LCSW 100936

## Session Information

**Title of Session:** Grief for Grown-ups: Enhanced Programming for Parents of Grieving Children

**Session Description:** With the return to in-person services, the full impact of the pandemic on families who were grieving came to light. Notably, children's adjustment to life after loss was impacted by how well their caregivers were adapting not just to the grief but also to all the ravages of the pandemic on the social, emotional and financial wellbeing of the family. Children's behaviors were communicating that they were in more pain than ever before, and we realized that their parents and guardians were in need of more support. With this new understanding, we embarked on a two-year redesign of our long-standing grief support programs. In this workshop we will share the program design and implementation strategies we devised for supporting parents and guardians as well as their offspring in both camp and support group models.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify 3 reasons why it's important to provide support for parents and guardians in children's bereavement programs.
- implement a framework for an adult camp to run alongside a children's grief camp.
- utilize tools and skills gained to develop a curriculum to use for a parent/guardian program to offer alongside children's grief support programs.
- devise an evaluation tool to utilize for both camp and support group models.

**Session Format:** Experiential

## CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

**Social Work Content Area(s):**

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

**Counseling Content Area(s):**

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Assessment

**References:**

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Kaplow, J., Layne, C., & Pynoos, R. (2014) Parental Grief Facilitation: How Parents Can Help Their bereaved children during the holidays. *International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies*
- Howell, K., Shapiro, D., Layne, C., Kaplow, J. (2015) Individual and Psychosocial mechanisms of adaptive functioning in Parentally Bereaved Children 39:5,296-306,, *Death Studies*
- Sandler, I et al. (2022) Feasibility, Acceptability, and Effectiveness of Adding an Evidence Based Parent-Caregiver Program for Bereaved families to Usual Community-based Services. *Omega-Journal of Death and Dying*.
- Zhang, NA, et al. (2023) Self-compassion for Caregivers of Children in Parentally Bereaved Families: A theoretical Model and Intervention Example. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review* 26.2, pgs 430-444.
- Alvis, L., Zhang, N., Sandler, I. N., & Kaplow, J. B. (2022). Developmental Manifestations of Grief in Children and Adolescents: Caregivers as Key Grief Facilitators. *Journal of child & adolescent trauma*, 16(2), 447-457. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-00435-0>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### C- REGIONAL FORUMS: Monday, June 17 from 4:30-5:30pm

- Region I: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut  
Region: Ryan Loiselle and Jennifer Wiles
- Region II: New Jersey, New York, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia: Adam Stevens & Annette March-Grier
- Region III: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee: Lane Pease, Leila Salisbury
- Region IV: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin: Aileac Deegan, Peggy Nielson
- Region V: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas: Marian Mankin, Erin Engelke
- Region VI: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska: Carly Woythaler-Runestad, Dr. Tashel Bordere
- Region VII: Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming: Micki Burns, Tina Barrett
- Region VIII: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands): Jim Santucci, Kris Friedman
- Region IX: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington: Brennan Wood
- Region X: Canada & International: Corrie Sirota

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D1- Overcoming Brand Barriers, Building Bountiful Organizations (Brand or Bust) (NON-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 213

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Jeff Kimball  
Elizabeth's Smile  
Global President

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Living and working with gratitude. Jeff is a non-profit entrepreneur, branding, fundraising and organizational scaling expert who has never missed a fundraising goal in his career. A former aide to President Biden and Senator John D. Rockefeller IV, he is passionate about supporting people, bringing help and hope to those of us who are suffering. Jeff has helped scale five nonprofits, growing them more than 10-fold during his tenure. He is an award-winning writer who worked in crisis communications on Wall Street and did branding for the likes of GE and IBM. He's an innovator and entrepreneur who leverages the power of narratives and the discipline of branding, along with revenue modeling to earn results. Jeff is the widowed father of two girls who also experienced the death of his only grandparent, mother, father, best friend and 9-year-old niece over a handful of years. He holds undergraduate and master's degrees from Emerson College, where he graduated at the top of his class.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters  
Field of Study: Communications  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Overcoming Brand Barriers, Building Bountiful Organizations (Brand or Bust)  
**Session Description:** This session is intended to create a common understanding of nonprofit brand strategies, review the brand challenges that we face as an industry, and alternatives for confronting those barriers in order to build successful fundraising campaigns. Jeff will introduce the concept of experience-based affinity brands (i.e. Red Bull) and how an approach on what the brand experience does for the program recipient is paramount, and how the traditional focus on what the nonprofit does creates confusion and feeds into people's reluctance in talking about death. Consistent with the way that Mr. Kimball approaches his work as a CEO, this session is meant to be interactive and collaborative, and is not a lecture or traditional presentation. After an initial presentation, Mr. Kimball will utilize the Harkness method to engage in a meaningful discussion that hopefully breaks new ground. Presentation will be 20 minutes followed by 20 minutes of brainstorming and 20 minutes of collaboration and articulating the problems and solutions.  
**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Marketing

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. more clearly communicate the value of their organization
2. Raise more money
3. Recruit more volunteers
4. Gain more website visitors

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D2- Creative Activities to Engage Students who are Grieving (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 423

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Buffy Peters

Hamilton's Academy of Grief & Loss

Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Buffy Peters is the Director of Hamilton's Academy of Grief & Loss, a division of Hamilton's Funeral Home in Des Moines, Iowa.

In her work with the Academy, she helps to provide support for children, teens and adults including their children's grief programs and grief support in schools. Buffy is very active providing grief presentations, locally as well as nationally, to a variety of professionals including funeral directors, school staff, and school grief response teams. She is particularly passionate about advocating for children who are grieving, homicide survivors and educating about grief following a traumatic loss.

Buffy is one of the co-founders of the Hamilton's Pet Loss Support Group and facilitates virtual grief support groups with HealGrief.org and AMF (Actively Moving Forward). She organizes a local bereavement professionals group, is a member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, and a very active member of the NACG. Buffy has contributed to many grief resources, including the NACG's "Creating Space for Children in a Funeral Home" and "Children and End of Life Memorials and Rituals" and editor on the School GriefTalks Toolkit.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor's

Field of Study: Child, Adult and Family Services

License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: Creative Activities to Engage Students who are Grieving

Session Description: Using creative activities to process big feelings can help students explore feelings they may not have the language to describe or identify. During this interactive session, explore a variety of creative activities that can be utilized in school grief support groups. Be ready to try your hand at some of these activities! We will share some of our favorites, ways we have used them with students and we encourage you to bring the ones you love to add to this robust conversation!

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. Discuss the importance of grief support for children and teens and the benefits of grief support in the context of the school setting.
2. Practice a variety of creative expressions to utilize with students in grief support groups in schools.
3. Apply the tools gained during this session to benefit the students you work with in your community.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D3- When Grief Comes to Court: Supporting Bereaved Youth in the Juvenile Court System (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 355

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lane Pease

Kate's Club

Director of Programs and Partnerships

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lane Pease Hendricks, MS, NCC, is the Director of Programs and Partnerships and oversees the quality of Kate's Club program curriculum, and she leads the KC Connects outreach program, as well as LoKate, the young adult program. Realizing that anyone working with children would be working with grieving children, Lane started training professionals on topics around bereaved youth, and she and her team have trained thousands of professionals nationally. She began the school-based grief support initiatives, which has now grown to support hundreds of students throughout Georgia. Recently, along with Executive Director Lisa Aman, Lane has led Kate's Club's initiative to support grieving youth in the juvenile justice court system. In addition, she serves on the editorial board of the American Cancer Society and on the Education Committee of the National Alliance for Children's Grief. Lane has created resources on helping families after a domestic violence murder/suicide for the Georgia Commission on Family Violence. She co-authored *We Come Together as One: Helping Families Grieve, Share, and Heal the Kate's Club Way*. Personally, she raised two grieving children who are now young adults. Lane holds an MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Mercer University.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Fatima El-Amin

DeKalb County Juvenile Court

Chief Judge

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Chief Judge Fatima A. El-Amin has served as a full Juvenile Court Judge since 2014. She presides over the DeKalb County Juvenile Court's dependency, delinquent, and traffic cases. She also presides over the DeKalb County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, Rebound. Judge El-Amin sits by designation in the DeKalb County Superior Court, and the Superior Court Judges appointed Judge El-Amin as the Chief Judge of the DeKalb County Juvenile Court in 2023.

Chief Judge El-Amin is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She completed her collegiate studies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and graduated cum laude with a dual B.A.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

degree in Psychology and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She received her J.D. degree from Emory University School of Law in 2000.

Judge El-Amin is active in several civic and philanthropic causes. She is the founder and program coordinator of Crowned, an intensive seminar for girls and women, dedicated to affirming and creating positive self-images. Judge El-Amin is the recipient of the NAACP DeKalb Thurgood Marshall Award, the DeKalb County Schools Living Legend Award, and the Islamic Speakers Bureau 100 Influential Georgia Muslims Award. Judge El-Amin is the proud mother of one son.

Highest Degree Earned: Juris Doctor Degree  
Field of Study: Psychology  
License Information: Georgia Bar Member

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** When Grief Comes to Court: Supporting Bereaved Youth in the Juvenile Court System

**Session Description:**

Court-involved youth have higher rates of bereavement than the general population. Youth who are bereaved are at risk for truancy, increased substance use, mental health conditions, and other behaviors that may lead to court involvement. Youth involved in dependent care are also bereaved at higher rates, due to the death of a family member leading to foster care or due to experiencing death in the family of origin after entering foster care. While grief support is sometimes offered at youth detention centers, this initiative focused on bringing grief support to non-detained youth. In this session, presenters will discuss how bereavement impacts court-involved youth and how both delinquent and dependent youth in the juvenile court system benefit from grief support that is recommended by the court and occurs at the courthouse. Presenters will discuss their partnership as a Chief Judge in a large urban county and a Director at a local children's bereavement center. Learn how bringing together all court stakeholders, such as district attorneys, public defenders, DFACS, CASA, and probation for grief trainings and planning meetings leads to a successful program. Hear the Chief Judge share her experiences with grieving youth in her court. The presenters will share how the grief groups focused on the unique needs of the youth from a trauma-centered approach. Providing grief support can lead to better outcomes for bereaved youth, thereby decreasing further court involvement.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify how bereavement impacts court involved youth.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Discuss two ways that bringing together court stakeholders such as probation, DFACS, public defenders, district attorneys, and CASA with a bereavement organization leads to a successful program.
- Identify two ways that providing grief support groups at the courthouse, targeted to the court-involved youth population, can lead to positive outcomes.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Clow, S., Olafson, E., Ford, J., Moser, M., Slivinsky, M., & Kaplow, J. (2023). Addressing grief reactions among incarcerated adolescents and young adults using trauma and grief component therapy. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Pol*
- Dierkhising, C. B., Sanchez, J. A., & Gutierrez, L. (2019). "it changed my life": Traumatic loss, Behavioral Health, and turning points among gang-involved and justice-involved youth. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 36*(17-18), 8027-8049. <https://doi.org>
- Ford, S. (2022). , Losing Someone Then Losing Yourself: Helping Juveniles in the Justice System Experiencing Grief With a Trauma-Informed Pretrial Diversion Program. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, 112*(197-213).

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D4- How do I know my program works? Ethical & Sustainable Qualitative Analysis of Youth Self-Reported Data (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 327

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Samantha Anthony

Uplift Center for Grieving Children

Senior Clinician

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Samantha Anthony ( MS, LPC) is a grief clinician who operates out of Uplift Center for Grieving Children in Philadelphia. She has lived in the USA for 14 years after immigrating from Malawi. She has an M.S in Clinical Child Psychology and a vested interest in the interconnected areas of childhood mental health, with special focus on grief, trauma, social justice, and education.

Highest Degree Earned: MS

Field of Study: Clinical Psychology

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor

Presenter #2 (if applicable):Darcie Rudolf

Uplift Center for Grieving Children

Family Access Clinical Coordinator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Darcie Rudolf, MA, LPC, NCC is a PA Certified School Counselor who received her MA in Counseling Psychology from Arcadia University, and B.A. in English from the University of Scranton. A former marketing professional, Darcie made a career change to support students as they navigate the complexities of adolescence and young adulthood. Her clinical work includes supporting grieving children and their caregivers in school and community settings, as well as individuals on the Autism Spectrum. She now works as the Family Access Clinical Coordinator at Uplift Center for Grieving Children in Philadelphia, PA. Through her work at Uplift over the past six years, Darcie has recognized the need to connect families to services and support even when it was beyond the scope of what Uplift could provide. In her new role, she is responsible for increasing access to all Uplift services by managing logistics, processes and training for the Philly HopeLine including intakes and enrollments. She maintains and strengthens the referral network for the organization, ensuring warm handoffs to direct points of contact with current and credible resources for all who need them. Darcie's goal is to make whatever is available, also accessible to all.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Counseling Psychology

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor

### Session Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Title of Session: How do I know my program works? Ethical & Sustainable Qualitative Analysis of Youth Self-Reported Data

Session Description: This session will describe the ways in which youth focused grief organizations or practitioners can customize their qualitative data collection and analysis for program evaluation. This customization will allow them to create sustainable evaluation models that fit the needs and specifications of their organization and communities.

We will give a historical overview of the process; the lessons learned from misaligned or unfeasible attempts at data collection and analysis that led to our current success. We will review how we developed a sustainable measurement tool utilizing existing internal processes that reflect our mission, therapeutic goals, and values.

This approach to qualitative measurement is best suited for smaller agencies where clinicians and facilitators can develop their own surveys and analyze the responses using a clear and easy to use coding method.

Fundamental to this presentation are the core precepts of sustainability, usability, accessibility, and organizational self-sufficiency.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Research, Outcomes, and Measurements

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify three ways of assessing program evaluation needs to support decision-making around measurement tools that are aligned and feasible based on a historical account of a grief organization
- identify 5 to 10 foundational steps for coding internal qualitative data and writing a summary report.
- identify up to three key factors necessary for implementation of the data collection, coding, and analysis process.
- define and critically assess up to three ethical criteria such as confidentiality and informed consent that are acceptable for use when collecting the data.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Ethics

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Assessment
- Research and Program Evaluation



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Ballantine, J., Levy, M., & Powell, P. (1999, February 11). Evaluating information systems in small and medium-sized enterprises: Issues and evidence - European journal of information systems. SpringerLink. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/palgra>
- Clarke GM, Conti S, Wolters AT, Steventon A. Evaluating the impact of healthcare interventions using routine data. *BMJ*. (2019) Jun 20;365:l2239. doi: 10.1136/bmj.l2239. PMID: 31221675; PMCID: PMC6584784.
- Fine, A. H., Thayer, C. E., & Coghlan, A. (2000). Program Evaluation Practice in the Nonprofit Sector. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 10(3), 331-339. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nml.10309>
- Inscoe, A. B., Donisch, K., Cheek, S., Stokes, C., Goldston, D. B., & Asarnow, J. R. (2022). Trauma-informed care for youth suicide prevention: A qualitative analysis of caregivers' perspectives. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 14(4), 653-660. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tra0001054>
- Thelwall, M., & Nevill, T. (2021). Is Research with Qualitative Data More Prevalent and Impactful now? Interviews, Case studies, Focus Groups and Ethnographies. *Library & Information Science Research*, 43(2), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2021.10109>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D5- Reaching Native Youth (Focus on Pascua Yaqui Tribe) (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 288

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Dahlila Miranda

Pascua Yaqui Tribe Centered Spirit Program

Child and Family Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

My name is Dahlila Kane Miranda, and I am a therapist for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe-Centered Spirit Program with Children and Family Services, in Tucson, AZ. I am deeply committed to the Yaqui community, and I am Yaqui by heritage. I have worked for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in several positions and have worked my way up the ladder to my current position for 4 years now as a Child and Family Therapist. I am a scholar with a bachelor's degree of Criminal Justice Administration with a concentration in Human Services, a master's degree in Science Administration of Justice and Security with a concentration in Behavioral Health, and currently, I am a Doctoral candidate in Education in Organizational Leadership with an Emphasis in Mental Health. I am a native Tucsonan who loves the cool days and not so much the heat, that's about half the year. I love to spend time with my family and embrace watching my daughter grow strong and empower her to believe the sky has no limit.

Highest Degree Earned: Master, Currently Doctoral Candidate

Field of Study: Organizational Leadership with an Emphasis in Mental Health

License Information: Pending Licensed Associate Counselor

### Session Information

Title of Session: Reaching Native Youth (Focus on Pascua Yaqui Tribe)

Session Description: Throughout our lifetime, our understanding of death is continuously shaped by our personal experience as well as factors such as culture. This session will provide a brief insight into providing services and reaching Native Youth of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe with a cultural consideration. It will provide a short tribal history and a spiritual understanding of providing grief services and possible barriers to treatment. Understanding the historical trauma and generation trauma with grief and loss.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Summarize your understanding of cultural grief.
- Identify cultural considerations within providing service for Native Youth.
- Identify historical trauma and generational trauma within grief and loss.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Social and Cultural Foundations

References:

- McKinley, C. E., Miller Scarnato, J., & Sanders, S. (2020). Why Are So Many Indigenous Peoples Dying and No One Is Paying Attention? Depressive Symptoms and "Loss of Loved Ones" as a Result and Driver of Health Disparities. *Sage Journals*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/003022282093>
- Gisi, Alison A., "Integrating History into Healthcare: Understanding Links Between Past Traumas and Current Health Disparities within the Native American Population" (2022). *Honors Thesis*. 247. <https://red.library.usd.edu/honors-thesis/247>
- Simpson, J. E., Landers, A. L., & White Hawk, S. (2024). Longing to belong: The ambiguous loss of Indigenous fostered/adopted individuals. *Science Direct Journals*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2023.106441>
- Froyd, D., Jr., Robbins, B. D., Martinez, R., Benally, S., Begay, V., & Roberts, C. (2021). Viewing trauma through a culturally informed framework: Tailoring interventions to culture. *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody & Child Development*, 18(1), 41-65. <https://doi.org/DOI: 10.1080/26904586.2020.1869636>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D6- Invaluable Volunteers: Gain, Train and Retain (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 248

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lynn Snyder

Common Ground Grief Center

Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lynn M. Snyder, LPC, ATR-BC, FT is the Founder and Executive Director of Common Ground Grief Center located in Manasquan, New Jersey. The center is dedicated to supporting children, teenagers, and their family members who have experienced the death of a parent/adult caregiver or sibling. Lynn is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered, Board Certified Art Therapist, and holds a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). In addition to her position as Executive Director at Common Ground, Lynn supervises graduate students and provides skill training to new volunteers. Lynn is an active member of the community, continually working to build relationships with organizations and schools. She has presented both locally and nationally including: NACG, the Compassionate Friends, ADEC, ASAP-NJ, American Counseling Association, Rutgers University, and many local schools and hospitals throughout New Jersey.

Lynn was part of the adjunct faculty at Monmouth University, where she designed and taught a course on children's grief for their graduate mental health counseling program. Lynn authored her first children's book, *Little Ruby's Big Change: Talking with Children About Loss, Change and Hope*. *Little Ruby's Big Change* has been used in schools and other organizations that support children.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: counseling

License Information: LPC, Fellow In Thanatology, FT

Presenter #2:

Pamela Gabbay

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Trainer and Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Pamela Gabbay, EdD, FT is a nationally recognized trainer and consultant who has served the bereavement field in many capacities during her 25-year career. Dr. Gabbay is part of the training corps of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and travels throughout the country conducting trainings on their behalf. She is also on the TAPS Advisory Board. Formerly, she was the Director of Operations and Training for The Compassionate Friends. In California, she was the Director of The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children and Camp Erin, Palm Springs. Dr. Gabbay is the co-author, along with Andy McNeil, of *Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children: A Practical Guide for Professionals*. She is on the executive committee of ADEC's Credentialing Council and served as the President of

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

the Southern California Chapter of ADEC. She was also an adjunct faculty member in the psychology department at Brandman University. Dr. Gabbay holds a Fellow in Thanatology (FT) from the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) and earned a Master of Arts degree in Cognitive Psychology from Claremont Graduate University. She earned her Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership from Brandman University.

Highest Degree Earned: EdD

Field of Study: Organizational Leadership

License Information: Fellow in Thanatology, FT

### Session Information

Title of Session: Invaluable Volunteers: Gain, Train and Retain

Session Description: Many grief centers and programs across the country utilize volunteers in various capacities, particularly to help facilitate grief support groups. As we know, volunteers are an invaluable part of bereavement organizations and programs. This workshop will provide an overview of how to recruit volunteers, train them, and how to retain them. We will also discuss challenges that may arise once volunteers are established as part of programs or centers. The topic of group dynamics will be highlighted in regard to volunteer training and the implications for success when training new volunteers. In addition, since volunteers are such an integral part of our programs, we will discuss ways in which to foster appreciation and gratitude for their time and effort. This workshop will offer a high-level overview of the training offered at Common Ground Grief Center, versus offering specific training techniques. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion in this interactive workshop.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Volunteers

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify two ways to recruit volunteers.
- summarize an overview of volunteer training.
- Identify two ways to retain volunteers.

Session Format: Lecture

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Einolf, C. (2018). Evidence-based volunteer management: a review of literature. *Policy Press*, 9 (2), 153-176.
- Carr, D. (2018). Volunteering among older adults: life course correlates and consequences. *The Journals of Gerontology*. 73 (2). 479-481.
- Best-Bertwistle, R., Race, L, Stefanick, L. (2020). Retaining volunteers in the age of precarious work. *Journal of Nonprofit and Public Sector Marketing*. 32 (2). 124-146.
- Fullwood, R., & Rowley, J. (2021). The role of knowledge sharing in volunteer learning and development. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 32(1), 121-139.
- Carpenter, T. L. (2021). Improving Volunteer Retention with Nonprofit Organizations Through Implementing Onboarding Training.
- De Clerck, T., Aelterman, N., Haerens, L., & Willem, A. (2021). Enhancing volunteers capacity in all-volunteer nonprofit organizations: The role of volunteer leaders' reliance on effective management processes and (de) motivating leadership. *Nonprofit Management and Leadership*, 31(3), 481-503.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D7- Journey to Hope: the unique experiences of young adult grief (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 301

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Kristie Nosich  
Highmark Caring Place  
Program Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Kristie Nosich became the Manager at the Highmark Caring Place facility in Erie in 2018. Prior to that role, she served in the Erie Caring Place as Family Services Coordinator, and then School Services Coordinator. Before coming to the Caring Place, Kristie spent more than 16 years advocating for children and families in the fields of child welfare and mental health. Kristie graduated from Edinboro University with her Masters in Counseling, and became a licensed professional counselor in 1999; she is a member of the Credential Council for the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Kristie recently obtained her Fellowship in Thanatology. She has presented at numerous local and virtual conferences focusing on pet loss, overdose death, grief in the health care field, and sibling grief. Her passion is supporting the needs of grieving children and families in her community.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters Degree

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor and Fellow in Thanatology

Presenter #2:

Terri Bowling  
Highmark Caring Place  
Program Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Terri Bowling is the Program Manager and a Child Grief Specialist at Highmark Caring Place in Camp Hill, PA. She has been championing the cause of grieving children and their families for over 20 years. During that time she has served families, recruited volunteers, embraced advocacy, educated professionals and community members, furthered the cause of raising awareness for the needs of grieving children through public speaking, and found ways to bridge gaps in services for underserved populations in our local communities. Examples of unique collaborative initiatives championed to help meet those needs include: peer support grieving cyber school students, empowering and giving a voice to grieving grandparents raising grandchildren due to the opioid crisis, supporting grieving young adults, developing programming in support of preschool aged children, and debriefing ICU/CCU nurses at Penn State Hershey Medical Center who work everyday saving lives.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: Certified Thanatology

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Session Information

Title of Session: Journey to Hope: the unique experiences of young adult grief

Session Description: In our ever-evolving society, young adults face unique challenges when dealing with grief and loss. Join us on a transformative "Journey to HOPE", a workshop designed for professionals seeking to deepen their understanding into the specific emotional, psychological, and social aspects of young adult grief. This immersive program explores the unique challenges young adults face in their grief journeys, equipping participants with valuable insights and tools to provide effective support. Through this journey, we will explore our on-site and virtual programming, as well as our inaugural weekend retreat.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Discuss unique challenges and experiences associated with grief in the young adult population.
- Assess and identify the unique needs of grieving adults.
- Identify and list an appreciation for the cultural and individual differences that can influence how young adults experience and express grief.
- Explore strategies for creating supportive environments to assist young adults in grief

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Raven H. Weaver, E. G. Srinivasan, Autumn Decker & Cory Bolkan (2022) Young adults' experiences with loss and grief during COVID-19, *Death Studies*, 46:1, 53-64, DOI: 10.1080/07481187.2021.1984339
- Johnsen, I., Tømmerraas, A.M. Attachment and grief in young adults after the loss of a close friend: a qualitative study. *BMC Psychol* 10, 10 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40359-022-00717->



## **2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog**

- Russ, V., Stopa, L., Sivyer, K., Jane Hazeldine, & Tess Maguire. (2022). The Relationship Between Adult Attachment and Complicated Grief: A Systematic Review. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221083110>
- Larsen, L. H., Guldberg, A., & Kring, V. (2023). A Group Therapy Program for Parentally Bereaved Young Adults With Grief Complications: Rationale, Method and Case Examples. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 86(4), 1212-1234. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D8- Drop the Dysfunction: Candid Talk about Suicide (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 427

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Donna Schuurman

Dougy Center

Sr. Director of Advocacy & Education

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Donna L. Schuurman, EdD, FT, is Sr. Director of Advocacy & Education at Dougy Center: The National Grief Center for Children & Families in Portland, Oregon, where she has served 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 member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement, and a founding board member of the National Alliance for Children's Grief. She has been invited to assist communities following tragic school shootings and natural disasters; is regularly sought out by national media for interviews related to understanding and supporting children, teens, and adults when someone in their life dies; and provides expert witness testimony in wrongful death legal cases. She enjoys camping, kayaking, riding her Harley, and hanging out with her fur babies Suki & Satu, and her wife at their floating home.

Highest Degree Earned: Ed.D.

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: Drop the Dysfunction: Candid Talk about Suicide

Session Description: Suicide is widely considered the outcome of an individual's mental illness or disorder, primarily an action resulting from severe depression and hopelessness. Efforts at prevention, including the use of anti-depressants, have not resulted in reducing the rates of suicide, despite national campaigns and millions of dollars in grant funding. In part due to how suicide is individualized and stigmatized, school and community responses are often ineffective and sometimes harmful. In this session, some provocative assertions will be presented, with ample time for audience discussion.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Critique commonly accepted (mis)conceptions around why people attempt suicide or die of suicide.
- Analyze and evaluate school responses to the death of a school community member from suicide.
- Discern helpful and unhelpful policies and procedures for school postvention responses.
- Evaluate how language around suicide contributes to or discourages stigma associated with suicide deaths.
- Identify how media representations of suicide deaths impact suicide prevention.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social work practice, knowledge, and skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Social and Cultural Foundations

References:

- East, L., Dorozenko, K. & Martin, R. (2021). The construction of people in suicide prevention documents. *Death Studies*, 45(3), 182-190. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2019.1626938>
- Garson, J. (2022). The helpful delusion. *Aeon*. <https://aeon.co/essays/evidence-grows-that-mental-illness-is-more-than-dysfunction>
- McGill, K., Bhullar, N., Batterham, P., Carrandi, A., Wayland, S., & Maple, Myfanwy. (2023). Key issues, challenges, and preferred supports for those bereaved by suicide: Insights from postvention experts. *Death Studies*, 47(5), 624-629. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2022.2112318>
- Moncrieff, J., Cooper, R., Stockmann, T., Amendola, S., Hengartner, M., & Horowitz, M. (2023). The serotonin theory of depression: a systematic umbrella view of the evidence. *Molecular Psychiatry*, (28), 3243-3256. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-022-01661-0>
- Surgenor, P., Quinn, P., & Hughes, C. (2016). Ten recommendations for effective school-based, adolescent, suicide prevention programs. *School Mental Health*, (8), 413-424. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-016-9189-9>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D9- Adventure Therapy: Grief Games and More (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 389

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jacki Nardone

Treasure Coast Hospice

Director, Grief Counselor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

For more than 25 years, Jacki Nardone has worked with individuals and families as they cope with trauma, loss and grief. Jacki has helped to expand the unique offerings that the organization makes available to children and families who are coping with loss. She has provided numerous trainings on grief and loss to other professionals. She also practices from a Trauma Informed lens.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Florida, Jacki holds a Master Degree in Social Work from Barry University and is a Certified Clinical Adventure Therapist. She is a Qualified Supervisor for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors seeking licensures. She is a Diplomat of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, is a member of the Critical Incidence Stress Management Team, and holds the status of National Bereavement Facilitator Certification. Jacki received the Accreditation in Clinical Hospice & Palliative Care in Social Work. These have allowed her to bring her knowledge of clinical social work and adventure to the many clients and professionals she works with. Jacki is very excited to share her knowledge and expertise with other professionals that truly are passionate about supporting grieving children and families.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Presenter #2:

Kelley Thompson

Treasure Coast Hospice

Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Kelley Thompson is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Florida and Georgia. Kelley earned her Master's Degree from Barry University. She has experience working with Mental Health, Grief and Loss. Kelley has served in clinical and leadership capacities over her 20+ years and is an active member of Treasure Coast Hospices' Ethics Committee. She is a Qualified Supervisor offering supervision for those seeking Licensure in the State of Florida. Kelley has earned her certification as an Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Social Worker. With her love of the outdoors and belief that nature can heal, she has earned the National Certification in Clinical Adventure Therapy and has recently developed an Adventure Therapy program at Treasure Coast Hospice. With working knowledge of grief and loss, Kelley has presented at numerous venues and to varied populations sharing her expertise. Remaining

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

authentic, Kelley has found a way to combine both her love of adventure and her desire to positively affect others.

Kelley lives in South Florida for the past 17 years. She is an animal-lover (especially her 3 dogs) and enjoys paddle boarding, sky diving, sailing, trekking and hiking. She and her husband love to travel and have traveled all over the world.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

Title of Session: Adventure Therapy: Grief Games and More

Session Description: Bring your creativity and energy and learn how to utilize clinical adventure therapy techniques. Helping clients through grief is one of the most rewarding feelings we can have as grief counselors. Find new ways to support grieving children, adults and families while using adventure therapy. This is an interactive and engaging presentation where you will learn hands-on techniques that you can use in your individual and group work!

Be prepared to move and have fun in this session. You will be encouraged to volunteer to learn hands-on innovative, dynamic, and varied techniques using adventure therapy.

You will learn what Clinical Adventure Therapy is and what it is not and when to use it. Supporting children and families through grief, can be active, fun and engaging. We look forward to connecting and passing along our excitement of Adventure Therapy and Grief Work!

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define adventure therapy techniques.
- Identify the implications of using adventure therapy.
- Explain one new intervention skill set.

Session Format: Experiential

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

### References:

- Beames S., Mackie C., Atencio M. (2019). Adventure and personal and social development. In *Adventure and society*. Palgrave Macmillan. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-96062-3\\_9](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-96062-3_9)
- Harper, N., Fernee, C., Gabrielsen L. (2021). Nature's Role in Outdoor Therapy: An Umbrella Review. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(10), 5117. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8150931/>
- Cavanagh, D. L. (2021, Summer). What is included in Adventure therapy? *Therapeutic Adventure Professional Group Insights Newsletter*, 1. Association for Experiential Education. <https://doi.org/10.18666/JOREL-2022-11552>
- Norton C., Tucker A, Farnham-Stratton M., Borroel F., Pelletier A. (2019). Family enrichment adventure therapy: A mixed methods study examining the impact of trauma-informed adventure therapy on children and families affected by abuse. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: D10- After The Media Moves On: Supporting Youth Through Mass Casualty Events (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 264

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Gina Crean  
Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Since 2013, Dr. Gina Crean, LCSW, has been working in the field of mental health and has extensive experience in trauma specific mental health services, creating and fostering clinical programs, leading teams and providing local and national consultation. The majority of her career has been spent working in multiple roles within Children's Advocacy Centers. Most recently she was the Director of Clinical Programs and Intervention at the Nashville Children's Alliance where she supervised and oversaw staff and operations related to work with children that have experienced severe trauma and their non-offending caregivers. Currently, Dr. Crean is working as a consultant to multiple Children's Advocacy Centers throughout the United States. Dr. Crean is also a consultant for the National Center for Victims of Crime. She is a trained forensic interviewer and Psychotherapist. Dr. Crean owns a private practice and provides outpatient mental health treatment for children, adolescents, and adults. As a Certified First Responder Counselor, Dr. Crean works specifically with the first responders and helping professionals. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Crean is an adjunct faculty member at several Universities. Dr. Crean is a licensed clinical social worker and has a Masters of Clinical Social Work from Wayne State University and a Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Southern California.

Highest Degree Earned: Doctorate of Social Work  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

Title of Session: After The Media Moves On: Supporting Youth Through Mass Casualty Events

Session Description: This presentation will discuss how stress responses present in children when they are directly or indirectly impacted when mass casualty situations have occurred.

The goal of this presentation is to provide victim advocates, mental health clinicians, first responders, child protection workers, medical professionals, school professionals and CAC professionals with insight into effective ways that they can assist a child in reducing stress responses, identify safety and security, and honor the youth's experiences from a trauma informed lens.

This workshop is unique as it will bring anecdotal examples and real experiences from the presenter as a result of multiple mass casualty responses.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Reaction warning: This presentation contains situations related to school shooting events.  
Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify at least 5 ways that trauma/stress responses present in youth following mass casualty situations.
- identify at least 3 ways that they can support youth in reducing stress responses.
- identify at least 3 things they can bring back to their community to proactively plan in support of youth impacted by mass casualty situations.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Cimolai, V., Schmitz, J. & Sood, A.B. Effects of Mass Shootings on the Mental Health of Children and Adolescents. *Curr Psychiatry Rep* 23, 12 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11920-021-01222-2>
- Lowe, S. R., & Galea, S. (2017). The Mental Health Consequences of Mass Shootings. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 18(1), 62-82. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015591572>
- Alexander, B. A., & Harris, H. (2020). Public school preparedness for school shootings: A phenomenological overview of school staff perspectives. *School Mental Health: A Multidisciplinary Research and Practice Journal*, 12(3), 595-609. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838015591572>
- Hodges, J. C., Walker, D. T., Baum, C. F., & Hawkins, S. S. (2023). Impact of school shootings on Adolescent School Safety, 2009-2019. *American Journal of Public Health*, 113(4), 438-441. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2022.307206>



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E1- Grieving the loss of an Attachment Figure (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 272

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Heather Gaglio

Calm Waters

Clinical Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Heather Gaglio received her Master's degree at Oklahoma State University in Human Development and Family Science with an option in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2012. She is a Licensed Marital and Family Therapist (LMFT) and an Approved Supervisor through the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Heather has over 10 years of clinical experience and has worked in non-profit and private practice settings. Heather has been involved in supporting research in the field of Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood programs as well. As the current Clinical Director at Calm Waters in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Heather oversees a team of therapists and clinical interns who provide over 250 hours of grief counseling to nearly 150 clients each month. She is passionate about increasing access of grief support and educating the community about healthy and helpful ways to support children and families through grief and loss so that no one has to grieve alone.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Marital and Family Therapy

License Information: Licensed Marital and Family Therapist

Presenter #2:

Jordan Park

Calm Waters

Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jordan Park received her Master's Degree Oklahoma State University in Human Development and Family Science with an option in Marriage and Family Therapy in 2017. She has served in various roles throughout her 6 years of employment at Calm Waters, and is currently a full-time therapist, seeing individuals, families, and couples who have experienced a death and/or divorce. She is very passionate about healthy relationships and encourages individuals to know they are worthy of love and of being seen, heard, and valued.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Marital and Family Therapy

License Information: Licensed Marital and Family Therapist

### Session Information

Title of Session: Grieving the loss of an Attachment Figure

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Description: Attachment Theory explores the ways emotional bonds are formed between child and caregiver during the early years of development. These attachment relationships provide a foundation from which we develop our identities, worth, values, roles, and purpose, creating complex relational systems that continues to impact us into our adult relationships. The loss of these attachment relationships can challenge our identity, belief systems, and worldview, potentially creating complicated grief reactions. In this presentation we will explore the complexities of losing an attachment figure and ways to heal unresolved attachment wounds after the death.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Illustrate their skill in applying attachment theory in the therapeutic setting.
- Identify two factors that complicate grief responses from an attachment theory lens and/or how grief presents in individuals grieving an attachment figure loss.
- Implement therapeutic interventions to assist in supporting clients through healing of attachment wounds, and their loss of identity.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Human Growth and Development
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues

References: Eisma, Bernemann, K., Aehlig, L., Janshen, A., & Doering, B. K. (2023). Adult attachment and prolonged grief: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 214, 112315. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2023.112315>

- Maccallum, & Bryant, R. A. (2018). Prolonged grief and attachment security: A latent class analysis. *Psychiatry Research*, 268, 297-302. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psychres.2018.07.038>
- Schenck, Eberle, K. M., & Rings, J. A. (2016). Insecure Attachment Styles and Complicated Grief Severity. *Omega: Journal of Death and Dying*, 73(3), 231-249. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222815576124>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Milberg, A., & Friedrichsen, M. (2017). Attachment figures when death is approaching: A study applying attachment theory to adult patients' and family members' experiences during palliative home care. *Supportive Care in Cancer*, 25(7), 2267-2274.
- Russ, V., Stopa, L., Sivyer, K., Jane Hazeldine, & Tess Maguire. (2022). The Relationship Between Adult Attachment and Complicated Grief: A Systematic Review. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221083110>
- Huh, H. J., Kim, K. H., Lee, H. K., & Chae, J. H. (2020). Attachment Style, Complicated Grief and Post-Traumatic Growth in Traumatic Loss: The Role of Intrusive and Deliberate Rumination. *Psychiatry investigation*, 17(7), 636-644. <https://doi.org/10.30773/pi.2019.0291>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E2- Reframing Grief and Loss Interventions Through a Culturally Responsive Framework (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 302

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Sheila Yousuf Abramson  
Dominican University  
Assistant Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Sheila Yousuf-Abramson is an Assistant Professor at Dominican University's School of Social Work in River Forest, IL. She obtained her PhD in August, 2023 in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago where her research centered grief and loss experiences of young adults in the child welfare system. She is a licensed clinical social worker with over 18 years of experience. Prior to coming to Dominican University, her work included providing anticipatory and bereavement support for children, adolescents and families with loved ones in hospice, providing grief and loss support for schools and students in schools, and served as a bereavement camp director for children and youth aged 8-18 years of age. Additionally, she served as a subject matter expert for the Culturally Informed Responses to Grief and Loss (CIRGL) Project, a comprehensive grief and loss curriculum and training for school-based professionals.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Presenter #2:

Patrick Mulkern  
Private Practice  
Social Worker

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Patrick Mulkern (he/they) is a school social worker and culturally responsive counselor with experience and training in providing long term individual therapy, evidence-based treatments, and group therapy as well as intensive case management to children, adolescents, transitional age youth and their families. Patrick is also on the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA) board of directors. Patrick is currently a doctoral student at Boston College.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Title of Session: Reframing Grief and Loss Interventions Through a Culturally Responsive Framework

Session Description: Think about grief as something that can be experienced in more situations than just the death of a person in someone's life. Think about the distress you would feel if you experienced any of these types of loss:

Loss of a person  
Loss of place  
Loss of community  
Loss of identity  
Loss of belonging  
Loss of safety

Now think about the distress you would feel if you experienced any of these types of losses but compounded over time. Did people you love die as the result of a natural disaster and now you have to move to another place and live with new people? Did you have to leave your home because your parent was incarcerated, and you have to live with someone you don't know?

Now think about the distress you would feel, compounded over time, and then think about the ways in which you would truly want to be supported. What would that look like if someone really tried to understand you, as a whole person, and the compounded nature of your losses? More importantly, how would that feel?

In this presentation, we're going to explore 3 critical elements related to the grief and loss of young people who come from, or currently have, a historically marginalized identity. We will explore the current context of grief and loss, including the over pathologizing of grief and the over policing of behaviors of Black and Brown students, we will look at the ways a school or an agency setting can be a culturally responsive system to support students experiencing grief and loss, and we will look at ways trusted adults in these systems can develop programs that specifically center the needs of grieving students in a culturally responsive way.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify two ways in which a current environment (agency or school) can support students through their grief and loss.
- Identify two ways in which young people may show signs of experience grief and loss that may be misidentified as behavioral or symptoms of a psychiatric disorder.
- Develop one new idea to test in the school or agency environment that will help support young people through grief and loss in a culturally responsive framework.

Session Format: Lecture

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues

References:

- Albuquerque, S., & Santos, A. R. (2021). "In the Same Storm, but Not on the Same Boat": Children Grief During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 12, 638866. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2021.638866>
- Burns, M., Griese, B., King, S., & Talmi, A. (2020). Childhood bereavement: Understanding prevalence and related adversity in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 90(4), 391-405. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000442>
- Edirmanasinghe, N., Goodman-Scott, E., Smith-Durkin, S., & Tarver, S. Z. (2022). Supporting All Students: Multitiered Systems of Support from an Antiracist and Critical Race Theory Lens. *Professional School Counseling*, 26(1), 2156759X221109154. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2156759X221109154>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E3- Efficacy of Grief Groups in Schools & Resources for Facilitating Groups in K-12 School Settings (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 239

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Makenzie Muilenburg

Safe Crossings Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle  
Program Coordinator and Counselor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Makenzie Muilenburg, LMHC is the Program Coordinator for the Safe Crossings Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle. Safe Crossings Program provides no cost grief support to children and adolescents across King County. Makenzie has been supporting grieving children in differing capacities for over 10 years and also brings her own personal experience of childhood parental loss to her understanding of the work she does. In her free time Makenzie loves to read, explore new places, and dance. She also runs her own private counseling practice serving adults facing a range of mental health and life challenges.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters Degree

Field of Study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

License Information: Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Presenter #2:

Courtney McGrue

Safe Crossings Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle  
Pediatric Grief Counselor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Courtney McGrue, LICSW is a Pediatric Grief Counselor with Safe Crossings Program of Providence Hospice of Seattle. Courtney has been supporting grieving children in this capacity for over two years. Due to her own experience in losing a parent in adolescence, she brings a passion and relatability to this work. Previously, Courtney has supported children and families in various arenas, including child welfare, residential care settings, and elderly medical care. Courtney is also a part-time Doula and enjoys tap dancing, hot yoga, and weightlifting.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters Degree

Field of Study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling

License Information: Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

Title of Session: Efficacy of Grief Groups in Schools & Resources for Facilitating Groups in K-12 School Settings

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Description: In this presentation participants will learn about the efficacy of group-based grief support in schools as evidenced by researched backed outcomes. Additionally, participants will learn how to appropriately recruit students, assess appropriateness for the group, and obtain consent for participation. Presenters will share skills, tips, and considerations for facilitating groups. Finally, participants will be provided resources for how to facilitate a grief group in K-12 schools.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe two research supported participant outcomes of school-based grief support groups.
- Explain three strategies and considerations for identifying and recruiting appropriate participants for a grief group.
- Describe two facilitation skills and considerations.
- Identify two resources available to help participants facilitate a grief group in school settings.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Eftoda, K. (2021). Addressing Grief in the Classroom: A Complicated Equalizer. *BU Journal of Graduate Studies in Education*, 13(4), 3-10.
- Linder, L., Lunardini, M., & Zimmerman, H. (2022). Supporting Childhood Bereavement Through School-Based Grief Group. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying*, 00302228221082756.
- Khalid, N., Zapparrata, N., Loughlin, K., & Albright, G. (2022). Postvention as Prevention: Coping with Loss at School. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(18). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph191811795>
- Palmer, M., Saviet, M., & Tourish, J. (2016). Understanding and Supporting Grieving Adolescents and Young Adults. *Pediatric Nursing*, 42(6), 275-281.
- Samide, L. L., & Stockton, R. (2002). Letting Go of Grief: Bereavement Groups for Children in the School Setting. *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 27(2), 192-204.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E4- A Text-based Approach to Bereavement Care (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 322

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Melissa Lunardini  
Help Texts  
Head of Clinical

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Melissa Lunardini, MA, MBA, FT, Ph.D. candidate in International Psychology, is the Founder and CEO of Radical Grief Consulting along with being Head of Clinical at Help Texts, a global grief and mental health text-based service. Melissa has 20 years of experience in Thanatology. She is a researcher, trainer, and program designer across healthcare, academia, and community-based organizations.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: Thanatology  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: A Text-based Approach to Bereavement Care

Session Description: Professional and community support during bereavement is in short supply and can be difficult to access. Only a minority of grieverers are extremely satisfied with the support they receive. Researchers and bereavement professionals are seeking innovative low-cost, high-reach forms of support to meet grieverers' needs. This presentation will report on the acceptability and helpfulness of Help Texts, an ongoing, expert, text-based grief support service, among bereaved family members who accessed the service across the US and UK. The findings, based on survey data, inbound texts, and one-on-one interviews, suggest that bereaved people from 13+ appreciate the service and find it helpful.  
Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Research, Outcomes, and Measurements

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe a public health approach to bereavement care.
- Examine available data on a text-based intervention for grief support.
- Identify the potential value and limitations of text-based support for bereavement care.

Session Format: Lecture

### CE Content Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Research and Program Evaluation

References:

- Aoun, S. M., Keegan, O., Roberts, A., & Breen, L. J. (2020). The impact of bereavement support on wellbeing: A comparative study between Australia and Ireland. *Palliative Care and Social Practice*, 14, 2632352420935132. <https://doi.org/10.1177/263235242093>
- Levesque, D., Lunardini, M., Payne, E., & Callison-Burch, V. (2022). Grief Coach, a text-based grief support intervention: Acceptability among hospice family members. Manuscript under Review.
- Zuelke, A. E., Luppia, M., Löbner, M., Pabst, A., Schlapke, C., Stein, J., & Riedel-Heller, S. G. (2021). Effectiveness and feasibility of internet-based interventions for grief after bereavement: Systematic review and meta-analysis. *JMIR Mental Health*, 8(

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E5- We Grieve Too: Navigating our Losses as Bereavement Professionals (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 298

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jillian Blueford

University of Denver

Clinical Assistant Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Jillian M. Blueford is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the Department of Counseling Psychology at the University of Denver. She is also a licensed professional counselor (Colorado), a National Certified Counselor, and a fellow in Thanatology. Dr. Blueford specializes in grief counseling and also sees clients in the Denver area. Dr. Blueford's research focuses on trauma-informed care, child and adolescent grief, and grief counseling training and preparation. She has many publications, book chapters, presentations, podcast appearances, and webinars on several topics related to grief and loss.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Counseling/Counselor Education

License Information: License Professional Counselor

### Session Information

Title of Session: We Grieve Too: Navigating our Losses

Session Description: While mental health professionals receive extensive training in caring for the needs and well-being of our clients, students, and community members, there is often little training provided on managing our own losses in the therapeutic process. Losses in the therapeutic relationship are complicated by many factors such as maintaining confidentiality, inability to connect with others around the loss, compartmentalizing the loss to serve others, and at times, legal concerns. There can be limited guidance and support for professionals when they experience a loss, especially if the loss involves a child. Managing this type of loss and the subsequent grieving process should not be ignored or left for the professional to handle alone.

This session will review the losses therapists experience in their professional work, focusing on client loss (e.g., suicide, terminal illness, unexpected deaths). Attendees will be able to recognize their losses, the impact of those losses on self and counseling relationships, and the grieving processes in their counseling relationships. Attendees will be able to establish a personal and effective approach to coping and maintaining professional competence.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Assess the effectiveness of current grieving processes for losses experienced by mental health professionals.
- List at least two unique factors related to mental health workers grieving processes.
- Identify at least three effective strategies to process a mental health professional's loss to care for the well-being of self and maintain professional competence in therapeutic relationships.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues

References:

- Salpietro, L., Ausloos, C. D., Clark, M., Zacarias, R., & Perez, J. (2023). Confidential grief: How counselors cope with client suicide. *Journal of Counseling & Development*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcad.12484>
- Jorgensen, M. F., Bender, S., & McCutchen, A. (2021). I'm haunted by it: Experiences of licensed counselors who had a client die by suicide. *Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy*, 8(2), 100-115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2326716X.2021.1916790>
- Harris, D. (2021). Compassion-focused grief therapy. *British Journal of Guidance & Counselling*, 49(6), 780-790.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E6- Laughing Through Grief: Humor as a protective factor for professionals and the bereaved (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 240

Presenter Information
-----------------------

Presenter #1:  
Kris Fulkerson  
Coping 4 Kids  
President

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Kris is the founder and President of Coping 4 Kids, started in 2007, and co-founder of the non-profit Coping 4 Life in 2016. Both organizations provide much needed social work support in low-resourced, at-risk rural communities. Kris has extensive training in grief and trauma, youth mental health needs, suicide prevention, rural mental health, and is a registered yoga teacher (200) as well as a 3rd year doctoral student at Barry University. She has presented both nationally and locally, in person and online. Kris volunteers with both Experience Camps and TAPS providing clinical care to grieving children and adolescents around the country. She was honored with a 2011 NASW Social Worker of the Year award, a 2016 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award for her work helping women and children, the 2021 Horace Mann Reaching Out and Building Bridges Award by the Illinois Principals Association for her innovative mobile social work programs in rural schools, and the Dr. Phyllis Scott Leadership Fellowship Award from Barry University. Beyond her calling to help people, Kris kayaks, travels, raises her small army, and is the main blogger on Coping's Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW, MS  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Presenter #2:  
Corrie Sirota  
Private Practice  
Clinical Social Worker & Psychotherapist Specializing in Grief and Loss

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Corrie Sirota holds a Masters degree in Social Work from McGill University, (Montreal, Canada) as well as a Graduate Certificate in Loss and Bereavement where she continues to teach. As a licensed psychotherapist, Corrie maintains a private practice specializing in Loss and Bereavement. She is the author of "Someone Died...Now What - A personal and professional perspective on coping with grief and loss" and "Loss & Found - A grief activity journal. Corrie is also the Clinical Director of Myra's Kids Foundation which holds a weekend bereavement camp for children ages 6-17. She is also a well-known guest speaker, having presented at numerous conferences and workshops, both locally and nationally. Corrie is frequently interviewed on many local radio, news and TV programs on various issues relating

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

to loss and bereavement, and coping with crisis. She is married to Andy, has two daughters, one son in law and loves to laugh.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Order of Social Work, Order of Psychotherapists

### Session Information

Title of Session: Laughing Through Grief: Humor as a protective factor for professionals and the bereaved

Session Description: This session will demonstrate the multiple benefits of maintaining one's sense of humor as professionals working in the area of grief and loss and how humor can potentially help our grieving clients. Specific focus will surround how children can find humor in memories, identify the ways humor promotes health and wellness, relieve stress, and can act as a coping mechanism. Seasoned grief specialists Corrie Sirota (Myra's Kids Foundation, Montreal, QC) and Kris Fulkerson (Coping 4 Life, Coping 4 Kids, Breese, IL) will use numerous practice examples to demonstrate how to incorporate laughter into one's practice and share the positive results their clients have experienced. Session attendees will leave the session empowered, enlightened and energized. He who laughs...lasts!

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define and experience the healing power of laughter.
- Identify various ways to use laughter as a coping mechanism, including tools and techniques that work.
- Reinforce how essential laughter is for those who work in the field of grief and loss.

Session Format: Experiential

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development
- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues
- Wellness and Prevention

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Sanoff, H. K. (2020). Managing grief, loss, and connection in oncology—What COVID-19 has taken. *JAMA Oncology*, 6(11), 1700. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamaoncol.2020.2839>
- Lund, D. A., Utz, R., Caserta, M. S., & de Vries, B. (2009). Humor, Laughter, and Happiness in the Daily Lives of Recently Bereaved Spouses. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 58(2), 87-105. <https://doi.org/10.2190/OM.58.2.a>
- Dunsmore, J. (2002). The laughter and the tears: Getting behind the mask in adolescent grief. *Grief Matters*, 5(2), 26-30. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.812104512255027>
- Henrich, Miranda B., "Is Loss a Laughing Matter?: A Study of Humor Reactions and Benign Violation Theory in the Context of Grief." (2022). Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers. 11887.
- Mora-Ripoll R (2017) Simulated Laughter Techniques for Therapeutic Use in Mental Health. *J Psychol Clin Psychiatry* 8(2): 00479. DOI: [10.15406/jpcpy.2017.08.00479](https://doi.org/10.15406/jpcpy.2017.08.00479)
- Rayle, Jessie Rae. (2013). Seriously Funny: The Clinical Role of Humor in the Grief Process. Retrieved from Sophia, the St. Catherine University repository website: [https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw\\_papers/251](https://sophia.stkate.edu/msw_papers/251)
- Wilson DM, Bykowski K, Chrzanowski AM, Knox M, Errasti-Ibarrondo B. A scoping research literature review to explore bereavement humor. *Curr Psychol*. 2022 Apr 2:1-12. doi: 10.1007/s12144-022-03033-x. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35400982; PMCID: PMC8975707.
- Saima Latif, Ph. D. (2024, March 4). *8 best laughter yoga therapy exercises for your classes*. PositivePsychology.com. <https://positivepsychology.com/laughter-yoga/>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E7- Integrating The Companionship Model into Training Volunteer Facilitators (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 404

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Mimi Dambro

Peter's Place

Assistant Director of Programs

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Mimi Dambro, MSW, LSW, has been the Assistant Director of Programs at Peter's Place: A Center for Grieving Children & Families for the past 3 years. Through her experience, she has run onsite and school-based peer support groups for children ages four through high school as well as groups for adult caregivers. In addition to her facilitation experience, Mimi has created numerous curriculums, grief modules, and activity book bags for middle school and high school aged youth. Prior to her time at Peter's Place, Mimi worked with children and families at the University of Pennsylvania's Interdisciplinary Child Advocacy Clinic working with youth in foster care. She has spent time as well working for Child Guidance Resource Centers in their school-based program working with children grades kindergarten through 8th grade. Mimi is a licensed social worker who earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bloomsburg University and her master's degree in Social work from the University of Pennsylvania. Mimi's passion for supporting youth and families is what connects her to working in the realm of childhood bereavement.

Highest Degree Earned: Master in Social Work

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: License in Social Work

Presenter #2:

Pat Wong-Connolly

Peter's Place

On-Site Group Facilitator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Pat is an Onsite Group Facilitator at Peter's Place: A Center for Grieving Children & Families, located in Radnor, PA and serving the Greater Philadelphia area. Her work focuses on developing and facilitating peer support groups for children and caregivers as well as designing and implementing volunteer training. She has over 10 years of experience working with various populations in bereavement, private practice and higher education settings. Pat earned her master's degree in college counseling and student development from the University of Delaware and her master's in social services from Bryn Mawr College. She is a licensed clinical social worker and certified thanatologist, who maintains a private practice, supporting individuals through grief and life transitions.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's in College Counseling and Student Development; Master's in Social Services

Field of Study: Social Work



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Thanatologist

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Integrating The Companionship Model into Training Volunteer Facilitators

**Session Description:** When it comes to providing support to individuals who are grieving, volunteers play a crucial role in offering comfort, empathy, and understanding during their journey through loss. To enhance the effectiveness of volunteer group facilitators, integrating Alan Wolfelt's Tenets of Companionship the Bereaved can be a valuable step. The companionship model of bereavement is built on the principle that people who are grieving can be supported by those who can walk alongside them on their grief journey rather than those who try to "fix" their grief.

Volunteers who have gone through their own grief experience possess a unique understanding of the emotions and challenges faced by grieving individuals, which often draws them to this work. Using the Tenets in training can also highlight volunteer self-awareness of how their own grief story influences their ability to support those who are grieving.

In this presentation, we will share how the companionship tenets are used in training new volunteers to enhance their facilitation skills and to find meaning in their own loss, to be more effective group facilitators. In this session includes demonstration and discussion of activities used integrate the companionship model in new volunteer training.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Volunteers

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- describe Alan Wolfelt's Eleven Tenets of Companionship the Bereaved.
- identify how they can use the Companionship model in training volunteers to facilitate peer support grief groups.
- apply the Companionship model in volunteer training to validate the grief experiences of volunteers and enhance awareness about how one's grief story can influence group facilitation.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

**Social Work Content Area(s):**

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- McClatchey, I. S., King, S., & Dobby, E. (2021). From grieving to giving: When former bereavement campers return as volunteers. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying*, 84(1), 228-244.
- Chiew, F., & Krupka, Z. (2023). You're Teaching Me Something About Living: Australian Palliative Care Volunteers' Evolving Experiences of Grief and Loss. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying*, 00302228231164863.
- Vivekananda, K., Ong, U., Wurf, G., D'Souza, L., Giosserano, R., & Licqurish, S. (2023). Bereavement photography, volunteering, and posttraumatic growth: A mixed-methods investigation. *Death Studies*, 47(4), 371-380.
- King, S., McClatchey, I. S., & Channer, B. (2022). Volunteering in the Camp Setting as a Learning Tool: Graduate Students Share Their Experiences. *InSight: A Journal of Scholarly Teaching*, 17, 47-64.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E8- Let's Think Outside of the Memory Box: Memories Matter in Maintaining Connection (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 356

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Kelly Petersohn  
Eluna Network  
Camp Erin Online Programs Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Kelly Petersohn is the Camp Erin Online Programs Manager at Eluna, a non-profit organization with a mission to support children and families impacted by grief or addiction. Kelly is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with more than twelve years of service in the field of childhood bereavement; 9 years as Camp Director of Camp Erin Indy! Kelly has a passion for serving families who have experienced grief and an innate gift for developing relationships and collaborative partnerships that help bridge gaps that prevent families from receiving the support they deserve. She is grateful for the years that she has been able to walk alongside children and teens and looks forward to continued opportunities to offer community and connection through Camp Erin Online.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters  
Field of Study: Social Worker  
License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker

### Session Information

Title of Session: Let's Think Outside of the Memory Box: Memories Matter in Maintaining Connection

Session Description: Our brains are incredible, absorbing the intricate details of the world around us through our five senses. A complicated process determines what sensory input is encoded and stored as a memory. As it turns out, when we experience the death of someone close to us, these memories are our lifeline, our only remaining connection to the person who died. Memories are the key to continuing bonds. Our role as caregivers and clinicians is to provide opportunities for storytelling, memory recall, and reminiscence to support the bereaved in maintaining connection with the person who died. A common identified fear of individuals who are grieving is that, over time they will forget the intricate details, the stories, and the memories they share with the person who died. This results in a sense of lost connection. Let's explore some ideas "outside of the memory box" that address this common fear and enhance the act of remembering. Come and expand your collection of memory work activities specifically designed to strengthen the bonds for children, teens, and young adults who are grieving.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe basic brain functioning and memory formation to better appreciate the benefits of memory recall and shared remembrance in grief support services.
- Discuss the importance of continuing bonds, storytelling, and reminiscing in grief work with children, teens and families.
- Develop an expanded collection of grief support activities that facilitate memory recall, storytelling, and maintaining connection.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Schaefer, M. R., Wagoner, S. T., Young, M. E., Madan-Swain, A., Barnett, M., Gray, W. N. (2020). Healing the Hearts of Bereaved Parents: Impact of Legacy Artwork on Grief in Pediatric Oncology. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, Vol. 60 (4), Pages 79
- Pociunaite, J., & Wolf, T. (2023). I will keep your memory! Reasons for remembering lost loved ones. *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, 1-12.  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/acp.413212>
- Black, J., Belicki K., Emberley-Ralph, J., & McCann, A. (2020): Internalized versus externalized continuing bonds: Relations to grief, trauma, attachment, openness to experience, and posttraumatic growth, *Death Studies*,  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.20>
- Clabburn, O., Knighting, K., Jack, B. A., & O'Brien, M. R. (2021). Continuing bonds with children and bereaved young people: A narrative review. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying*, 83(3), 371-389
- Keskinen, N., Kaunonen, M., & Aho, A. L. (2019). How loved ones express grief after the death of a child by sharing photographs on Facebook. *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, 24(7), 609-624.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E9- The Dance of Grief: Using a movement-based approach to foster hope, healing, and resilience after loss (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 361

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Christine Linnehan

The Center for Grieving Children, Portland, ME

Clinical Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Christine Linnehan, LCPC, BC-DMT, FT maintains a private practice at Riverview Counseling Services in Scarborough, Maine specializing in grief, loss, and trauma. She has been a clinical consultant at The Center for Grieving Children in Portland, Maine for 20 years providing staff and facilitator support as well as annual facilitator retreats. Previously she worked as an expressive therapist and group clinician in a partial hospitalization trauma treatment program and co-founded a Women's Wellness Center in Portsmouth, NH.

Christine's clinical work is grounded in evidence-based trauma and bereavement-informed approaches including compassion-based, meaning-centered grief therapy models, Restorative Retelling, TF-CBT, and EMDR. She is also certified in Thanatology (FT)<sup>®</sup> and Integrative Somatic Trauma Therapy. As a licensed clinical counselor and board-certified dance/movement therapist, she utilizes innovative mind/body wellness and expressive arts modalities designed to promote resilience and wellbeing. She has a special interest in creative approaches to healing after traumatic loss.

Highest Degree Earned: M.S.

Field of Study: Dance/Movement Therapy and Clinical Mental Health Counseling

License Information: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

Presenter #2:

Jamie Schwellenbach

The Center for Grieving Children, Portland, ME

Grief Services Manager, Tender Living Care Coordinator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jamie Schwellenbach, LCPC, R-DMT, is the Grief Services Manager, Tender Living Care Program Coordinator, and an advisor in the delivery of the Intercultural Program at The Center for Grieving Children in Portland, Maine. Previously she worked as a school-based clinician in programs for children and teens with cognitive and physical disabilities and their families. Since 2008 she has also been a dance instructor, helped develop an adaptive dance program at a local studio, and offers a range of movement classes tailored for various ages within the community. Jamie brings a wealth of experience working with groups and individuals of all abilities along with parent support in a variety of educational, intercultural, and therapeutic settings. As a licensed clinical counselor and registered dance/movement therapist, she is passionate about incorporating movement, mindfulness, self-compassion, and expressive modalities into her work.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Highest Degree Earned: M.A.

Field of Study: Dance/Movement Therapy and Clinical Mental Health Counseling

License Information: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, #CC545

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** The Dance of Grief: Using a movement-based approach to foster hope, healing, and resilience after loss

**Session Description:** For those who face or have experienced a profound loss, words alone often cannot convey the depth of their feelings. Children, especially, may not have the capacity to articulate their complex emotions and perceptions verbally. Grievers may feel at a loss regarding how to restore their sense of wholeness and well-being. In this interactive workshop, we will focus on how a creative, restorative, movement-based approach can provide a safe, modulated way for grieving children, teens, and adults to process their stories of loss, cope with their powerful feelings, restore resilience, and envision a path toward healing. Drawing from principles of dance/movement therapy and compassion-based, meaning-centered grief therapy models, we will discuss specific examples of using this approach in both peer support groups and clinical settings. Innovative mind/body wellness practices that aim to reduce physiological distress, cultivate self-compassion, and build personal/interpersonal resources will also be explored. Participants will be invited to engage in some of the movement practices as a means of personal and professional self-care.

**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define the three elements of mindful self-compassion.
- Demonstrate at least two restorative movement practices to promote emotional regulation and self-care.
- Describe an example of a movement-based prompt that facilitates hope, healing, and resilience after loss.
- Explain how movement-based practices can be used as a form of meaning-making (or meaning-centered) ritual after loss
- Name at least 4 protective factors that promote resilience after loss

**Session Format:** Experiential

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

**Social Work Content Area(s):**

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

**Counseling Content Area(s):**

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Wellness and Prevention

### References:

- Koch SC, Riege RFF, Tisborn K, Biondo J, Martin L, Beelmann A. (2019). Effects of Dance Movement Therapy and Dance on Health-Related Psychological Outcomes. A Meta-Analysis Update. *Front Psychol.* 20, (10), 1806. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.01806.
- Neff, K. (2023). Self-Compassion: Theory, Method, Research, and Intervention, *Annu. Rev. Psychol.* 74:7.1-7.26
- Darcy Harris (2021) Compassion-focused grief therapy, *British Journal of Guidance & Counseling*, 49, (6), 780-790, DOI: 10.1080/03069885.2021.1960948
- Lichtenthal WG, Roberts KE, Pessin H, Applebaum A, Breitbart W. (2020). Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy and Cancer: Finding Meaning in the Face of Suffering. *Psychiatr Times.* 37(8), 23-25.
- Bryant, R. A. (2022). The relevance of the five elements of resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Psychiatry*, 84(4), 351-357.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: E10- Healing Power of Nature (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 380

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Jason Stout  
Stoutreach LLC  
CEO

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
For more than two decades Jason Stout has been helping youth and adults find their inner strength, form meaningful connections, and experience personal transformation through adventure challenge and time in nature.

His passion for this work is rooted in the losses of his sister, grandmother, and father – all before Jason was 15 years old. He struggled to deal with these losses as a teen and adult, but he found purpose and healing after completing a 78-day Winter Wilderness Leadership Expedition. In honor of his dad and sister, Jason created a national wilderness program for at-risk and grieving teens, which was featured in Backpacker Magazine, The Denver Post, and the Associated Press. Jason is founder of Stoutreach LLC where he provides training, consultation, and facilitation to outdoor education, wilderness therapy, and gap year programs. In addition, he serves as an advisor to TAPS where he manages, develops, and facilitates a variety of programming including mindfulness and healing in nature for youth and adult military survivors. Previously he served Judi's House as Outreach and Education Manager and Outward Bound as the National Outreach Director.

Highest Degree Earned: Associates  
Field of Study: Exercise Science  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: Healing Power of Nature

Session Description: Nothing comes close to the healing power of nature. Even a short walk amongst the trees can quiet our negative thoughts and bring a sense of peace almost instantly. With intention and mindfulness we can tap into this healing power almost anytime and anywhere.

Finding serenity in the outdoors is nothing new. Human beings have been connected to forests, rivers, oceans, and deserts as long as we've been walking the earth. It's only recently in human history that our culture has withdrawn in masses from spending time in nature and replaced it with time spent in a fabricated world where we are bombarded with constant stimuli that deprives us of our well-being.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Join Jason Stout for some inspiring stories and explore the many benefits of spending time outdoors while we move towards building meaningful rituals and ceremonies into our daily lives that will help you establish a deeper connection to nature and its healing power.

This presentation is for those who want to expand their own self-care practice and/or add some new tools to support your participants.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Create accessible nature based activities
- Create a nature based mindfulness activity
- Create activities for a deeper connection to other participants
- Demonstrate the basic of establish a safe space, physically and emotionally
- Create ones own nature based daily self-care practice

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F1- Brick by Brick: Building mission alignment and commitment in leaders and teams (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 349

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Jessica Porte  
Wayfinder Family Co.  
Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

I am a Consultant and Grief Educator of Wayfinder Family Co. I hold a BA in Psychology with a Master of Arts in Leadership from Azusa Pacific University. With over 12 years of experience working in nonprofit, I support families navigating challenges related to grief, substance use disorders, foster care, and other losses that impact communities. I have worked alongside over 30 school districts in the Southern California area, community members, bereavement camps, and professionals to lean into the hard conversations, utilizing science-based and applicable strategies to support children and families through grief, both death-related and non-death-related. As a certified LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® Facilitator, I incorporate the power of play into the leadership process to implement Real Time Strategy, organizational commitment, and unlock innovation. I consult, train, and develop workshops for organizations that work with and for families. I have presented nationally and locally in the scope of family support, addiction, leadership, and grief-informed care.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Arts  
Field of Study: Leadership  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: Brick by Brick: Building mission alignment and commitment in leaders and teams

Session Description: "Are you mature enough to play?" In the field of childhood bereavement, we understand the power and impact play has on building meaning and facilitation in grief. How can it support our leadership in the face of challenges, change management, and organizational commitment? The fundamentals of the LEGO® Serious Play® method rely on the courageous leaders who do not have all the answers, depends on the voices in the room, with people who want to be part of something that is bigger than themselves. This nontraditional method has been utilized by the United States Navy, LinkedIn, nonprofits, and healthcare systems to help build & strategize through challenges in a way that allows them to go deeper faster. Utilizing nontraditional methods supported by multiple theories, attendees will spend a majority of their time experiencing the impact of hand-mind connection and how it builds commitment, increase innovation, unlock deeper understanding, and engagement within an organization. Executives, teams, and leaders will walk away with a framework to optimize collaboration that can support strategic planning.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Administrative

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Will gain hand-on experience utilizing the methodology of LEGO® Serious Play® that allows them to approach challenges differently
- Develop a basic framework of how construcionism and flow theory can be applied to challenges within an organization to achieve specific objectives
- Discover a nontradional method to move organization engagement from 20/80 to 100/100

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F2- Hope Through Hockey: Community Collaboration for Grieving Youth (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 395

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Conor Dawley

Highmark Caring Place

Senior Grief & Clinical Services Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Conor has worked with children and families in the Erie area since 2004, and has a variety of professional and clinical experiences, including working as a Child and Family Specialist, a Mental Health Services Supervisor, and a Senior Grief and Bereavement Specialist. In his current role, he specializes as an Outreach & Education Coordinator where he has a focus on establishing and nurturing community partnerships to support grieving children and families in their community. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor, as well as certified in Thanatology. Conor received his bachelor's degree in Student Ministry from Geneva College. He went on to receive his master's degree from Gannon University in Community Counseling.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Science

Field of Study: Community Counseling

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor

### Session Information

Title of Session: Hope Through Hockey: Community Collaboration for Grieving Youth

Session Description: Join us as we explore innovative ways of supporting grieving children and teens in our community that may otherwise not be reached. This session delves into the impactful collaboration between the Highmark Caring Place and the Erie Otters, a local junior hockey team. Discover how blending sports, outreach, and community collaboration creates a nurturing environment for young individuals dealing with grief. Learn from successful initiatives, discuss challenges, and gain practical insights to implement similar programs in your community.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify methods to nurture empathy within communities, fostering an understanding of children's grief and the importance of supportive environments.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- List one strategy to build collaborative partnerships between nonprofit organizations, local sports teams, and community stakeholders, enhancing collective efforts for children's grief awareness.
- Develop advocacy tools and communication strategies to raise awareness about children's grief issues, empowering you to be advocates for change within your communities.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations

References:

- Lauren J. Breen, Daisuke Kawashima, Karima Joy, Susan Cadell, David Roth, Amy Chow & Mary Ellen Macdonald (2022) Grief literacy: A call to action for compassionate communities, *Death Studies*, 46:2, 425-433, DOI: 10.1080/07481187.2020.1739780
- Gregorio Zuniga-Villanueva, Jose Luis Ramirez-GarciaLuna & Roy Ismael Villafranca-Andino (2021) A Compassionate Communities Approach in a Grief and Bereavement Support Program: Bridging the Gap in Palliative Care, *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care*, 17(1), 9-18, DOI: 10.1080/15524256.2021.1894309
- Liz Gulliford (2018) Compassion and education: cultivating compassionate children, schools and communities, *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 66:3, 410-412, DOI: 10.1080/00071005.2018.1443720
- Melton, G.B., McLeigh, J.D. (2020) The Naure, Logic and Significance of Strong Communities for Children, *International Journal of Child Maltreatment*, 3, 125-161, DOI: 10.1007/s42448-020-00050-w

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F3- Supporting schools when a member of the school community dies because of a natural disaster (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 278

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

David Schonfeld

Children's Hospital of Los Angeles

Director, NCSCB

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Schonfeld is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. He is Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters and a member of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children and Disasters; he served on the National Biodefense Science Board from 2018-2021 and as a Commissioner for both the National Commission on Children and Disasters and the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission in Connecticut. Dr. Schonfeld has authored over 150 scholarly articles, book chapters, and books. He has provided consultation and training on school crisis and pediatric bereavement for over 30 years in the aftermath of numerous school crisis events and disasters within the United States and abroad. He has also conducted school-based research (funded by NICHD, NIMH, NIDA, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, William T. Grant Foundation, and other foundations) involving children's understanding of and adjustment to serious illness and death and school-based interventions to promote adjustment and risk prevention

Highest Degree Earned: MD

Field of Study: Developmental Pediatrician

License Information: Medicine

Presenter #2:

Tom Demaria

National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement

Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Thomas Demaria, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist and a Fellow in both the Trauma and Clinical Divisions of the American Psychological Association and New York State Psychological Association dealing with crisis and loss. Dr. Demaria has delivered over several hundred professional research presentations and co-authored 24 professional publications including clinical guidance documents on bereavement and disasters for the American Academy of Pediatrics. Dr. Demaria has earned numerous awards for his participation in several hundred local and national community and school crisis responses including school shootings at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown. During the pandemic he has provided numerous workshops for front-line health care staff, local businesses and school districts. He is a two-time recipient of the New York State Liberty Award for community service following the World Trade Center terrorist attacks and in the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Dr. Demaria was honored

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

with a Humanitarian Award from the Center for Christian & Jewish studies for his work with Holocaust survivors and earned special recognition from the International Society for Traumatic Stress for both Clinical Excellence in Service Delivery and Distinguished Mentorship of Students.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD  
Field of Study: Developmental Pediatrician  
License Information: Psychologist

Presenter #3 (if applicable):  
Carole Zoom  
Consultant & Former Executive Director of Nā Keiki O Emalia

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
I am a community organizer building capacity to address children's bereavement locally in my job as a Consultant and former Executive Director of Nā Keiki O Emalia (NKOEmaiui.org). As a volunteer, I work with Evermore (evermore.org) to build a coordinated national response to bereavement care for all Americans.

I have worked on social justice and public policy issues my entire life and organized toward the passage of landmark legislation at the state and national level, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Air Carrier Access Act, Voting Rights and Fair Housing Amendments.

Specialties: My areas of expertise include nonprofit management, fundraising, leadership and nonprofit board development, event planning and accessibility compliance for people with disabilities. I'm active in social justice work, and cultural transformation around issues of disability rights.

Highest Degree Earned: BA  
Field of Study:  
License Information: none

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: Supporting schools when a member of the school community dies because of a natural disaster

Session Description: Natural disasters including wildfires and flooding significantly impact a community because of both the deaths that have occurred and the secondary losses that cause ongoing hardships endured by families. Grieving for losses is often neglected because of family stressors related to ongoing survival needs and disruption of community resources caused by the disaster. Natural disasters often cause the destruction of community property including schools which had provided support and stability for children in the past. Fruitful collaboration by children's bereavement programs with educators and families to ensure that grief support for children is available requires both flexibility and ongoing dialogue about the adaptation of plans during the disaster recovery process. This workshop will provide examples from the responses of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement and the experience of Nā Keiki O Emalia in Maui of the challenges in meeting children's

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

bereavement support needs in the aftermath of natural disasters such as the Maui wildfires and ways grief support can be provided through collaboration with local schools and community organizations.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- list examples of unique needs that may exist following different types of natural disasters
- identify how the extent of disruption caused by the natural disaster will impact the grieving process of children
- describe how children's bereavement programs can provide guidance to schools following natural disasters

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s): Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s): Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues; Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Demaria, T., Gilman, R., Mazyck, D., & Schonfeld, D. (2021). The Impact of Distress, Personal Meaning & Training on the Delivery of Support to Grieving Students by School Nurses. *The Journal of School Nursing*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10598405211041299>
- Schonfeld, D. J., & Demaria, T. & Kumar, S. (July 2020). Supporting Young Children after Crisis Events. *Young Children* (National Association for the Education of Young Children), 75 (3), 6-15. <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/jul2020/supporting-young-children-after-crisis-events>
- Schonfeld, D., & Demaria, T. (2016). Supporting the Grieving Child and Family. *Pediatrics*, 138 (3). e2016-2147. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/138/3/e20162147>
- Schonfeld, D.J., & Demaria, T. (2024). Mental Health Impact of Pandemics and Other Public Health Emergencies in Children. *Pediatric Clinics of North America*.
- Lively-Endicott, H.R., Naimi, K., Hudson, S.M., & Schonfeld, D.J. (2023). Educator Perspectives on Grief-Sensitive Training During the COVID-19 Pandemic in US Public Schools. *The Journal of school health*.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F4- Driving Your Data Bus: Methods, Messages, and Tools of Program Evaluation (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 415

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Mrittika Sen

Good Grief

Head of Research and Evaluation

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Mrittika Sen has doctoral-level subject matter expertise in social psychology, interpersonal support and communication in crisis situations, and persuasion. Her nearly twenty years' research, development, and communication experience spans the nonprofit, higher education, media and publishing industries in India, Egypt, and the United States.

At Good Grief, Dr. Sen employs her research and data analysis skills to develop and execute on a robust evaluation initiative. Her recent work has included developing validated surveys as well as conducting one-on-one interviews with close to 30 Good Grief participants. Dr. Sen is also updating and streamlining the content of Good Grief programs and trainings, and collaborating with academics to conduct focus groups to study factors that complicate grief. Mrittika is a bereaved mother, and lost her infant daughter in sleep in 2013 to unknown causes. Her son was three at the time, and the family had moved to New Jersey just four days ago. Her family participated in Good Grief's Nights of Support program from 2014 until 2017. Mrittika, enrolled full-time in a rigorous doctoral program at Northwestern University when her daughter died, completed her PhD in 2017. Her son, now 13, returned as a Good Grief participant in November, 2022.

Highest Degree Earned: PH.D.

Field of Study: Social Psychology

License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: Driving Your Data Bus: Methods, Messages, and Tools of Program Evaluation

Session Description: Organizations are required to regularly monitor and rigorously evaluate their programs. However, data collection from grieving children and families can be a challenge. How do you persuade your participants to fill out surveys, or take part in interviews? What types of data do you need to collect for various purposes such as internal evaluation, funding applications, and stakeholder engagement? How do you determine what method to apply? In this session, we will explore types of program evaluation, and types of data we need to evaluate children's grief support programs. We will also discuss employing mixed methods (integration of different approaches to data collection, such as surveys, focus groups, and interviews) in program evaluation. We will discuss processes we can put into place and tools and techniques we can use for this.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Good Grief has recently taken a deeper dive into its evaluation processes, making them more robust and user-friendly for children and families to take part in. We have also introduced a qualitative component to our evaluation, conducting interviews with our teen, young adult, and adult participants.

The presenter, Good Grief's Head of Research and Evaluation, has been on both sides of the table with regards to feedback: As a former Good Grief participant, she gave it, and in her current role, asks for it. This unique vantage point will inform this session as you address challenges of data collection (you're not alone!) and ways to overcome them (even if your organization is small and has limited resources)! You will also learn to gauge how you can collect data creatively and use it effectively to tell your participants' stories, and raise awareness about children's grief.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Research, Outcomes, and Measurements

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define types of data and their various purposes.
- Identify ways to create persuasive messages for participants to share feedback.
- Compare methods of data collection, and determine when and how to employ mixed methods in program evaluation.
- Outline an evaluation plan that best suits their purpose and their capacity.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F5- Incorporating Technology into Legacy Building Interventions  
(1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 351

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Stephanie Barta  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Child Life Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Stephanie (she/her/hers) is a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) with over 10 years of experience in high-acuity patient care settings. Stephanie graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Human Development and Family Science with an emphasis in Youth Development from the University of Missouri. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Life and minors in Spanish and Theatre Arts from the University of Iowa. Currently, Stephanie works as a CCLS in an outpatient dental clinic at Children's Hospital Colorado. She supports the psychosocial needs of children, adolescents, and their families while assisting in child development and behavior management education for pediatric dental residents and staff. She has also worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, where she routinely provided grief and bereavement support to patients and families. Stephanie has extensive knowledge of pediatric palliative care. Previously, Stephanie was a CCLS at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and worked in as a community-based CCLS with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in the Quality of Life for All Kids Program in Memphis, TN. This program provided compassionate care to palliative care and hospice-eligible pediatric patients and their families in hospital housing facilities and the greater Memphis community.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Youth Development/Child Life

License Information: Certified Child Life Specialist

Presenter #2:

Abraham Homer  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Gaming Technology Supervisor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Abraham Homer is the Gaming Technology Specialist & Supervisor at Children's Hospital Colorado. In his role he uses technology such video games and Virtual Reality to help hospitalized children and augment existing medical treatments, while also acting as a consultant and XR subject expert for clinicians, providers and developers.

Highest Degree Earned: BFA

Field of Study: Youth Development/child life

License Information:

Presenter #3 (if applicable):Stephany Griswold

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Children's Hospital Colorado  
Child Life Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Stephany (she/her/hers) is a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) with over 8 years of experience of working with patients and families in an Intensive care setting. Stephany graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Child Life in the Hospital, from Mills College in Oakland. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from San Jose State University. Currently, Stephany works as a CCLS in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Children's Hospital Colorado. She supports the individualized psychosocial needs of patients, and their families. Stephany has been involved in supporting care to many families during end-of-life in the intensive care unit with a focus and goal of working to improve the processes and experiences.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: ECE/Child Life  
License Information: Certified Child Life Specialist

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Incorporating Technology into Legacy Building Interventions

**Session Description:** As the development and use of technology continues to impact the way people view and navigate the world, it is beneficial to explore how these technologies can be integrated into child life practice. Child life specialists have the unique opportunity to provide support and help capture lasting memories throughout a patient's healthcare experience. Attendees will explore how technology can be utilized in legacy-building interventions to create meaningful interventions, memories, and keepsakes for patients and families.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- define legacy building within the pediatric population.
- identify four technology modalities that can be used with patients for legacy-oriented interventions.
- identify ways to provide legacy interventions through a culturally inclusive lens.
- observe a live demonstration of at least one technology modality that could be used in clinical settings.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Assessment
- Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Love, A., Greer, K., Woods, C., Clark, L., Baker, J., & Kaye, E. (2022). Bereaved Parent Perspectives and Recommendations on Best Practices for Legacy Interventions. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 63, 1022-1030. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsym>
- Boles, J. & Jones, M. (2021). Legacy perceptions and interventions for adults and children receiving palliative care: A systematic review. *Palliative Medicine*, 35, 529-551. doi: 10.1177/0269216321989565.
- Boles, J., Jones M., Dunbar, J., & Cook, J. (2020) Defining Legacy: The Perceptions of Pediatric Health Care Providers. *Clinical Pediatrics*, 59(11), 1004-1010. doi:10.1177/0009922820940808
- Andrews, E., Hayes, A., Cerulli, L., Miller, E. G., & Slamon, N. (2020). Legacy Building in Pediatric End-of-Life Care through Innovative Use of a Digital Stethoscope. *Palliative medicine reports*, 1(1), 149-155. <https://doi.org/10.1089/pmr.2020.0028>
- Foster, T.L., Dietrich, M.S., Friedman, D.L., Gordon, J.E., & Gilmer, M.J. (2012). National survey of children's hospitals on legacy-making activities, *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 15(5), 573-578. <http://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2011.0447>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F6- From Pain to Power: Transforming LGBTQ Youth Grief Through Community and Culture (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 409

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lizzie McAdam

Hetrick-Martin Institute

Director, Counseling & Case Management

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lizzie McAdam (she/her/hers), RDT/BCT, LCAT is a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT), Registered Drama Therapist (RDT), and Board Certified Trainer (BCT). She is currently the Director of Counseling and Case Management at the Hetrick-Martin Institute in New York City, the nation's largest LGBTQ+ youth services agency. She is also an adjunct faculty member at New York University and is a board member of the Drama Therapy Review.

Lizzie's work focuses on using creativity and trauma-informed practices to support LGBTQIA+ young adults in exploring who they are, who they want to become, and how they can find or create community along the way. As a former public school educator-turned-drama therapist, she works with emerging young adults to connect their lived experience to their process of becoming, using an anti-racist and liberation-focused lens. Her interests include LGBTQIA young adult identity development, accountability spaces for white practitioners like herself, trauma-informed care and participatory action research where client and therapist collaborate in the research process.

Highest Degree Earned: MA, MS

Field of Study: Drama Therapy

License Information: License Creative Arts Therapy (LCAT), Registered Drama Therapist, Board Certified Trainer

Presenter #2:

Jenny DeBower

Private practice, consultant

Consultant

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jenny DeBower is a social worker, artist and educator committed to supporting youth and communities in healing from violence and oppression. She earned her MSW from Columbia University and is completing her PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center, focusing on gender expansive youth. Jenny has over 20 years of experience developing programs and leading organizations serving LGBTQ youth and families. She served as Director of Youth & Family Services at the LGBT Community Center of NYC, spearheading innovative wellness programs. She also led the nationally recognized youth program at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, home of the Harvey Milk High School.

Most recently, Jenny was Assistant Professor at Augsburg University, teaching social work courses on policy, community organizing, and human behavior. Jenny's research centers on

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

peer-led approaches to healing from trauma, with publications on the impacts of youth organizing. She is committed to participatory action research methods that center community knowledge.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's (PhD expected 2023)

Field of Study: Drama Therapy

License Information: Licensed graduate social worker (LGSW)

Session Information
---------------------

**Title of Session:** From Pain to Power: Transforming LGBTQ Youth Grief Through Community and Culture

**Session Description:** This presentation will provide an overview of a strengths-based, healing-centered engagement curriculum developed at the Hetrick-Martin Institute to address bereavement among LGBTQIA+ youth dealing with trauma and loss. The model is grounded in six principles:

1. Focus holistically on healing and wellness rather than illness or deficits. Build on inherent strengths.
2. Address root causes of trauma, including systemic oppressions like racism, poverty, violence and other inequities.
3. Center culture and identity of LGBTQIA+ communities. Draw from cultural traditions to foster belonging.
4. Make space for communal expression through storytelling, art, music, theater and other outlets to process experiences.
5. Shift power dynamics to be collaborative, with youth as leaders in their own healing.
6. Integrate care across emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, economic, cultural and communal domains.

The curriculum supports queer youth to confront the systems that cause harm, make meaning from adversity, connect with culture and chosen families, uplift intersectional identities, and transform pain into healing.

Rather than focus on individual treatment, the curriculum takes a collective approach to empower queer youth as agents in communal healing and social change. The work is embodied and grounded in art-based learning, and aims to help shape an inclusive future where all young people can thrive with equity and justice.

This presentation from Hetrick-Martin Institute staff will review insights from developing and evaluating the program. Case studies will showcase bereavement needs among LGBTQIA+ youth. Attendees will engage in embodied learning focused on tangible practices to provide

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

identity-affirming, culturally grounded, holistic grief support to empower LGBTQIA+ youth facing complex losses.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify and describe how suffocated and disenfranchised grief impact LGBTQIA+ youth.
- Identify at least 3 ways in which collective, community-based embodied approaches support LGBTQIA+ grief and loss work.
- Describe 3 tangible practices that support LGBTQIA+ youth in bereavement work.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Murphy, J., & Hardaway, R. (2017). LGBTQ adolescents of color: Considerations for working with youth and their families. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 21(3), 221-227.
- Lucas, J. J., Bouchoucha, S. L., Afrouz, R., Reed, K., & Brennan-Olsen, S. L. (2022). LGBTQ+ Loss and Grief in a Cis-Heteronormative Pandemic: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis of the COVID-19 Literature. *Qualitative health research*, 32(14), 2102-2117. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323221138027>
- Chan C. D., Henesy R. K. (2018). Navigating intersectional approaches, methods, and interdisciplinarity to health equity in LGBTQ+ communities. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 12(4), 230-247.
- Blair, K. L., & Pukall, C. F. (2015). Family matters, but sometimes chosen family matters more: Perceived social network influence in the dating decisions of same-and mixed-sex couples. *The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality*, 24(3), 257-270.
- McNutt, B., & Yakushko, O. (2013). Disenfranchised grief among lesbian and gay bereaved individuals. *Journal of LGBT Issues in Counseling*, 7(1), 87-116. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15538605.2013.758345>



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Law MA, Pastirik P, Shamputa IC. Expressive Arts for Grieving Youth: A Pilot Project. *OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine* **2023**; 8(1): 009; doi:10.21926/obm.icm.2301009
- Kelly, M., Lubitow, A., Town, M. et al. Collective Trauma in Queer Communities. *Sexuality & Culture* 24, 1522-1543 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-020-09710-y>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F7- The Space Around Us: The Role of Loneliness in Grief Work (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 381

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jennifer Wiles

Good Shepherd Community Care

Director, HEARTplay Program

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jennifer Wiles, MA, LMHC, BC-DMT is the Director of the HEARTplay Program at Good Shepherd Community Care in Newton, MA. She is the director of Camp Erin in Boston and HEARTplay, which supports children, teens, and young adults and their families who have experienced a serious illness or death. Her current project, Expanding the Language of Grief, is focused on providing access to compassionate grief support services to people of all abilities. She has taught and lectured locally, nationally, and internationally on the topics of children's grief, disability awareness, and expressive therapies. Jennifer is a board-certified dance movement therapist/licensed mental health counselor and is on the adjunct faculty at Lesley University's Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences where she also serves as a clinical site supervisor. Jennifer is an active member of The National Alliance for Children's Grief, where she serves on the Board of Directors and chairs the Education Committee.

Highest Degree Earned: M.A.

Field of Study: Mental Health Counseling/Dance Movement Therapy

License Information: Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Board-Certified Dance Movement Therapist

### Session Information

Title of Session: The Space Around Us: The Role of Loneliness in Grief Work

Session Description: Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy has named loneliness as the new public health crisis in our country. Dr. Murthy has spoken about the impact of loneliness on our collective physical, mental, and emotional health. In these challenging times, we are all becoming aware of the loneliness and isolation in the world around us. As bereavement professionals, we have certainly witnessed this in the young people we support. How can we address this phenomenon in our work with young people who are grieving? How can we inform our program participants about the role of loneliness in grief? Are we offering welcoming and inclusive programming that counteracts loneliness and isolation? Are we providing access to our programs in ways that will decrease loneliness in our communities?

Are we aware of the loneliness in our own lives as bereavement professionals? How can we take care of ourselves while building a sense of belonging in our professional settings? In this session, we will learn about new work being done to address the crisis of loneliness. We will take a fresh look at the peer group model and practice new activities that use the

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

expressive arts therapies in meaningful ways. We will pay particular attention to techniques that can be applied to participants with disabilities and learn how the act of refining our approaches can be a way to counteract loneliness.

Through the R.I.C.E. (Wiles) approach, we will move and create together to build the possibility that our program participants feel respected, informed, connected, and empowered as we seek to fill the empty spaces around us with compassion, creativity, and hope.

Content Level: Advanced - This best describes a topic or issue about which the audience has significant knowledge and/or experience with the subject area

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Name attributes of loneliness and their impact on the physical, mental, and emotional health of children and adults who are grieving.
- Create sample activities using the expressive art therapies to counteract loneliness that can be applied to bereavement program settings.
- Identify adaptive strategies for grief activities to be utilized for young people with disabilities who are grieving.
- Discuss strategies to address loneliness and isolation in bereavement professionals and create a resource list for self-care and self-compassion approaches to be applied to one's own practice.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Counselor Professional Identity and Practice Issues
- Wellness and Prevention

References:

- Vedder, A., Boerner, K., Stokes, J., Schut, H.A.W., Boelen, P.A. & Stroebe, M. (2021). A Systematic Review of Loneliness in Bereavement: Current Research and Future Directions. *Current Opinion in Psychology*. 43. 10.1016/j.copsyc.2021.06.003.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Quiñones, G., Lipponen, L., Pursi, A., & Barnes, M (2021). Children's everyday manifestations of grief and grieving in early childhood education and care. *Early Child Development and Care*, 192, 1-14. [10.1080/03004430.2021.1934464](https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2021.1934464).
- Voiskounsky, A., & Soldatova, G. (2019). Epidemic of loneliness in a digital society: Hikikomori as a cultural and psychological phenomenon. *Counseling Psychology and Psychotherapy*, 27(3), 22-43. <http://doi.org/10.17759/cpp.2019270303>
- Chia, S. H., Hibberd, A., & Hibberd, J. M. (2018). Art as a therapeutic medium to combat social isolation and loneliness. *International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation*, 25(6), 213-213. <http://doi.org/10.12968/ijtr.2018.25.6.213>
- MONICA, R. (2022). Dance/Movement Therapy Interventions to Cope with Covid-19: From Isolation towards a New Proactive Community. *Medical Research Archives*, 10(9). [doi:10.18103/mra.v10i9.3102](https://doi.org/10.18103/mra.v10i9.3102)

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F8- Utilizing Play Therapy and Expressive Art Principals in Individual Therapy and Peer Grief Support Groups (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 382

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Amy Strom

Valerie's House

Vice President of Partnerships and Operations

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Amy Strom is the Vice President of Partnerships and Operations at Valerie's House in Fort Myers, Florida, and an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker - Qualified Supervisor, Registered Play Therapist and Certified School Social Work Specialist, with over 25 years of clinical experience supporting children and their families in schools, clinical mental health centers, and private practice.

Amy received a Bachelor of Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she studied psychology. She also obtained a Master's Degree in Social Science Administration from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where she focused her studies on clinical social work as well as a Master's Degree in Education from Ursuline College, also in Cleveland, focusing on Special Education K -12.

Amy started at Valerie's House as a volunteer group facilitator in 2017. She quickly fell in love with the mission and joined the team full-time, lending her mental health expertise to help plan grief group activities for Valerie's House families. Amy focuses heavily on being a voice for grieving children in our community, securing partnerships with other leaders in our region, as well as with funders and other major partnerships.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's Degree

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker -Qualified Supervisor (FL), Registered Play Therapist, Certified School Social Work Specialist (National Association of Social Workers)

Presenter #2:

Melody Madigan

Valerie's House

Coordinator of Training and Data Collection

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Melody Madigan is no stranger to helping the youth of Southwest Florida. She served students as a School Counselor in the Lee County School District for nearly 40 years. After retiring from education, Melody began volunteering at Valerie's House shortly after the program opened in 2016 as a Group Support Facilitator. Realizing that Valerie's House is the perfect place to satisfy her passion for helping youth, she readily accepted a position to help children. She participates in intake interviews, replies to initial family contacts, assists in group activity planning, data collection, and leads children's support groups.

Melody has a Master's Degree in School Counseling from the University of Akron, a Master's degree in Instructional Technology from the University of South Florida, and a Bachelor of

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Science degree in Mathematics from Kent State University. Melody's years as a school counselor have shown her that there is a tremendous need for grief support, and she is thrilled to be a part of Valerie's House.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters Degree

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: N/A

Session Information
---------------------

**Title of Session:** Utilizing Play Therapy and Expressive Art Principles in Individual Therapy and Peer Grief Support Groups

**Session Description:** Participants who attend this training session will gain an understanding of how play and expressive arts therapy addresses grief in individual therapy and how some of these basic techniques can also be integrated into peer grief support groups. Play and/or creative art activities allow children to symbolically represent their concerns, worries, and emotions and work toward the resolution of these issues.

We will explore how youth often don't have the words to express themselves when they encounter loss, trauma, or distressing situations. During this workshop you will learn that play is the language of children and that the toys they select and how they play become their words. You will learn how to create a safe space within the playroom for the exploration of feelings and concerns. Play and expressive therapies allow the unconscious to become conscious and allow the therapists to gain insight into their world to help develop coping skills, develop empathy, increase one's resiliency, alleviate depression and/or anxiety, and the ability to self-regulate strong emotions.

Although different than a therapeutic setting, the integration of play and creative art activity-based techniques into peer grief support groups can also be an effective tool to assist children in expressing their feelings when guided using reflection and making connections with others. We will explore and practice a variety of directive and non-directive interventions such as the use of toys, sand trays, visual arts, books, games, and writing to help build resiliency and socio-emotional growth.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of how play and expressive art therapies are effective tools to help children express their grief.
- Demonstrate an understanding how play and expressive art interventions differ with each child and their developmental level.
- Develop several play and creative art interventions to help children express themselves through play.
- Demonstrate an understanding how play and expressive art techniques can also be utilized in peer grief support groups.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Bergman A.S., Axberg U., Hanson E. (2017). When a parent dies—A systematic review of the effects of support programs for parentally bereaved children and their caregivers. *BMC Palliative Care*, 16: 39. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12904-017-0223-y>
- Gamino, L. A. (2017). Taking one's "game" to the next level: Incorporating the expressive arts in grief counseling. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology*, 30(1), 100-104. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10720537.2015.1072486>
- Gil, E. (2017). *Posttraumatic play in children: What clinicians need to know*. Guilford Publications.
- Green, E. J., & Drewes, A. A. (2014). *Integrating expressive arts and play therapy with children and adolescents*. Wiley.
- Iliya, Y. A. (2016). Thompson, B. E., & Neimeyer, R. A. (eds.). (2014). Grief and the expressive arts: Practices for creating meaning. *Omega*, 72(4), 362- 365. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222815598047>
- Karst, P., Wyss, D., & Lew-Vriethoff, J. (2019). *The Invisible String Workbook: Creative Activities to Comfort, Calm, and Connect*. Little, Brown And Company.
- Linda Morison, Laura Simonds & Sarah-Jane F. Stewart (2022) Effectiveness of creative arts-based interventions for treating children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events: a systematic review of the quantitative evidence and meta-analysis, *Arts & Health*, 14:3, 237-262, DOI: 10.1080/17533015.2021.2009529
- Turner, R. (2020). Playing through the unimaginable: Play therapy for traumatic loss. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 29(2), 96-103. <https://doi.org/10.1037/pla0000116>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F9- Thriving in Turbulence: Adapting to Group Chaos (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 388

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Gabrielle Gauthier

The Children's Grief Center

Program Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Gabby began with the Children's Grief Center as a Counseling Intern from Central Michigan University in 2017, and was hired on in 2018, and is now the Program Director just began her 7th year of facilitating grief groups.

Gabby received her Bachelors in Psychology and Sociology in 2014, and her Masters in Professional Counseling in 2018. She received her License in Professional Counseling in 2023.

This will be Gabby's 5th NACG Conference. She looks forward to sharing her knowledge of adapting to the challenges that working in groups brings. She believes that authenticity and accessing your inner child is the best way to connect with others. She has extensive experience working with all ages in a grief peer support setting.

Highest Degree Earned: MA in Professional Counseling

Field of Study: Professional Counseling

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor

### Session Information

Title of Session: Thriving in Turbulence: Adapting to Group Chaos

Session Description: Thriving in Turbulence: Adapting to Group Chaos addresses the fears and concerns that arise when facilitating groups for children, teens, and adults.

What do you do when you have 20 families show up for group and no volunteers?

What do you do when you have ten 8-year-olds screaming in a circle?

What do you do when your teen group refuses to talk?

What do you do when you feel like you have lost all control of a group?

Participants will gain insights into various strategies for adapting to unexpected challenges and changes, promoting group resilience and flexibility.

By the end of this session, you'll be well-prepared to step into any group environment, confidently facilitate discussions, and skillfully manage chaos, transforming potential disarray into opportunities for growth and success.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify challenges and solutions for difficult group sessions.
- understand the potential consequences of unmanaged chaos on group dynamics, productivity, and individual well-being.
- develop leadership and followership skills to facilitate the group's ability to adapt and navigate chaos effectively.
- evaluate and assess adaptations and developments in group environments.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

References:

- Banbury, A., Nancarrow, S., Dart, J., Gray, L., & Parkinson, L. (2018). Telehealth interventions delivering home-based support group videoconferencing: systematic review. *Journal of medical Internet research*, 20(2), e25.
- Kennan, D., Brady, B., & Forkan, C. (2018). Supporting children's participation in decision making: A systematic literature review exploring the effectiveness of participatory processes. *The British Journal of Social Work*, 48(7), 1985-2002.
- Barlow, J., Bergman, H., Kornør, H., Wei, Y., & Bennett, C. (2016). Group-based parent training programmes for improving emotional and behavioural adjustment in young children. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, (8).
- Radez, J., Reardon, T., Creswell, C., Lawrence, P. J., Evdoka-Burton, G., & Waite, P. (2021). Why do children and adolescents (not) seek and access professional help for their mental health problems? A systematic review of quantitative and qualitative studies. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 62(12), 1985-2002.
- Martin, F., & Oliver, T. (2019). Behavioral activation for children and adolescents: a systematic review of progress and promise. *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, 28, 427-441.
- Beauchamp, M. R., McEwan, D., & Wierts, C. M. (2020). Psychology of group dynamics: Key considerations and recent developments. In G. Tenenbaum, R. C. Eklund, & N. Boiangin (Eds.), *Handbook of sport psychology: Social perspectives, cognition, and applications* (4th ed., pp. 323-343). John Wiley & Sons, Inc..  
<https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119568124.ch15>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: F10- Utilizing Video Games to Understand and Process the Grief Experience (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 333

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Ashlee Cabral  
Private Practice  
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Ashlee Cabral is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, Private Practice owner, Community Educator, Bereavement Consultant, Clinical Supervisor, and University Graduate Program Instructor, with a mission to provide support, advocacy, and education in the field of children's bereavement. She has worked with children of all ages, adults, and families since 2014 in hospice and private practice and frequently partners with schools and community agencies to ensure adults have the support they need to understand children's grief. She holds a Masters of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist in California, is a Lecturer with Sonoma State University Counseling Graduate Program and provides clinical supervision to associates and trainees earning hours towards licensure. She is a Certified Therapeutic Game Master and working towards credentialing as a Geek Therapist. Ashlee is an avid video game player and tabletop role player and game master.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
License Information: Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist California #105166

### Session Information

Title of Session: Utilizing Video Games to Understand and Process the Grief Experience

Session Description: Meeting grieving youth where they are, in their own language, and in their world is core to supporting them through the experience of grief. Video games are one of the many ways that we can meet youth on their level and present an engaging experience to process the reality of loss, find meaning and enduring connection, learn new social and emotional coping skills and be part of community. Whether you are an avid gamer or are entering the gaming space for the first time, this training seeks to provide an introduction to tools, games, and interventions that can be useful for all ages. We'll explore some of the limitations and benefits of using video games and how to understand and help advocate for the use of video games in any setting. While this training is a small part in a vast network of video game resources, it hopes to spark the creativity in you to apply and use these resources in meaningful ways.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- discuss the potential strengths and challenges of using video games and how to account for these.
- discuss and advocate for the use of video games in grief counseling to agencies, caregivers, and clients.
- identify three interventions that utilize specific video games or video game themes to help clients of different development levels process their grief.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- McGuire, B. F. (2020). Gaming and grieving: digital games as means of confronting and coping with death. *J. Religion Media Digit.Cult.* 9, 326-346. doi: 10.1163/21659214-BJA10014
- Eum K and Doh YY (2023) A thematic analysis of bereaved adults' meaning-making experience of loss through playing video games. *Front. Psychol.* 14:1154976. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2023.1154976
- Bocci, F., Ferrari, A., & Sarini, M. (2023). Putting the gaming experience at the center of the therapy—the video game therapy® Approach. *Healthcare*, 11(12), 1767. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11121767>
- Abbott, M.S., Strauss, K.A., & Burnett, A.F. (2022). Table-top role playing games as a therapeutic intervention with adults to increase social connectedness. *Social Work with Groups*, 45(2)
- Goldstein, T.R., & Lerner, M.D. (2018). Dramatic pretend play games uniquely improve emotional control in young children. *Developmental Science*, 21(4).

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### POSTER SESSIONS POSTER SESSIONS- Tuesday, June 18 from 2:20-2:50pm

- *Caregivers' grief support group experiences: Associations with well-being and posttraumatic growth* by Kimberly Ecker
- *Examining posttraumatic growth and well-being in caregivers participating in grief support groups* by Noa Leiter
- *Grief Coach: Feasibility and acceptability of a text message program for bereavement support among grievers in the United Kingdom* by Melissa Lunardini
- *Waiting for death: Grieving youth in the justice system and their perspectives on life and death* by Kristan Vaughn and Samantha Anthony
- *Grief's Mark, My Mark, Our Mark* by Zachary Schafer
- *Code Lavender: A Bereavement Support Program to Mitigate Compassion Fatigue Among Clinical Staff* by Annmarie McGraw, Cammie Payne and Kim Kresta
- *Rewriting your story - the greatest character trait* by Tiffany Smith
- *Young Siblings and Perinatal Loss* by Andrea Prescott-Cornejo

### FORUMS G- TOPIC FORUMS: Tuesday, June 18 from 3:00-4:00pm

- Grief Camps Forum: Brie Overton
- Grieving with Disabilities Forum: Jennifer Wiles
- Private Practice Clinicians Forum: Stephanie Heitkemper & Michelle Halm
- Research and Evaluation Forum: Monique Mitchell
- School Group Forum: Buffy Petters
- Serving Spanish Speaking Grievers Forum: Cristina Chipriano
- Student/Intern Forum: *Presenter pending*
- Supporting Young Adults Who Are Grieving Forum: Kacie Chasteen
- Volunteer Management Forum: Amy Armes
- PoC Affinity Group Forum: Adam Stevens

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H1- Nurturing a Healthy Workplace Culture in Grief Centers (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 227

## Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Erin Engelke  
Calm Waters  
CEO

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Erin has been a successful nonprofit leader for over 20 years, leading small and large teams on a national and international level, currently serving as CEO of Calm Waters, central Oklahoma's grief center. She has nearly tripled the size of the organizational budget and staff in the five years since she joined the agency and is proud to have had zero employee turnover in over two years. She is also an executive coach, providing counsel and guidance to other professionals struggling in their careers and is regularly tapped to speak on workplace culture, leadership and communications.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor's Degree  
Field of Study: Public Relations/Advertising  
License Information: APR certified (accredited in public relations)

## Session Information

Title of Session: Nurturing a Healthy Workplace Culture in Grief Centers

Session Description: A healthy workplace culture is essential for the well-being and success of both employees and the organization as a whole. It refers to the values, attitudes, practices, and behaviors that shape the work environment. A positive workplace culture fosters employee engagement, productivity, and overall job satisfaction but can be challenging to maintain when the work is heavy and employees experience burnout and compassion fatigue. In this session, attendees will learn tried and true strategies to create a workplace that is free of drama and boasts employees who feel supported and valued.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Administrative

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. Define a healthy workplace culture
2. Highlight the positive outcomes of a healthy culture
3. Outline the role of leadership in shaping culture
4. Identify the core elements of a healthy culture
5. Understand strategies for employee engagement and retention

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

### References:

- Denise Lee Yohn (2021) Company Culture Is Everyone's Responsibility. Harvard Business Review
- Perry E. Geue. Volume 54, Issue 3. The Journal of Applied Behavioral Science. Positive Practices in the Workplace: Impact on Team Climate, Work Engagement and Task Performance.
- Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 Mar; 18(5): 2294. How Toxic Workplace Environment Effects the Employee Engagement: The Mediating Role of Organizational Support and Employee Wellbeing

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H2- Building a Trauma Informed School Based Grief Program (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 324

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Carla Levins

Peter's Place: A Center for Grieving Children and Families  
Assistant Director of Community Services

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Carla obtained her Master of Social work from New York University and was introduced to the field of bereavement while working in hospitals in New York City and Philadelphia. She has worked exclusively in the field of bereavement for over 13 years and has presented at many conferences throughout her career. Since joining the staff at Peter's Place in 2019, Carla has enhanced the School Based program and contributed to its growth. Annually, Peter's Place supports over 300 students in 70 schools in the 5 county Philadelphia area. Carla's contributions have led to improved school partnerships, enhanced curriculum, new activities, and a comprehensive enrollment process. In addition to facilitating school-based grief groups, Carla also facilitates virtual support groups for specific adult populations including Death of a Child, Death of a Spouse and Adults experiencing the Death of a Parent. Carla also leads the Professional Development program at Peter's Place, which recently became an approved continuing education provider in Pennsylvania. In this role, Carla creates content and provides professional guidance to area schools regarding best practices to support grieving students and the school community at large.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's Degree

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker CW023764

Presenter #2:

Joseph Kelly

Peter's Place: A Center for Grieving Children and Families  
Director of Programs

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Joseph has served as the Director of Programs at Peter's Place since 2018, though his involvement with the organization dates way back to 2006, as an intern. A Licensed Professional Counselor, Joseph earned a Master's degree from West Chester University in Clinical Psychology and has over 15 years experience working in secondary and higher education settings, with adolescents, teens, and young adults. Joseph has worked with groups of children of all ages, as well as the adult population. He has supported over 40 schools through postvention services, following a death in their community, and has provided presentations and trainings to hundreds of mental health professionals and community members on childhood bereavement. Joseph is also an adjunct professor at Arcadia University, teaching a graduate course in Grief and Bereavement. He is a member of the

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

National Alliance for Children's Grief, Association for Death Education and Counseling, the American Counseling Association, and the Pennsylvania Psychological Association.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's degree

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Pennsylvania: PC008422

### Session Information

Title of Session: Building a Trauma Informed School Based Grief Program

Session Description: There are many facets that enable a school group to be a success. Relationship building, recruitment, enrollment process, planning and facilitation all play a role in the implementation of a trauma informed school-based grief group. Many school support professionals struggle with the demands of their roles and the needs of their students and school community. The challenges of students who are grieving a death may go unmet. Using valuable lessons learned during the virtual group experience created during the pandemic and reflecting on school feedback over the past 3 years, Peter's Place completely overhauled their School Based Program for the 2022-23 School Year. This session will outline the adoption of school informational webinars, comprehensive enrollment procedures and processes, and an outline of four newly developed grade-specific curricula. Benefits of these changes have included better organization and time management for program staff, increased student comfort level during groups, and stronger school partnerships. These newly redesigned measures have also served to enhance the creation and maintenance of a safe and comfortable space, where student connection is effectively facilitated while exploring unique grief stories and expressions.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- implement trauma-informed practices into their programs.
- identify barriers to their enrollment process and procedural solutions, including updating school group forms.
- list four distinct, developmentally appropriate and trauma-informed curricula.

Session Format: Lecture

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Social Work Ethics

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Human Growth and Development
- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Research and Program Evaluation

### References:

- Purkey, E., Patel, R., Phillips, S.P., (2018) Trauma-informed care; better care for everyone. *Can Fam Physician*.64(3): 170-172.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5851387/>.
- O'Brien, K.M., Cannon, G., Hill, E.M. (2022) "I'm Not Alone": A Group Intervention for Grieving Children. *Journal of Prevention and Health Promotion* 3(3): 395-414.  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/26320770221098730>
- Linder, L., Lunardini, M., & Zimmerman, H. (2022). Supporting Childhood Bereavement Through School-Based Grief Group. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0).  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221082756>
- Samide, L. L., & Stockton, R. (2002). Letting go of grief: Bereavement groups for children in the school setting. *Journal for Specialists in Group Work*, 27(2), 192- 204.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0193392202027002006>
- Oosterhoff, B., Kaplow, J. B., & Layne, C. M. (2018). Links between bereavement due to sudden death and academic functioning: Results from a nationally representative sample of adolescents. *School Psychology Quarterly*, 33(3), 372-380.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221082756>
- Grassetti, S. N., Williamson, A. A., Herres, J., Kobak, R., Layne, C. M., Kaplow, J. B., & Pynoos, R. S. (2018). Evaluating referral, screening, and assessment procedures for middle school trauma/grief-focused treatment groups. *School psychology quarterly : the official journal of the Division of School Psychology, American Psychological Association*, 33(1), 10-20. <https://doi.org/10.1037/spq0000231>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H3- Am I Still a Brother? A Sister? Sibling Loss During Childhood (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 377

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Kathryn Markell  
Anoka Ramsey Community College  
Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Katie Markell teaches Child and Adolescent Development and Death and Dying classes at Anoka-Ramsey Community College. She has published and presented scholarly work on how to help grieving children and adolescents, including co-authoring the book "The Children Who Lived: Using Harry Potter and Other Fictional Characters to Help Grieving Children and Adolescents". She is also an adjunct professor at Edgewood College in the graduate Thanatology program.

Highest Degree Earned: Ph.D.

Field of Study: Psychology

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Marc Markell  
Worsham College of Mortuary Science/ Edgewood College  
Professor

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Marc Markell is a professor emeritus at St. Cloud State University in the College of Education and Instructional Design. He currently teaches at Worsham College of Mortuary Science and Edgewood College in their Master of Thanatology program. Marc also teaches Our Whole Lives for K-1st and 4-5th graders and Death Education to 2 and 3rd graders and 6th and 7th graders at Mayflower United Church of Christ.

Marc earned his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and Educational Psychology. He is a certified Professional Development Specialist through the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. He is a certified Thanatologist through the Association of Death Educators and Counseling and certified in Death and Grief Studies from Colorado State University through the Center for Loss and Life Transition. Marc is also a certified parent coach. He has presented locally, nationally, and internationally. Marc has earned the following certifications/training from national professional organizations: End of Life Doula, Crematory Operator, Funeral Arranger, and Celebrant.

Marc has published three books on grief, several book chapters, and numerous articles.

Highest Degree Earned: Ph.D.

Field of Study: Psychology

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

License Information: Reading Specialist (K-12); Specific Learning Disabilities (K-12); Mild to Moderate Cognitive Disabilities (K-12); Moderate to Severe Cognitive Disabilities (K-12); Elementary Education (K-6)

### Session Information

Title of Session: Am I Still a Brother? A Sister? Sibling Loss During Childhood

Session Description: The death of a sibling creates psychological and social consequences for other children in the family. There are many factors that determine the grief experiences of children in connection with the loss of a sibling, such as the gender and age of the siblings, the type and cause of sibling death, and features of the family dynamics. This presentation will begin by reviewing research on sibling loss for children and adolescents. This research indicates the importance not only of parental support, but also school and peer support, to grieving siblings. The presentation will then share many resources that can be helpful to grieving siblings. It will also provide recommendations for activities based on five fictional books for children and teens that may be helpful for grieving siblings and their families. Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- summarize the different developmental stages as it pertains to sibling loss.
- identify what children and adolescents need after the death of a sibling.
- evaluate and apply best practices in facilitating the process of healing after a sibling death.

Session Format: Lecture

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Human Growth and Development
- Social and Cultural Foundations

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Chan, W. C., Leung, G. S., Leung, M. M., Lin, M. K., Yu, C. T., & Wu, J. K.-W. (2022). Facing the loss of siblings in childhood: Interactions and dynamics between bereaved siblings and their parents. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2022.05.010>
- Ridley, A., & Frache, S. (2020). Bereavement care interventions for children under the age of 18 following the death of a sibling: A systematic review. *Palliative Medicine*, 34(10), 1340-1350. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0269216320947951>
- Gindrich, P. A. (2020). A child's grief after the death of a sibling - a review of selected theoretical and empirical aspects. *Problemy Opiekuńczo-Wychowawcze*, 595(10), 41-53. <https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0014.5972>
- Howard Sharp, K. M., Russell, C., Keim, M., Barrera, M., Gilmer, M. J., Foster Akard, T., Compas, B. E., Fairclough, D. L., Davies, B., Hogan, N., Young-Saleme, T., Vannatta, K., & Gerhardt, C. A. (2018). Grief and growth in bereaved siblings: Interactions between different sources of social support. *School psychology quarterly : the official journal of the Division of School Psychology, American Psychological Association*, 33(3), 363-371. <https://doi.org/10.1037/spq0000253>
- Youngblut, J. M., Brooten, D., Del-Moral, T., Cantwell, G. P., Totapally, B., & Yoo, C. (2019). Black, White, and Hispanic Children's Health and Function 2-13 Months After Sibling Intensive Care Unit Death. *The Journal of pediatrics*, 210, 184-193. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2019.03.017>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H4- Exploring outcomes for adults in a family-focused group bereavement intervention (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 353

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Michaeleen "Micki" Burns  
Judi's House/JAG Institute  
Chief Clinical Officer

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Michaeleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, is the Chief Clinical Officer at Judi's House/JAG Institute and adjunct faculty at the University of Colorado. JH/JAG is a comprehensive family bereavement center in Denver. A Licensed Psychologist with two decades of experience providing therapeutic assessment and support to families facing adversity, Micki has witnessed the lasting impact of unaddressed grief. She is dedicated to ensuring appropriate care is available for all and raising childhood bereavement to a level of critical public importance. At JH/JAG she oversees the direct service, research, and training departments working towards a vision where no child is alone in grief.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Counseling Psychology

License Information: Colorado Psychologist 3834

Presenter #2: Mary Parks

Judi's House  
Evaluation and Research Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Mary Parks, MS is the Evaluation and Research Manager at Judi's House/JAG Institute. Mary's work focuses on conducting thorough research and evaluation to help Judi's House make data-informed decisions and insightful recommendations to optimize programmatic services. She leads the program evaluation for Judi's House services and oversees all internal data collection and analysis. In addition, Mary supports Judi's House CBEM and Childhood Bereavement Changemaker Initiatives by creating data visualizations and maps and providing technical assistance.

She has 8 years of experience leading program evaluations for various community-based sectors including childhood bereavement, substance use treatment, early childhood education, and maternal and child health.

Highest Degree Earned: MS

Field of Study: Geography

License Information: NA

### Session Information

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Title of Session: Exploring outcomes for adults in a family-focused group bereavement intervention

Session Description: Childhood bereavement is a prevalent and critical concern that has seen unprecedented increases in the past several years. According to the 2023 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) Key Topic Report, from 2019 to 2021, there was a 45% increase in the number of children bereaved due to a parent's death. Although it is widely recognized that unaddressed grief can lead to negative consequences, a growing body of research highlights multiple protective factors that can contribute to positive adjustment for bereaved youth. One consistent finding illustrates the importance of caregivers in providing an environment that facilitates healthy grief processes. As child-centered bereavement programs work to meet the increased service demands, offering parallel programming for parents and caregivers may strengthen and enhance outcomes for bereaved youth.

This presentation will explore a family-focused bereavement center's process to evaluate its caregiver programming by investigating data drawn from public and program sources. Looking closely at 2022, the presenters will compare community profiles—including local CBEM snapshot results, population demographic characteristics, and leading cause of death data—to similar variables in the organization's service-seeking, adult client population to assess potential gaps in care provision. Intake data from adult clients who completed a 10-session therapeutic group program will be contrasted with data from those who disengaged. Data will be organized and compared based on the cause of death that precipitated services. Finally, analyses will explore differential outcomes for those who completed the therapeutic programming based on this cause of death grouping. Participants in this session will learn about helpful approaches to assessing community needs and program impact to ensure adequate, equitable, quality care provision.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Research, Outcomes, and Measurements

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Apply national datasets to determine if client populations are representative of the community
- Understand the effects of cause of death on outcomes for adult caregivers participating in a therapeutic, family-based, group, bereavement program
- Discuss approaches to assessing community needs and program outcomes

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Group Dynamics and Counseling
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Wellness and Prevention

### References:

- Alvis, L. Zhang, N., Sandler, I. N., Kaplow, J. B. (2022). Developmental manifestations of grief in children and adolescents: Caregivers are key grief facilitators. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 15, 447-457. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-021-0043>
- Choi, H., Cho, C., & Lee, H. (2022). Complicated grief, PTSD, and PTG in bereaved family: Moderating effect of resilience and family support. *Journal of Loss and Trauma*, 28 (2), 145-160. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15325024.2022.2084843>
- Griese, B., Burns, M., & Farro, S. (2018). Pathfinders: Promoting healthy adjustment in bereaved children and families. *Death Studies*, 42(3), 134-142. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481187.2017.1370416>
- Kaplow, J.B., Howell, K. H., Layne, C. M. (2014). Do circumstances of the death matter? Identifying socioenvironmental risks for grief-related psychopathology in bereaved youth. *Journal of Trauma Stress*, 27(1), 42-49. doi: 10.1002/jts.21877
- Zhang, N., Sandler, I., Tein, J., & Wolchik, S. (2023). Reducing suicide risk in parentally bereaved youth through promoting effective parenting: Testing a developmental cascade model. *Development and Psychopathology*, 35(1), 433-446. doi:10.1017/S09545794

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H5- "Bridging the Gap: EOL and Bereavement Care in a Children's Hospital" (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 329

### Presenter Information

#### Presenter #1:

Alisha McGuire  
Riley Children's Health  
Pediatric Palliative Care Social Worker

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Alisha McGuire (she/her) is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Pediatric Palliative Care Team at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Over the past six years, Alisha has developed a deep passion for working with patients and families adjusting to illness/diagnosis, anticipatory grief, and bereavement while being a medical social worker.

Alisha serves as Co-Chair with the Social Work Hospice & Palliative Care Network Pediatrics Special Interest Group. She also is a part of the planning committee for Camp Healing Tree, an annual children's grief camp through Brooke's Place for Grieving Young People.

Alisha received her MSW from Rutgers University in New Jersey as a part of the Advanced Standing Program. She is a Certified Advanced Palliative and Hospice Social Worker (APHSW-C) through HPCC. She received her Certification in Palliative Care and End-of-Life through the Smith School of Social Work and is a current Fellow with NYU's Zelda Foster Leadership Fellowship in Palliative Care and End of Life.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's in social work

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Certified Advanced Palliative Hospice Social Worker

#### Presenter #2:

Cassie Lynn Dobbs  
Riley Children's Health  
Bereavement Program Coordinator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Cassie Lynn Dobbs is a registered art therapist and licensed professional counselor with over 10 years of experience working with grieving families and individuals. Dobbs first began working with families who experienced the loss of a child through art therapy bereavement groups at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL. Dobbs has also gained extensive experience working as a medical art therapist beginning at Riley Hospital for Children in 2014. Dobbs worked in units such as the cancer center, heart transplant unit, NICU, and PICU where she walked many families through end-of-life experiences. Dobbs has also worked as a bereavement counselor at Riley's outpatient bereavement program since 2014. In 2019, Dobbs accepted the role of Program Coordinator at Riley Bereavement Services where she continues to work with families who have experienced the loss of a child, including parents, caregivers, siblings, and other family members.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Arts in Art Therapy

Field of Study: Social Work

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Art Therapist

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: "Bridging the Gap: EOL and Bereavement Care in a Children's Hospital"

Session Description: Riley Children's Health Bereavement Program Coordinator and Palliative Care Social Worker share reflections, successes, and challenges in their roles within Riley and the team's interdisciplinary collaboration to work towards more comprehensive bereavement support for families. Sharing insight into pre-and-post bereavement handoff to ease the transition of care between team members, as well as quality improvement through the installation of a bereavement committee, Cassie and Alisha talk about how their institution is working towards better grief awareness and overall better bereavement care for all Riley families.

Presenters will discuss various standardized processes explored with the goal of supporting inpatient end-of-life (EOL) care that flows efficiently into outpatient bereavement care. Various initiatives will be discussed including the development of hospital-wide resources for EOL families, collections of data points and inventory for current hospital-wide EOL and bereavement services, and making EOL and bereavement education opportunities more accessible for team members. Ethical considerations of the importance of bereavement care within a children's healthcare network will be explored. With support from hospital leadership to create and establish wrap-around EOL and Bereavement programming, the team at Riley Children's Health hopes to continue to elevate the standards of care for grieving families.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define various roles involved in EOL/Bereavement at a children's hospital.
- Identify how inpatient and outpatient teams can collaborate for better transitions of families following a pediatric death.
- Outline how interdisciplinary involvement and communication in settings such as a Bereavement Committee can enhance the care provided to families while at the hospital in an anticipatory environment, while actively at EOL, and early bereavement.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice
- Social Work Ethics

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Research and Program Evaluation
- Wellness and Prevention

### References:

- Morris, S. E., Dole, O. R., Joselow, M., Duncan, J., Renaud, K., & Branowicki, P. (2017). The Development of a Hospital-Wide Bereavement Program: Ensuring Bereavement Care for All Families of Pediatric Patients. *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*, 31(1),
- BOVEN, C., DILLEN, L., BLOCK, L. V. D., PIERS, R., NOORTGATE, N. V. D., & HUMBEECK, L. V. (2021). In-hospital bereavement services as an act of care and a challenge: An integrative review. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. <https://doi.org/10.1016>
- Silloway, C. J., Glover, T. L., Coleman, B. J., & Kittelson, S. (2018). Filling the Void: Hospital Palliative Care and Community Hospice: A Collaborative Approach to Providing Hospital Bereavement Support. *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Pallia*
- Jonas D, Patneau A, Purol N, Scanlon C, Remke S. Defining Core Competencies and a Call to Action: Dissecting and Embracing the Crucial and Multifaceted Social Work Role in Pediatric Palliative Care. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2022 Jun;63(6):e739-e748. do
- Gianina-Ioana Postavaru, Jenny Hamilton, Sian Davies, Helen Swaby, Anastasia Michael, Rabbi Swaby, Elizabeta B. Mukaetova-Ladinska; The FATHER Model of Loss and Grief After Child's Life-Limiting Illness. *Pediatrics* July 2023; 152 (1): e2022059122. 10.1

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H6- Building Courageous Spaces: Utilizing Trauma-Informed Strategies to Address Increased Behavioral Reactions at Camp (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 297

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Kiri Meyer

Eluna

Bereavement Programs Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Kiri Meyer is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in Wisconsin, a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), and a Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT-200). Kiri has spent over a decade helping to support individuals and families of all ages through individual/family counseling and camp-based programs. Kiri supports camp and other non-profit programs by acting as a Mental Health Professional throughout the camp program or as needed for other programs. She has conducted trainings in the areas of trauma and bereavement throughout her professional career and is now part of the Eluna Camp Erin team helping to support professionals in the Camp Erin network.

Highest Degree Earned: Master's Degree

Field of Study: Mental Health Counseling - Specialties: Trauma + Bereavement

License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Certified Counselor, Registered Yoga Teacher - 200-hour

### Session Information

Title of Session: Building Courageous Spaces: Utilizing Trauma-Informed Strategies to Address Increased Behavioral Reactions at Camp

Session Description: Increased: mental health diagnoses, camper medications, behavioral reactions during camp, and traumatic loss experiences. This themed list seems to be growing for camp providers as we are all coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic era. As we work to adjust and increase supports available throughout camp, we need to ensure we are keeping trauma-informed strategies and tools at the heart of our work. Join us for a presentation that will speak to trends that are being seen in the Camp Erin network, discuss what you are seeing in your programs, and take away valuable and accessible tools to implement at your next camp program. We will speak to what can be underneath these behaviors and how we can help support campers through utilizing trauma-informed practices and neuroscience to help them to feel seen, heard, and accepted in our camp communities. When we can be courageous enough at working to understand our campers and meet them where they are, we help foster courageous spaces for them to grow.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Camps

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify mental health and behavioral-related trends that are being seen in camp programs.
- Interpret trends, behaviors, and other factors with a trauma-informed and neuroscientific lens.
- Implement trauma-informed skills with camp participants to help attend to their needs throughout the camp program.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- McClatchey, I. S., & Raven, R. F. (2017). Adding trauma-informed care at a bereavement camp to facilitate posttraumatic growth: A controlled outcome study. *Advances in Social Work, 18*(1), 349-368.
- Oral, R., Ramirez, M., Coohy, C., Nakada, S., Walz, A., Kuntz, A., ... & Peek-Asa, C. (2016). Adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care: the future of health care. *Pediatric research, 79*(1), 227-233.
- Griese, B., Burns, M. R., Farro, S. A., Silvern, L., & Talmi, A. (2017). Comprehensive grief care for children and families: Policy and practice implications. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 87*(5), 540.
- Crenshaw, D. A. (2007). An interpersonal neurobiological-informed treatment model for childhood traumatic grief. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying, 54*(4), 319-335.
- Panda, P. K., Gupta, J., Chowdhury, S. R., Kumar, R., Meena, A. K., Madaan, P., Sharawat, I. K., & Gulati, S. (2021). Psychological and Behavioral Impact of Lockdown and Quarantine Measures for COVID-19 Pandemic on Children, Adolescents and Caregivers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Journal of tropical pediatrics, 67*(1), fmaa122. <https://doi.org/10.1093/tropej/fmaa122>
- Courtney, D., Watson, P., Battaglia, M., Mulsant, B. H., & Szatmari, P. (2020). COVID-19 impacts on child and youth anxiety and depression: challenges and opportunities. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, 65*(10), 688-691.
- O'Shea, E. R., Phillips, K. E., O'Shea, K. N., & Roney, L. N. (2022). Preparing for the Impact of COVID-19 on the Mental Health of Youth. *NASN school nurse, 37*(2), 64-69.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H7- Unlocking Resilience: Building Connections and Healing with Lego Play (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 391

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Stephanie Heitkemper  
Resilient Minds Counseling  
Owner

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Stephanie Heitkemper, PhD, LPC, RPT-S, FT is the owner of Resilient Minds Counseling which specializes in working with individuals, children, families around change including grief, and trauma. Stephanie finds energy in utilizing play therapy (as a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor), creative expression, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) (EMDRIA Approved Consultant), and bibliotherapy in her counseling practice, program creation, and presentations. Stephanie serves on the board of directors for HeartLight Center (2017), a Denver-based grief support and education center, as well as Camp JoJo (2020), a camp dedicated to supporting teens impacted by suicide. In addition to Resilient Minds Counseling, Stephanie is the Clinical Director of Camp Erin NYC, which is part of Cope. Stephanie's self-care includes early morning coffee, CrossFit, and Ironman training, as well as exploring Colorado with her husband and beloved boxer.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Counseling & Psychological Studies

License Information: LPC.0016025

Presenter #2:

Meredith Hammond  
Meredith Hammond Counseling  
Owner

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Meredith Hammond, MA, LPC, RPT-S, ACS is a licensed professional counselor in Colorado and Nebraska. Meredith is a Registered Play Therapist - Supervisor, a certified Synergetic Play Therapist Supervisor, an Approved Clinical Supervisor, and an EMDR Consultant-in-Training. She owns a private practice in Westminster, Colorado where she works to incorporate the healing powers of play for all ages and walks of life. Meredith grew up in a neurodivergent family and this inspired her passion to provide support for neurodivergent clients and inspire appreciation of neurodiversity.

Meredith lives in Broomfield, Colorado, with her husband and three sons. She enjoys home renovation projects, backpacking, and Ragnar relay races. Recently, she embraced a new passion as a certified ReB3I Groove Dance Fitness Instructor, providing a fun and energetic way to unwind after a long day at the office.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters

Field of Study: Counseling & Psychological Studies

License Information: LPC CO.0011800

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Session Information

Title of Session: Unlocking Resilience: Building Connections and Healing with Lego Play

Session Description: In the wake of a significant loss, children confront a myriad of complex emotions. This innovative workshop delves into the potential of LEGO-based play as a therapeutic intervention for grieving children from elementary through high school. This hands-on workshop will provide professionals with a comprehensive understanding of how the tactile and structured nature of LEGO can act as a non-verbal medium, facilitating emotional processing and collective healing. Participants will be equipped with strategies to foster collaborative environments where children can share their grief narratives, ensuring mutual support and validation. Special emphasis will be laid on tailoring approaches to cater to neurodivergent children, ensuring inclusivity and understanding. Through interactive demonstrations and group activities, attendees will gain insights into the transformative power of LEGO-based play, preparing them to integrate these methodologies in support of grieving children.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify a foundational understanding of the principles of LEGO-based play therapy, by effectively utilizing tactile and structured nature as a non-verbal medium for emotional expression.
- Develop customized LEGO-based play methodologies to cater to the unique needs of neurodivergent children, thereby ensuring that therapy remains inclusive and cognizant of diverse neurofunctionalities.
- Create and maintain safe and supportive group environments using LEGO-based play, fostering mutual validation and the sharing of grief narratives among children.
- Recognize and differentiate the varied ways in which children, spanning from elementary through high school, demonstrating an understanding of developmental differences in grief processing and expression.
- Construct practical skills in implementing LEGO-based play strategies in therapeutic settings through guided demonstrations and group activities.

Session Format: Experiential

### CE Content Information

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

### References:

- Lindsay, Sally & Hounsell, Kara & Cassiani, Celia. (2017). A scoping review of the role of LEGO® therapy for improving inclusion and social skills among children and youth with autism. *Disability and Health Journal*. 10. 173-182. 10.1016/j.dhjo.2016.10.010
- Narzisi, A., Sesso, G., Berloffia, S., Fantozzi, P., Muccio, R., Valente, E., Viglione, V., Villafranca, A., Milone, A., & Masi, G. (2021). Could you give me the Blue Brick? LEGO®-based therapy as a social development program for children with autism spect
- Warner, E., Westcott, A., Cook, A., & Finn, H. (2020). *Transforming trauma in children and adolescents: An embodied approach to somatic regulation, trauma processing, and Attachment Building*. North Atlantic Books.
- Barr, A., Coates, E., Kingsley, E., de la Cuesta, G. G., Biggs, K., Le Couteur, A., & Wright, B. (2022). A mixed methods evaluation of the acceptability of therapy using lego® bricks (lego® based therapy) in mainstream primary and secondary education. *Autism Research*, 15(7), 1237-1248. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aur.2725>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H8- Small Town, Small Budget; Grief Support Program Ideas that Won't Break the Budget (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 414

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Bethany Gardner

Drew Michael Taylor Foundation

Children and Teen Program Coordinator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Bethany J. Gardner is the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation's Children and Teen Program Coordinator and Administrative Assistant. Over the past year, she has updated and presented several children's grief workshops at the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation's Drew's Hope Grief Center in Shippensburg, PA including: A Frozen Grief Journey, A Pirate's Grief Journey, Our Family Tree, and The Invisible String. Bethany co-facilitates three adult grief support groups run by the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation. She has also been a co-facilitator for Drew's Hope, a support group for grieving children and families, from Fall of 2012 to Spring 2023. Bethany has recently taken on the role of Drew's Hope Program Coordinator where she plans the seven session program activities and supervises program volunteers from the Shippensburg University of PA Counseling Dept. and Social Work Dept.

Bethany holds professional certificates for K-6 elementary teacher and elementary and secondary school counselor PK-12 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She is also a certified counselor through the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) since March 2, 2015.

Highest Degree Earned: M.Ed.

Field of Study: School Counseling

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Marcie Taylor

Drew Michael Taylor Foundation

Co-founder and Bereavement Educator

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Marcie Taylor co-founded the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation (DMTF) with her husband, Randy, after the death of her three-year-old son, Drew, in a June 2006 auto accident. Marcie was a high school Spanish teacher for 15 years, but she 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 and Drew's Hope Grief Center, serves as the Family Services Coordinator for the Drew's Hope grief support program, leads several adult grief support groups, plans DMTF fundraising and grief awareness events and speaks throughout South Central Pennsylvania on a variety of grief-related topics. She obtained a Certificate in Thanatology from Hood College in Frederick, MD in 2012.

Highest Degree Earned: M.Ed.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Field of Study: School Counseling  
License Information: NA

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Small Town, Small Budget; Grief Support Program Ideas that Won't Break the Budget

**Session Description:** The Drew Michael Taylor Foundation is located in a rural university town in South Central Pennsylvania. Learn how the foundation, founded by two bereaved parents, leads creative programs/groups/workshops on a limited budget, in addition to offering a traditional multi-session family grief support program in order to positively impact grieving children and provide needed support to adults who are grieving with them in our rural community. The presentation will include materials/budget/curriculum for a children's grief workshop, a teen grief workshop, and a Kid's Night Out event, while referencing the grief theories that provide the groundwork for these programs. We will also provide an overview of other unique grief support programs and awareness events that we provide to benefit the entire family unit and those who support them. The presentation will conclude with time for participants to engage in an idea-sharing discussion related to the themes presented in this session in order to apply these ideas and more in their own community. While the Drew Michael Taylor Foundation and the Drew's Hope Grief Center are located in a small town and work with a limited budget, the information in this session can be used by anyone offering grief support services to children and their families.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Apply ideas learned in the presentation to offer unique and budget friendly grief support workshops and programs in their own community in order to provide a valuable resource to support grieving children, teens and adults.
- Discuss how the workshops and programs presented in this session can be used to increase grief education and support in their own community and offer other event ideas that can be utilized by their colleagues.
- 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 support groups, workshops and programs developed by the DMTF.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Wellness and Prevention

### References:

- Weiskittle, R.E., Gramling, S.E. (2018). The therapeutic effectiveness of using visual art modalities with the bereaved: a systematic review. *Psychology Research and Behavior Management*, 11, 9-24.
- Bergman, A.S., Axberg, U., Hanson, E. (2017). When a parent dies - a systematic review of the effects of support programs for parentally bereaved children and their caregivers. *BMC Palliat Care*, 16(1): 39.
- Birgisdóttir, D., Grenklo, T. B., Kreicbergs, U., Steineck, G., Fürst, C. J., & Kristensson, J. (2023). Family cohesion predicts long-term health and well-being after losing a parent to cancer as a teenager: A nationwide population-based study. *PLoS ONE*, 18(4), e0283327. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0283327>
- Griese, B., Burns, M. R., Farro, S. A., Silvern, L., & Talmi, A. (2017). Comprehensive grief care for children and families: Policy and practice implications. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(5), 540-548. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ort0000265>
- Cacciatore, J., Thieleman, K., Fretts, R., & Jackson, L. (2021). What is good grief support? Exploring the actors and actions in social support after traumatic grief. *PLoS ONE*, 16(5), e0252324. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0252324>
- Green, D., Karafa, K., & Wilson, S. (2020). Art therapy with grieving children: Effect on affect in the dual-process model. *Art Therapy*. 38(4): 211-215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07421656.2020.1823197>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H9- Self-Care for Therapists: Balancing Compassion and Well-being (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 231

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Deborah Brooks  
The Life Center  
Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Deborah Brooks, serves as the Executive Director of The Life Center of the Suncoast. She is not only a dedicated psychotherapist with expertise in grief, loss, and anxiety, but also a valued contributor to the realm of corporate wellness. With over 15 years of experience in the mental health field, Deborah is a fierce advocate for the rights and unique needs of every individual.

Her unwavering commitment extends to championing the often-overlooked struggles of grieving individuals, raising crucial awareness about their unmet needs. Deborah holds a master's degree in mental health counseling, and her professional journey is enriched by her certification in thanatology and specialized training in accelerated resolution therapy.

Beyond her clinical expertise, Deborah is on a continuous path of self-improvement and holistic well-being. She is currently immersed in the world of mindfulness training and diligently hones her skills in belly dancing, reflecting her dedication to both mental and physical harmony. In a world of extraordinary individuals, Deborah works to continually grow her compassion, competence, and personal growth.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters  
Field of Study: Clinical Mental Health Counseling  
License Information: MH17079

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Self-Care for Therapists: Balancing Compassion and Well-being

**Session Description:** Discover a range of holistic self-care practices that will help you nurture your mind, body, and soul. From meditation and mindfulness practices to yoga and qigong, the art of tea and the delight of aromatherapy we've got you covered.

As a therapist you dedicate your time and energy to supporting others; it's easy to neglect your own well-being in the process. This workshop is a rare opportunity for you to prioritize yourself and learn self-care techniques that are specifically to meet your needs as a therapist.

Come and connect with like-minded individuals who understand the challenges and rewards of our profession. This workshop fosters a supportive community where we want to empower

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

you and practice our self-care tools and techniques and maybe learn some new ones that you can easily incorporate into your daily life. Our facilitators will create a nurturing environment for you to recharge, soothe your soul, and rediscover your inner well-being.

Don't miss this opportunity to prioritize yourself ! Join us for some moments of self-care, compassion, and balance, because you deserve it. Reserve your spot today and embark on a journey towards a healthier, happier you.

Please note - those with sensitivity to smells in essential oils may experience sensory overload.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify and Understand Self-Care Practices: By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to recognize the importance of self-care and demonstrate an understanding of various self-care practices that promote mental and emotional well-being.
- Develop a Personalized Self-Care Plan: Participants will learn to create a personalized self-care plan tailored to their unique needs and stressors, incorporating strategies such as mindfulness, exercise, and relaxation techniques to enhance their resilience.
- Apply Self-Care Strategies in Clinical Practice: After completing this workshop, mental health therapists will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to integrate self-care strategies into their clinical practice effectively, ensuring they can maintain skills.

Session Format: Lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: H10- Queering + Colouring Shakespeare: an embodied approach to working through suffocated grief (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 438

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Adam Stevens  
NYU  
Adjunct Faculty

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
They are a Registered Drama Therapist who works adolescents in the Tri-state area. Adam supports queer, POC, and neurodiverse youth in transforming their loss, grief, and trauma into unapologetic, abundant joy and empowerment. Adam in the faculty in the Creative Arts Therapy Programs at Antioch University, NYU, and Marymount Manhattan College. They have sat on the Board of Directors for the North American Drama Therapy Association as Chair of the Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity Committee. Adam currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Children's Grief. They were named Artistic Director for the Collideoscope Repertory Theatre Company by NYU with the mission is to advance racial justice and healing through artful affinity and performance. They were awarded the NADTA Raymond Jacobs Memorial Diversity Award and the NADTA Performance Award for their work with CRTA and in recognition of their outstanding dedication to diversity in the field of drama therapy, through advocacy, championing justice equity access and cultural humility. Their research focuses on offering space for Black clients to reclaim racialized roles and deconstruct stereotypes connected to generational and historical trauma and grief. Adam's superpowers are rooted in the fantastical forces of creativity and love.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: Expressive arts therapy and grief and bereavement  
License Information: RDT, LCAT-LP

### Session Information

Title of Session: Queering + Colouring Shakespeare: an embodied approach to working through suffocated grief

Session Description: This work looks to illuminate the diverse and unique experiences of grief, loss, suffering, joy, possibility, and passion represented in the intersectional cultural identity locations of LGBTQAI+ and POC youth.

This workshop will speak to the necessity and importance of affinity spaces and the use of creative techniques to foster healing, growth, and self expression connected to grief. This model aims to deepen relationships and bring a sense of belonging to communities through intersectional and holistic practices.

Queering and Colouring Shakespeare uses the written text of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet as a projective tool to work through and with our collective, disenfranchised and suffocating grief. Expressive and creative arts therapy techniques, including art, drama, music,

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

and dance were utilized to transform various forms of grief and loss into joy, possibility, laughter, and love. Participants will learn how to help those they serve to expand their role repertoire beyond the role of the bereft to include the roles of advocacy, activism, and the agent of change. On the other side of this work, participants are encouraged to be bolder in their approach to being unapologetic, radical, and shame/stigma free. Together, we will explore and learn ways to support, uplift and celebrate the complexities of love, loss, and relationships found in LGBTQIA+ and POC communities. This process will amplify the need to dissect and dismantle white supremacy in our work. Within this work, we aim to expand the queer and POC grief narrative further by devising and co-creating work that centers the exploration of the experiences of the diverse and unique bereavement narratives of queer and colored youth.

Participants will ultimately have the experience of learning how to use creativity for marginalized youth be in a relationship with their grief narratives.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- identify different perspectives through role-playing exercises. Attendees will compose clear and effective expressions of their thoughts and feelings during group discussions. Participants will arrange themes important to them for better understanding of others' perspectives.
- organize their emotions through group dynamics exercises. Participants will appraise their own self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-esteem levels post-session. After the session, attendees will construct strategies for developing a greater sense of self-worth.
- identify coping skills related to different emotions during the session. Attendees will analyze narratives of grief and loss to navigate similar experiences in their everyday lives. After the session, individuals will devise behavior rehearsal plans for managing mental health challenges.
- examine spoken and unspoken messages to uncover challenging narratives. LGBTQIA+ and POC youth participants will transform narratives of grief and loss through creative activities. Participants will evaluate their support for social justice issues through engagement in related discussions.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

### References:

- WILLIAMS, B., & TROTTIER, D. G. (2019). Queering the Conversation. *Creative Arts Therapies and the LGBTQ Community: Theory and Practice*, 47.
- Ellis, M. L. (2007). Images of sexualities: Language and embodiment in art therapy. *International Journal of Art Therapy*, 12(2), 60-68.
- Eklund, H. (Ed.). (2019). *Teaching social justice through Shakespeare: Why Renaissance literature matters now*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Omens, S. (2024). *Dramatherapy and the Bereaved Child: Telling the Truth to Children During Difficult Times*. Taylor & Francis.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: I1- Team Work Makes the Dream Work: Running a small community grief center (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 373

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Lea Pascotto

Avow Hospice

Manager of Supportive Care

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Lea is a dedicated professional with a rich background in education and counseling, serving as a member of the Avow team for three years. Lea brings a deep connection to her community and a passion for making a positive impact.

Pascotto earned a bachelor's degree in Education and Theology from Creighton University. She obtained two master's degrees in Counseling Psychology and Pastoral Ministry from Boston College, solidifying her foundation in providing holistic support to those in need.

Pascotto holds a pivotal role managing the community bereavement program and children's grief and loss services. As a chaplain, her dedication extends to overseeing Avow's team of spiritual advisors who touch the lives of hundreds of patients annually, offering comfort and solace during challenging times.

Pascotto delivers essential services to children needing coping skills and medically fragile pediatric patients. She also takes charge of operations at Aunt Janet's House, Avow Kids' freestanding home dedicated to children's grief support. Beyond her administrative responsibilities, Pascotto remains deeply committed to community engagement. You can often find her scooping ice cream at children's events, providing pastoral care, or diligently sourcing supplies for the dedicated massage, music, and art therapists who collaborate to make a difference.

Highest Degree Earned: Masters Degree

Field of Study: Counseling, Theology

License Information: Clinical Pastoral Education Unit

Presenter #2:

Rebecca Gatian

Avow Hospice

Chief Clinical Officer

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Rebecca joined Avow in 2012. In her role as Chief Clinical Officer, she is responsible for the direction and oversight of Avow Care Services palliative care services, hospice clinical teams, business development, Center for Grief Support, and Avow Kids. Working in conjunction with leaders, Gatian provides vision and leadership to create and maintain a best-practice environment and superior and compliant patient care delivery system.



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Gatian has worked in the healthcare sector for more than 25 years including nursing home administration, acute care nursing and extended care director roles, pediatric homecare experience and cardiac unit nursing. Gatian's hospice experience began serving as compliance officer and director of nursing. Gatian is a Florida licensed assisted living facility administrator and registered nurse, an Alzheimer's certified trainer, a certified hospice and palliative care nurse, and a certified hospice and palliative care administrator.

Gatian earned a bachelor of science degree in health sciences, a master of business administration degree, a bachelor of science degree in nursing, and a doctor of healthcare administration. She currently serves as a doctoral faculty advisor and dissertation committee member at Franklin University. Gatian is a member of the national chapter of the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association.

Highest Degree Earned: Doctorate

Field of Study: Counseling, Theology

License Information: Registered Nurse. Certified Hospice and Palliative Nurse. Certified Hospice and Palliative Administrator.

Presenter #3 (if applicable): Dawn Kolderman

Avow Hospice

Senior Clinical Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Currently in her 25th year of nursing, Dawn has spent her professional career caring for her community, from infants struggling with pediatric chronic illnesses to seniors transitioning to hospice care. After earning her Licensed Practical Nurse credentials, Dawn earned a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. She also completed Pediatric End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) training at Benioff Children's Hospital. Dawn has spent the last 16 years at Avow, working in multiple clinical capacities including its pediatric hospice, Avow Kids bereavement, and pediatric palliative care. In 2021, Dawn led the Avow Kids team to record care numbers for the unique grief and loss children feel from death losses or any significant changes in a child's life, including divorce, deportation, deployment, incarceration, or instability in the foster care system. Under her supervision, the Avow Kids care team incorporates art, music, and animal therapies to help children handle big emotions and have coping skills for a lifetime. Last year in the PIC program, Dawn oversaw nearly 500 care sessions staff provided for children with congenital and/or chronic disease conditions with complex medical, psychological, spiritual, and motor skills needs.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelors Degree

Field of Study: Nursing, Education

License Information: Registered Nurse

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: Team Work Makes the Dream Work: Running a small community grief center

Session Description: Join Executive Leader, Dr. Rebecca Gatian, Senior Clinical Director, Dawn Kolderman, and Manager of Supportive Care, Lea Pascotto, as we explore the dynamics of leadership in running a small community children's grief center. In this session participants

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

will learn about a variety of leadership qualities needed to run a small child grief center. The three presenters work collaboratively to support children in growing through grief. Leaders in a health care agency must make solid decisions to support patients and family members while also maintaining support of employees and community partners. Effective communication between team members, on all levels, lays the foundation for a successful grief center. Establishing trust in leadership and in the community is crucial. Participants will be invited to identify their own leadership qualities to aid in developing a childhood grief center. Participants will learn about the leadership, financial, and community implications of running a children's grief center and the creative aspects of building and growing a program through cohesive partnerships. Meet three leaders with extensive experience, willing to share their success, field questions and establish ongoing relationships with other providers nationally to assist them in starting or growing a program.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Administrative

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

1. Identify a variety of leadership qualities and models necessary to run an exemplary children's grief center.
2. Hone your own leadership style which will aid in the development of a child grief center.
3. Hone your own leadership style which will aid in the development of a child grief center.
4. Exchange information to form relationships for ongoing collaboration and support.

Session Format: Panel

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

References:

- Juan Bornman & Brenda Louw (2023) Leadership Development Strategies in Interprofessional Healthcare Collaboration: A Rapid Review, *Journal of Healthcare Leadership*, 15:, 175-192, DOI: 10.2147/JHL.S405983. <https://www.dovepress.com/leadership-development->
- Christian M. Beilstein, Lutz E. Lehmann, Matthias Braun, Richard D. Urman, Markus M. Luedi, Frank Stüber, (2021) Leadership in a time of crisis: Lessons learned from a pandemic, *Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology*, Vol 35, Issue 3, 405-414,
- Christian M. Beilstein, Lutz E. Lehmann, Matthias Braun, Richard D. Urman, Markus M. Luedi, Frank Stüber, (2021) Leadership in a time of crisis: Lessons learned from a pandemic, *Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology*, Vol 35, Issue 3, 405-414,
- Christian M. Beilstein, Lutz E. Lehmann, Matthias Braun, Richard D. Urman, Markus M. Luedi, Frank Stüber, (2021) Leadership in a time of crisis: Lessons learned from a pandemic, *Best Practice & Research Clinical Anaesthesiology*, Vol 35, Issue 3, 405-414,

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: I2- Reimagining...Discovering the Value of Virtual Services (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 310

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Laurie Moskowitz-Corrois

The Children's Room

Associate Program Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Laurie has been the Associate Program Director-Family & Expressive Arts at The Children's Room since the Spring of 2010. Laurie has integrated her life's work, living and practicing her theories of creating therapeutic space. She values the inherent creative potential we each possess through the strength-based lens of expressive arts. Laurie brings over 30 years of professional experience as an art, design, business, and space planning entrepreneur. She served as an adjunct faculty member at Lesley University in the Expressive Therapies Division and continues supervising undergraduate interns at TCR. Laurie holds an AA from Stephens College, a BS from Lesley College, and an MA in Intermodal Expressive Therapy from Lesley University. Laurie is a Registered Expressive Arts Therapist, supervising candidates for their credentials, a member of the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association, and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor. Laurie has had a daily Buddhist practice as an SGI-USA member since 1991 (Soka Gakkai International-USA), an international Buddhist organization that supports a global movement for peace, culture, and education.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

Field of Study: Expressive Arts

License Information: Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Registered Expressive Arts Therapist

### Session Information

Title of Session: Reimagining...Discovering the Value of Virtual Services

Session Description: This workshop hopes to provide an opportunity post pandemic to reflect & reimagine all that we have learned as we shifted from in person services to virtual services and back again. A few of the Program services at The Children's Room actually thrived on the virtual platform and provided accommodation, accessibility, and a comfortable, safe environment for the children, teens & parents we serve.

Family Night was one of the services that adapted well as a continued virtual offering. As we applied the knowledge we gained, the benefits we witnessed and the feedback from our families, we began to understand the value of this unique method of program delivery. Over this year, this monthly family service has expanded and our families have shared that their at home experience has deepened with their families and their extended families.

The rationale for this decision, the adaptations made and the therapeutic value of the expressive arts in supporting the well-being of the family system will be introduced. Utilizing

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

an experiential approach, this session will also include handouts, practical, creative ideas and a brief presentation along with a Q & A.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- have an expanded awareness of reflecting back and looking forward...utilizing ways to reimagine accessibility and accommodation in experiential arts-based bereavement services.
- leave with an expanded understanding of the need for « both and » thinking in a bereavement service delivery model.
- have the tools and the rationale to create and deliver Virtual Family Night in their organizations.
- have a hands-on understanding of how to adapt and plan for a strong experiential virtual service.
- more deeply understand the value of In-home family focused expressive arts.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: I3- Research Panel (Non-CE)**

Information Pending

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: I4- Better Together: Building Coalitions & Partnerships Across the Continuum of Care (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 441

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Kristin James

Director, Grief Care Network and Founder

Missing Pieces

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Kristin James is the Director, Grief Care Network and Founder of Missing Pieces. She currently serves on the National Coalition for Hospice & Palliative Care Pediatric Task Force and on the Illinois Hospice & Palliative Care Advisory Board. 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 healthcare systems, community agencies, funeral professionals, and school systems. 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 for her work in pediatric palliative care and grief support. She has also participated in and published numerous research studies. Ms. James received her Master's in counseling from Loyola University.

Highest Degree Earned: M. Ed

Field of Study: Community Counseling

License Information: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

Presenter #2:

Michelle Halm

Buddy's Place, Pillars Community Health

Director of Programs: School-Based Partnerships and Buddy's Place

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Michelle Halm is the founder of the Grief Connection Space, LLC. The Grief Connection Space offers supportive partnership and community-based education. She also a therapist at Bridgepoint Psychology Center in Chicago, IL.

Michelle was the Director of Buddy's Place, a program of Pillars Community Health for more than nine years and was the also the Director of School-Based Partnerships. Prior to joining Pillars Community Health, she was a high school social studies teacher in Chicago Public Schools.

She is an active member of the National Alliance for Children's Grief and the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). Michelle holds the designation of Fellow in Thanatology issued by ADEC. Additionally, Michelle is a certified instructor for Youth Mental Health First Aid and Teen Mental Health First Aid, programs offered through the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Michelle holds a Master of Arts in Secondary Education from Truman State University and a Master of Education in Community Counseling from Loyola University Chicago. Michelle has also completed the Grief Support Specialist certification from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and in 2022 obtained the Culturally Informed Response to Grief and Loss certification from Dominican University.

Highest Degree Earned: M.Ed

Field of Study: Community Counseling

License Information: Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Better Together: Building Coalitions & Partnerships Across the Continuum of Care

**Session Description:** There is enough grief to go around. Coalition building by definition brings together different groups to achieve a common goal. We invite you to join us in a discussion about how best to collaborate with your area partners to work together more effectively and efficiently to use your resources and areas of expertise in developing grief-informed communities. We will describe the development of the Grief Care Network and the Child Loss Coalition as an example of how healthcare systems, faith communities, schools, coroner's offices, funeral professionals, community organizations, therapists, and grief specialists can work together to promote education, research, resource development and direct support for families and communities impacted by loss. The Grief Care Network represents more than 80 organizations with specialized expertise in supporting families coping with illness, trauma, death from homicide, suicide, overdose/substance use, and pregnancy loss.

**Content Level:** Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Outreach and Community Collaboration (schools, Boys and Girls Club, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe strategies to identify key partners and touchpoints that impact a family's healing process.
- Discuss SDOH/Social Determinants of Health and how to build relationships to better support the social service needs of families in grief.
- Identify professional education and networking opportunities that promotes grief-informed communities and advance best practice standards through collaboration.

**Session Format:** 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Social Work Content Area(s):

- Diversity and Social Justice

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and Cultural Foundations

### References:

- Hoke T, Murday P, Smith P, James K, Michelson K. (2019). Availability of Bereavement Support Services for Those Affected by a Pediatric Death: A Literature Review. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* 57(2): 395-396 Presented at the American Academy of
- Cacciatore J, Thieleman K, Fretts R, Jackson LB. What is good grief support? Exploring the actors and actions in social support after traumatic grief. *PLoS One*. 2021 May 27;16(5):e0252324. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0252324. PMID: 34043716; PMCID: PMC81589
- Kochen EM, Jenken F, Boelen PA, et al. When a child dies: a systematic review of well-defined parent-focused bereavement interventions and their alignment with grief- and loss theories. *BMC Palliat Care*. Mar 12 2020;19(1):28. doi:10.1186/s12904-020-0529-z
- Divakar A, James K, Mayorga A, Michelson KN. Availability of bereavement support following traumatic pediatric death in a Metropolitan Area. *Death Stud*. 2023 Jan 28:1-9. doi: 10.1080/07481187.2023.2170492. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36708153.
- Griese B, Burns MR, Farro SA, Silvern L, Talmi A. Comprehensive grief care for children and families: Policy and practice implications. *Am J Orthopsychiatry*. 2017;87(5):540-548. doi:10.1037/ort0000265



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: 15- Supporting "Glass Children" on the Road from Anticipatory Grief to Sibling Loss (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 364

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Christine Marcoux

Agape Care/Hands of Hope

Child Life Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Christine is a Certified Child Life Specialist with over 18 years of experience supporting children and families to cope through acute and ongoing stressful and traumatic events. Christine currently works in a pediatric hospice program where children and families cope with the daily realities of a child being diagnosed with a life-limiting medical condition. She has attended extensive training to become skilled at assessing family strengths and needs related to anticipatory grief and providing support through loss and bereavement. Christine utilizes evidence-based interventions that are individualized to meet specific and emergent family needs in their ongoing journey with grief. Christine identifies that communication about emotions and death can be some of the most challenging situations for caregivers. Finding the right words, the right timing, and understanding emotional reactions and support needs for their children are essential components of this process. Christine recognizes the significant benefit for caregivers and families when they have the support of a trained professional throughout this process. She has presented on this topic in previous professional conference sessions and takes a leadership role in supporting colleagues as they navigate and plan for difficult conversations with families.

Highest Degree Earned: MS

Field of Study: child & Family Development

License Information: Child Life Certification

Presenter #2:

Stephanie Mishoe

Agape Care/Hands of Hope

Certified Child Life Specialist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Stephanie is a Certified Child Life Specialist with over 25 years of experience weaving warmth and understanding into the lives of children grappling with the profound challenges of acute and ongoing stressful events. Her extensive experience began within the walls of a children's hospital where she honed her skills in therapeutic play, fostering resilience through creative expression. For the past decade, Stephanie has worked in pediatric hospice, where she specializes in navigating the complexities of anticipatory grief for children facing a life limiting illness and their families. With a personal touch, she tailors evidence-based interventions to uniquely fit each family's journey through the ebbs and flows of grief. Stephanie extends a compassionate hand to children confronting the impending loss of a sibling. With a deep well of understanding and empathy, she creates space for them to navigate complex emotions, ensuring they feel seen and heard in the face of such profound challenges. She

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

employs developmentally appropriate strategies that offer a sense of control amid uncertainty. Stephanie also recognizes the vital importance of addressing not only the emotional needs of the children but also fostering an environment of understanding and support for parents as they navigate these emotionally charged circumstances.

Highest Degree Earned: M.Ed.

Field of Study: child & Family Development

License Information: Child Life Certification

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: Supporting "Glass Children" on the Road from Anticipatory Grief to Sibling Loss

Session Description: It is well known that siblings of children with chronic medical conditions are at increased risk for coping difficulties, social isolation, anxiety, and depression. Research indicates that communication with siblings prior to a child's death is a significant determinant for long-term grief and coping outcomes. Oftentimes adult caregivers are so focused on the intense needs of the ill child that they inadvertently neglect the emotional and communication needs of siblings. A caregiver's physical and emotional absence in the daily life of siblings can have a significant impact on the nature and quality of their relationship following the child's death, as well as sibling ability to develop and utilize effective coping strategies in their grief. We consistently find that families benefit from gentle guidance on ways to communicate with siblings about changes to come, as well as activities that support connection through purposeful and intentional interactions that fit their family's unique communication style. Identifying communication patterns between caregivers and children is vital when developing support and coping interventions and opportunities for siblings. This presentation examines the additional risks, potential positive outcomes, and support needs for siblings of children who are placed on hospice care with the diagnosis of a terminal medical condition. The presenters will explore interventions that create space and opportunity for positive coping outcomes through research review, group discussion, and case examples.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Specific Bereaved Populations (children of all abilities, etc.)

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify communication patterns between caregivers and children when anticipating the death of a sibling
- Identify opportunities to support and enhance sibling coping through increased awareness of communication patterns
- Identify opportunities to support and enhance sibling coping through increased awareness of communication patterns
- Define the sibling experience of being a "glass child"

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

- Analyze the connections between coping needs and at least 3 effective interventions that support sibling needs as end-of-life approaches.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Assessment

References:

- Chin, W.L., Jaaniste, T., Trethewie, S. (2018). The Role of Resilience in the Sibling Experience of Pediatric Palliative Care: What is the Theory and Evidence? *Children*, 5(7), pp. 97-107. <https://doi.org/10.3390/children5070097>.
- Jaaniste, T., Tan, S.C., Aouad, P., & Trethewie, S. (2020). Communication Between Parents and Well-Siblings in the Context of Living with a Child with a Life-Threatening or Life-Limiting Condition. *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health*, 56, 1521-1526.
- Kenney, A.E., Tutelman, P.R., Fisher, R.S., Lipak, K.G., Berrera, M., Gilmer, M.J., Fairclough, D., Akard, T.F., Compas, B.E., Davies, B., Hogan, N.S., Vannatta, K., Gerhardt, C.A. (2022). Impact of End-of-Life Circumstances on the Adjustment of Bereaved
- Tay, J., Widger, K., & Stremler, R. (2022). Self-Reported Experiences of Siblings of Children with Life-Threatening Conditions: A Scoping Review. *Journal of Child Health Care*, 26(4), 517-530. DOI: 10.1177/13674935211026113.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: 16- Peers-As-Leaders (PALs): Transitioning Campers to Mentors (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 433

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Tina Barrett

Tamarack Grief Resource Center

Executive Director

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Tina Barrett, LCPC specializes in strength-oriented care and fostering resilience following traumatic experiences and attachment breaks. Since 1996, Barrett has directed over 150 grief camps. A licensed clinical professional counselor, Barrett integrates stories and experiences from over 25 years of work in hospitals, schools, group homes, private practice, wilderness therapy, and nonprofit grief centers. Her commitment to excellence in grief and trauma care is matched by her profound commitment to healthy organizations and setting teams up for success. Barrett is the author of numerous chapters and articles and serves on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Children's Grief; the Leadership Team for Project Tomorrow Montana; and on the Advisory Board for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. She was recognized as the 2019 Community Educator by the Association of Death Educators and Counselors.

Highest Degree Earned: EdD

Field of Study: Thanatology/Counselor Education

License Information: Licensed Clinic Professional Counselor (LCPC)

### Session Information

Title of Session: Peers-As-Leaders (PALs): Transitioning Campers to Mentors

Session Description: This workshop will explore three different pathways to transition past campers into leadership and mentorship roles: Peers-as-Leaders (PALs), Young Adult Program (YAP), and Panelist participation. Many grief camp participants express interest in becoming facilitators or leaders. Ethically, the hope and challenge is to provide opportunities to become leaders while continuing to provide support. Offering teen and young adults the opportunity to companion, support, and mentor peers increases feelings of shared ownership and encourages developmental growth. At Tamarack Grief Resource Center, teens and adults have opportunities to engage in programs in different mentorship roles. The progression from participant to leader involves deliberate training tailored to each program, helping to ensure that both mentors and participants will benefit from the experience. This workshop provides a snapshot of screening, training, support, and debriefing. TGRC's bereavement camp, A Camp to Remember, was launched in 1997 and added the concurrent Peers-As-Leaders (PALs) mentorship program for adolescents in 2000.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Outline three models involving the transition of grief program participants to leadership roles.
- Identify mutual benefits of effectively integrating past participants into teen leadership roles at grief camps.
- Identify ethical considerations when transitioning participants to leadership roles.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Human Growth and Development

References:

- Coaston, S. C., & Lawrence, C. (2022). Self-Compassion and Support for the Wounded Healer in Counselor Education. *Journal of Creativity in Mental Health, ahead-of-print(ahead-of-print)*, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15401383.2022.2146027>
- Oramas, J. E. (2017). Counseling Ethics: Overview of Challenges, Responsibilities and Recommended Practices. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (Miami Gardens, Fla.)*, 9(3), 47-58.
- Kurniatun, T. C., Adam, M., Susila, H. M., & Djamaludin, M. (2021). Analysis of Benefits and Problems of Leadership Training. *Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research*, 526, 60-65. <https://doi.org/10.2991/assehr.k.210212.012>
- Barrett, T. & Nichols, L.M. (2017). Defining Loss: Preparing to support bereaved students. In J.A. Brown and S.R. Jimerson (Eds.) *Supporting Bereaved Students at School* (pp. 10-24). New York: Oxford.
- Barrett, T. and Murphy, M. (2016). The Dirt on Sibling Grief: A look at bereavement camps. In B.J. Marshall & H.R. Winokuer (Eds) *Sibling loss across the lifespan: Research, practice, and personal stories.* (pp. 184-192). New York: Routledge.
- Rides At The Door, M., & Shaw, S. (2023). The Other Side of the ACEs Pyramid: A Healing Framework for Indigenous Communities. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(5). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20054108>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: 17- Role Playing Games in Adolescent Grief Groups (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 223

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Kailey Bradley  
Refuge Counseling, LLC  
Co-Owner

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Kailey specializes in working with individuals of all ages, with special interest and care given to children's bereavement, complicated grief, perinatal loss, and chronic illness. Kailey worked for 4.5 years at a local Hospice agency and has provided over 50 workshops and trainings on grief throughout her career thus far. Kailey also has conducted over 100 grief support groups and has a passion for research on methods and strategies for offering creative and engaging bereavement support groups for children. Currently, Kailey is an adjunct professor at Ashland Theological seminary where she teaches grief and crisis counseling courses. Kailey is also currently a doctoral student at Ohio University studying counselor education and supervision. She also co-owns Refuge Counseling, LLC a private practice specializing in the intersections of grief, sexuality, chronic illness and spirituality.

Highest Degree Earned: MA, LPCC-S, NCC, FT

Field of Study: Counseling

License Information: Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, Nationally Certified Counselor, Fellow in Thanatology

### Session Information

Title of Session: Role Playing Games in Adolescent Grief Groups

Session Description: Role playing games are a creative and innovative way for grieving teenagers to express, connect, and validate their grief. In this training, role playing games will be held up as an intervention that can be used in adolescent grief groups. Highly practical and innovative this session seeks to equip participants to be able to consider using Role Playing Games in diverse clinical settings.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Define the elements of role-playing game
- Identify how role-playing games have therapeutic benefits
- Outline how role-playing games in group settings can be helpful for grieving teens
- identify at least three limitations in using role-playing games for therapeutic interventions and propose potential solutions for each.
- Outline how to implement role playing into an adolescent grief group

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Connell, M. A. (2023). *Tabletop Role-Playing Therapy: A guide for the Clinician game Master*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Rosselet, J. G., & Stauffer, S. D. (2013). Using group role-playing games with gifted children and adolescents: A psychosocial intervention model. *International Journal of Play Therapy*, 22(4), 173-192. <https://doi-org.proxy.library.ohio.edu/10.1037/a00345>
- Ladanyi, J., & Doyle-Portillo, S. (2017). The development and validation of the Grief Play Scale (GPS) in MMORPGs. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 114, 125-133. <https://doi-org.proxy.library.ohio.edu/10.1016/j.paid.2017.03.062>
- Bean, A. M. (2020). *Integrating geek culture into therapeutic practice: The Clinician's Guide to Geek Therapy*. Leyline Publishing.
- Scott, R., & Hoberg, B. (2019). *Existential dragons: A Guide for Mental Health Therapists That Would Like to Use Dungeons and Dragons Or Other Role-Playing Games As a Group Therapy Tool*

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: 18- Building Teen-Approved Grief Content and Communal Spaces (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 317

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jesse Moss  
Experience Camps  
Director of Marketing

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Jesse Moss is the Senior Marketing Manager at Experience Camps, in charge of developing strategies and content to create a more grief-sensitive culture and advocate for grieving children. She's the voice and creator behind the Experience Camps TikTok (over 45 million views). Jesse has been featured talking about grief on outlets like ABC, The Huffington Post, and Hey Alma. Jesse was also a speaker at SXSW 2023 on the panel, #Deathtok: How Gen Z is Reimagining Grief and Loss. Before diving into the world of grief, Jesse worked as a Digital Strategist in the Obama Administration, a Social Media Manager at Warner Bros.Television, and an Associate Producer at E! Entertainment.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor's

Field of Study: Film and Media

License Information: NA

Presenter #2:

Michelle Cove  
Experience Camps  
Director of Communications

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Michelle Cove is Director of Communications for Experience Camps. She draws on her 25+ years as a professional media maker to create content that educates the public on childhood grief and brings awareness to our work. She is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, journalist, and national bestselling author whose projects have been featured on numerous national platforms including "The Today Show," The Washington Post, and The New York Times. From 2014 to 2020, Michelle was the founder and Executive Director of MEDIAGIRLS, a nonprofit that empowers young women to harness the power of media to uplift one another.

Highest Degree Earned: Bachelor's

Field of Study: Film and Media

License Information: Fundamentals of Digital Marketing Certificate

### Session Information

Title of Session: Building Teen-Approved Grief Content and Communal Spaces



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Description: Join us for an inspiring session dedicated to exploring innovative ways of supporting grieving teens through the power of digital platforms. In this session, we will showcase GRIEF SUCKS, a groundbreaking grief-support platform designed specifically for pre-teens and teenagers.

Participants will gain valuable insights into understanding the unique needs of grieving adolescents and learn practical strategies for creating teen-approved grief content.

Discover the art of empathetic content creation as we delve into the challenges faced by grieving teens and explore how GRIEF SUCKS addresses these issues with sensitivity and relevance. The marketing and communication experts at Experience Camps will guide attendees through the GRIEF SUCKS build process as well as how young people were engaged at every step.

Learn how to harness the potential of GRIEF SUCKS and other digital tools to engage teenagers authentically, fostering a sense of community, understanding, and healing. By the end of this session, attendees will leave equipped with the knowledge and skills to develop impactful, teen-approved grief content and spaces, ensuring that no grieving teenager feels alone in their journey toward healing.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Marketing

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify key strategies for involving grieving young people in the process of building projects aimed at them
- Demonstrate specific ways organizations can utilize the design and language of pop-culture to make more appealing projects for grieving teens
- Provide ways that childhood-grief organizations can use this new and free grief resource for kids, educators and caregivers
- Offer key insights into how teens think and talk about grief, and how others can show up for them

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: 19- I Can't Breathe: Life at the Intersection of Black Grief and White Supremacy (Non-CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 230

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Jamie Eaddy Chism

Thoughtful Transitions

Founder

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Dr. Jamie Eaddy Chism is the founder and CEO of Thoughtful Transitions and helps you remember yourself whole. As a thanatologist, clinically trained chaplain, and death doula, she is uniquely gifted to journey with people through trauma, grief, loss, and transitions from first to last breaths. She is deeply committed to challenging death-dealing systems and cultivates spaces for exploring our humanity, mortality, and spirituality. An adjunct professor at the Lancaster Theological Seminary and the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, she helps students develop practical ways to center equity and empathy in their ministry and practice. In addition to teaching new doulas and grief companions through Thoughtful Transitions, she serves as a Grief Doula for the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, a victim's service agency where she supports victims of crime and co-survivors of homicide.

Dr. Eaddy Chism hosts The Ratchet Grief Project™, where she cultivates conversations about life at the intersection of trauma, grief, and loss, especially for people and communities whose voices and experiences are often disenfranchised. She believes in theology and therapy and that all Black Lives Matter. She is a well-sought-after speaker, the author of Getting Naked to Get Free, and is married to Rev. Dr. Michael Chism.

Highest Degree Earned: D.Min (Doctor of Ministry)

Field of Study: Thanatology and Theology

License Information: NA

### Session Information

Title of Session: I Can't Breathe: Life at the Intersection of Black Grief and White Supremacy

Session Description: Grief, loss, death, and dying are a part of life - for all of us. Influenced by many factors, including but not limited to culture, religion/spirituality, personal history, and circumstances surrounding the death, those experiences will vary from person to person. Are there unique factors that influence how people of African descent grieve? How does the parasitism of whiteness impact the grieving of Black People? Anticipatory grief, the loss of a loved one- particularly from malicious acts of violence, disenfranchised grief, generational trauma, and the lack of social support place people of African descent at risk for continuous chronic grief reactions.

Furthermore, we have such a high cultural tolerance for Black pain that we often fail to decolonize our staff, programming organizational mission and care to meet the needs of

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

people of African descent. In this workshop, you will identify how whiteness impacts Black trauma and grief. From identifying our own biases to understanding and recognizing institutional biases, we will reimagine how to cultivate space for personal and communal healing after trauma and grief and learn how to disrupt institutional harm for people of African descent.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- describe the uniqueness of black grief.
- explain how whiteness impacts black grief.
- construct a new paradigm for allyship that includes empathetic engagement, equity and justice.

Session Format: 60 min Lecture/30 min Interactive Discussion

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: No

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: I10- Engaging Youth through Grief Support and Community Outreach: Creative Strategies for Meaningful Connections (1.0 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: 303

### Presenter Information

#### Presenter #1:

Julissa Reynoso  
Children's Bereavement Center  
Director of Programming

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Julissa Reynoso serves as the Director of Programming for the Children's Bereavement Center (CBC). She is also a Licensed Mental Health Counselor having received her Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University. In work with The Children's Bereavement Center, she oversees the grief support group program and program development. Her trainings and collaboration with local community agencies has expanded grief support in communities of need. As a licensed therapist, Julissa has worked with youth and adults providing individual, group and family counseling in areas of grief, traumatic loss, and other areas impacting individuals of diverse backgrounds. Her work both virtually and in-person with children and teens has encouraged them to explore grief in creative but meaningful ways.

Highest Degree Earned: Master  
Field of Study: Mental Health Counseling  
License Information: License Mental Health Counselor

#### Presenter #2:

Amanda Ramirez  
The Children's Bereavement Center  
Program Manager

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:

Amanda Ramirez, LPC, LMHC serves as the Program Manager at Children's Bereavement Center. As the Program Manager, she is responsible for managing and supervising the support group program and program development at CBC. She is a licensed mental health professional who holds a master's degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Child and Adolescent Counseling from Marquette University. Amanda has worked with children, adolescents, and adults in a variety of settings including in-home therapy, inpatient hospitalization, residential treatment facilities, juvenile justice programs, school-based mental health services, and grief support services. Her experience includes seven years extensively working with diverse populations providing individual, family, and group therapy aiming to provide individuals with effective, healthy coping strategies and life skills to improve their emotional well-being.

Highest Degree Earned: Master  
Field of Study: Mental Health Counseling  
License Information: Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Mental Health Counselor

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** Engaging Youth through Grief Support and Community Outreach: Creative Strategies for Meaningful Connections

**Session Description:** Grief support groups provide essential spaces for children and teenagers to process their emotions and navigate the challenging journey of grief; however, engaging young participants in these groups can be a unique challenge. In the realm of community outreach, capturing the attention and interest of children and teenagers can be a rewarding yet challenging endeavor. This informative and interactive session offers a comprehensive exploration of innovative activities and effective interventions tailored to children and teens, both through community outreach events and online grief support groups. Join us to discover a diverse toolkit of creative activities and interventions that will help children and teenagers actively participate in grief support groups, express their emotions, develop essential coping skills, and make your outreach events more interactive, impactful, and inclusive for young participants. Learn how to engage and support young individuals through their grief journey and beyond, creating safe and nurturing environments for healing and meaningful connections within your community.

**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Paraphrase the unique challenges of engaging children and teenagers in grief support groups and community outreach events, recognizing the importance of providing safe spaces for emotional expression and connection.
- Describe three activities and interventions specifically designed to facilitate active participation, emotional expression, and the development of essential coping skills among children and teenagers through online grief support groups.
- Develop practical skills for adapting activities and interventions to the preferences and needs of young participants, in the context of community outreach events, with a focus on creating meaningful connections and engagement.

**Session Format:** Experiential

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

**Social Work Content Area(s):**

- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

**Counseling Content Area(s):**

- Group Dynamics and Counseling

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### References:

- Ellis, S. J., Wakefield, C. E., Antill, G., Burns, M., & Patterson, P. (2017). Supporting children facing a parent's cancer diagnosis: a systematic review of children's psychosocial needs and existing interventions. *European journal of cancer care*, 26(1),
- Griese, B., Burns, M. R., Farro, S. A., Silvern, L., & Talmi, A. (2017). Comprehensive grief care for children and families: Policy and practice implications. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(5), 540-548.
- Heath, M. A., Smith, K., & Young, E. L. (2017). Using children's literature to strengthen social and emotional learning. *School Psychology International*, 38(5), 541-561.
- Koblenz, J. (2016). Growing from grief: Qualitative experiences of parental loss. *OMEGA-Journal of Death and Dying*, 73(3), 203-230.
- Marsh, K. (2017). Creating bridges: music, play and well-being in the lives of refugee and immigrant children and young people. *Music Education Research*, 19(1), 60-73.
- Alvis, L., Zhang, N., Sandler, I. N., & Kaplow, J. B. (2023). Developmental manifestations of grief in children and adolescents: Caregivers as key grief facilitators. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 16(2), 447-457.
- Kentor, R. A., & Kaplow, J. B. (2020). Supporting children and adolescents following parental bereavement: guidance for health-care professionals. *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*, 4(12), 889-898.
- Schuelke, T., Crawford, C., Kentor, R., Eppelheimer, H., Chipriano, C., Springmeyer, K., ... & Hill, M. (2021). Current grief support in pediatric palliative care. *Children*, 8(4), 278.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: CLOSING PLENARY- No Mountain High Enough Black Achievement in Grief and Bereavement (1.5 CE)**

Application Entry Reference: Closing Plenary

Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Tashel Bordere, PhD, CT

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Tashel C. Bordere, PhD, CT is an internationally-known scholar, author, speaker, grant-funded researcher at the Center for Family Policy and Research, and adjunct faculty in Human Development and Family Science at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is past professor at the University of Missouri and University of Central Missouri. She is certified in Thanatology (Death, Dying, and Bereavement). Dr. Bordere is President of the Board of the National Alliance for Children's Grief (NACG) and serves on the Boards of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). She is a newly accepted member of the International Workgroup on Death and Dying. She recently completed a Forward Promise Fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) focusing on the promotion of healing, growth and thriving among boys and young men of color. She is a mentor and career coach to developing Health Equity Scholars through Johns Hopkins (RWJF). Dr. Bordere's research is contextually based focusing on cultural trauma, stigmatized loss (homicide loss, assaultive violence-sexual assault), suffocated grief (a term she coined), and Black youth and family bereavement and mourning rituals. She developed the S.H.E.D. Grief Tools Training Program for Early Childhood Professionals and programs and K-12 schools. Dr. Bordere has received numerous awards including the Ronald K. Barrett National Award (ADEC), Excellence in Engagement in Outreach Award (MU), and the CASE Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentorship to underrepresented college students (MU). She is a Grief Reach grantee funded by the New York Life Foundation. Dr. Bordere has done numerous workshops, keynotes, and published research relating to inequities (social, educational) and culturally relevant practices, including her co-edited book, Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief (Routledge). She is a grief, health, and DEI expert and advisor on documentary films related to bereavement in multicultural families and disenfranchised losses (child loss, homicide survivorship). Dr. Bordere has been featured in multiple media outlets including USA Today, New York Times, Legacy.Com, Psychology Today, Houston Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, and NPR (WPSU: Take Note). She is a proud New Orleans native.

Highest Degree Earned: PhD

Field of Study: Research

License Information: CT

Presenter #2:

Kevin Carter, MSW, LCSW

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Kevin brings over four decades of invaluable experience as a counselor, educator, trainer, therapist, manager, and leader, marked by a commitment to leveraging his expertise for transformative impact.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

His leadership in developing grief programming across non-profit and private sectors, particularly focusing on communities of color, reflects a unique blend of compassion and innovation. Kevin's role in the national landscape as a consultant and educator emphasizes his dedication to expanding access and understanding of grief care, embodying the principles of freedom and creativity in his approach.

As a content advisor for WPSU's "Speaking Grief" documentary, Kevin has significantly contributed to enhancing public awareness and empathy towards the multifaceted nature of grief. In his capacity as a Senior Research and Practice Fellow with the Strategic Design Fellowship at the Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation at Drexel University, he exemplifies the integration of academic research with practical solutions, aiming to elevate community resilience in facing grief and trauma.

Serving on the board of the National Alliance for Children's Grief, Kevin underscores his commitment to empowering young individuals through their experiences of loss, harnessing the energy of collective support for healing. His academic roles across several universities have infused curriculum with vital grief and trauma training, showcasing his innovative spirit in enriching educational frameworks.

Kevin's holistic engagement with individuals, families, and communities spotlights his dedication to fostering healing and resilience, particularly within marginalized groups. His contributions to the field, driven by a blend of energy and creativity, have made him a respected figure in both academic and practical realms of grief and trauma support, championing the cause of healing with a deep sense of purpose and innovation.

Highest Degree Earned: MSW  
Field of Study: Social Work  
License Information: LCSW

Presenter #3:  
Annette March-Grier, RN, CFSP  
Roberta's House President

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Annette R. March-Grier, RN., C.F.S.P., is a native Baltimorean, and Vice President of a family business; March Funeral Homes located in Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia. She is a registered nurse, a mortician and the visionary of Roberta's House Inc., a non-profit Family Grief Support Center founded in 2007, by the March family in honor of their matriarch, Julia Roberta March. Annette is the President, and has lead the way for grief education and support for grieving children and families in Baltimore for more than 38 years. A teacher, counselor, trainer and leader, with her compassionate staff, provides a safe place for children and adults to heal and recover from the death of someone close. Roberta's House provides trauma informed care and addresses grief as a public health service through education and over 15 peer support programs. Children, adults, and families suffering the loss or death of a loved one receive support and a safe place to heal and recover. To date Roberta's House has provided support services to more than 10,000 children and adults and trained over 800 community volunteers that support their programs. Roberta's House conducts grief support programs for individuals of all ages and types of death losses as well as professional



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

workshops for the community. It is the first bereavement center to be founded by African Americans in the U.S. to address the inequities for people of color with grief and mental health resources.

In January of 2021, March-Grier fundraised and successfully completed the construction of the first bereavement center in Baltimore Maryland to serve children and families. The center is located on the same landmark that her parents operated the funeral home from 1957-1980. The 22,000 square foot facility is a state of the art bereavement center that is one of a kind in the US to provide bereavement care and counseling for the underserved and people of color.

Annette is a recipient of numerous awards and achievements. She received the National Caring Award in October, 2016 which includes her induction into the Caring Hall of Fame located in the Frederick Douglas Museum on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. In addition, she was selected by CNN, the world leader in news, as one of the top ten CNN heroes, 2014 for changing the world.

Highest Degree Earned: RN  
Field of Study: Nursing  
License Information: CFSP

Session Information
---------------------

Title of Session: No Mountain High Enough: Black Achievement in Grief and Bereavement

Session Description:

This plenary session addresses the historical and present-day challenges and progressions in the bereavement care of Black and African American youth and families. The speakers, representing diverse professional backgrounds in work with Black families and systems will present perspectives on practice and programming, research, education, and policy. Exemplars and case studies, including their personal and professional successes and challenges will be provided. Implications and opportunities will be discussed.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed:

- Research, outcomes, and measurements
- Specific bereaved populations

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Describe historical and present-day experiences of youth and families coping with loss and grief.
- Explicate progress and barriers within systems addressing grief and bereavement
- Delineate opportunities in the areas of loss, grief, and bereavement for families and communities.

# 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Session Format: Plenary session- lecture

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and concepts of Human Behavior in the social environment
- Diversity and social justice

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Social and cultural foundations

References:

- Bordere, T. C. (2016). Social justice conceptualizations in grief and loss. In D. Harris & T. C. Bordere (Eds.), *Handbook of social justice in loss and grief: Exploring diversity, equity, and inclusion*. Amityville, NY: Routledge.
- Bordere, T. (2019). Suffocated grief, resilience, and survival among African American families. In M. H. Jacobsen & A. Petersen's (Eds.), *Exploring grief: Towards a sociology of sorrow*. New York: Routledge.
- Bordere, T. (2021, October). Black youth and family bereavement: A strengths perspective. Webcast presented through the National Alliance for Children's Grief. <https://national-alliance-for-childrens-grief.ce-go.com/black-youth-and-family-bereavement-a-strengths-perspective>
- Bordere, T. (2023). The weight of Black grief. In E. M. Steffen, E. Millman, & R. A. Neimeyer (Eds.), *The handbook of grief therapies*. Sage Publications. Gordon-Reed, A., & Chilton, K. (2021). *On Juneteenth*. Unabridged. New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation.
- Kim, Y.K., Kim, K., Fingerman, K. L., & Umberson, D. J. (2021). Racial differences in early parental death, midlife problems, and relationship strain with adult children. *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences*, 76(8), 1617-1628. <https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1093/geronb/gbaa232>
- Mullan, J. (2023). *Decolonizing therapy: Oppression, historical trauma, and politicizing your practice*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company. Rosenblatt, P. (2014). *The impact of racism on African American families*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing.
- Brandow, C., & Swarbrick, M. (2022). Improving Black mental health: A collective call to action. *Psychiatric Services*, 74(6), 697-700.
- Monk, J. K., Bordere, T., & Benson, J. (2021). Emerging ideas. Advancing family science through public scholarship: Fostering community relationships and engaging in Broader Impacts. *Family Relations*, 70(5), 1612-1625.

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**CREATIVE ARTS  
ADD-ON TICKET**

**CREATIVE ARTS INTENSIVE- 3 Sessions (4.5 CE Total)**  
Separate Ticketed Event

**Presentation ID: CA Session 1- Artful Minds: Navigating Grief through Creativity**  
**Creative Arts Add-On (1.5 CE)**  
**Session 1**

Application Entry Reference: N/A

Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Karen Anderson-Fignon

Wellspring

CT Art Therapist

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Karen Anderson is a licensed clinical art therapist in Connecticut. She has been facilitating art therapy groups since 2014. Karen has provided art therapy in a variety of settings with adolescent, adult, and geriatric populations, with a concentration on grief and loss, and career exploration. Karen has presented and facilitated programs at several conferences, volunteered at the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors of the Military for 19 years, and now is the art therapist for Wellspring a residential mental health treatment center for women and girls in Bethlehem, CT.

Highest Degree Earned: Master of Art Therapy

Field of Study: Art Therapy

License Information: ATR-BC, LCAT

Session Information

Title of Session: Artful Minds: Navigating Grief through Creativity

Session Description: Artful Minds: Navigating Grief through Creativity is a program where participants learn about using art as a therapeutic tool to support physical and mental health with their clients. The creation of art allows one to gently peel back the layers of one's grief, providing respite, support, meaning, and hope.

In this workshop, you will choose a stick and adorn it using textiles, beads, and other materials to reflect meaningful symbols using color, texture, and objects. A journey stick is a symbolic object to help process events and emotions in one's life with the opportunity to express hope in the future.

During the workshop, we will discuss how to weave the journey stick and other art projects into the grief work you are providing your clients. What benefits and cautions to be aware of

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

when using art are, what type of mediums to use, and questions to ask when making the artwork.

Content Level: Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify at least three benefits of using art-making as a therapeutic tool for grief
- Identify at least three cautions when using and interpreting the art created.
- Identify three art activities to be used in grief counseling.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Bridges, Lisa. (2022). Examining Expressive Art Therapies. *BU Journal of Graduate Studies in Education*, v14 suppl 2 <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1397716>
- Law, M. A., Pastirik, P., & Shamputa, I. C. (2022). Expressive Art Therapy with Vulnerable Youth: Loss, Grief and Social Isolation. *Journal of Loss & Trauma*, 27(6), 588-591. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15325024.2021.1974720>
- Rebecca Arnold (2020) Navigating Loss Through Creativity: Influences of Bereavement on Creativity and Professional Practice in Art Therapy, *Art Therapy*, 37:1, 6-15, DOI: 10.1080/07421656.2019.1657718
- Wymer, B., Ohrt, J. H., Morey, D., & Swisher, S. (2020). Integrating Expressive Arts Techniques Into Trauma-Focused Treatment With Children. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*, 42(2), 124--139. <https://doi.org/10.17744/mhch.42.2.03>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: CA Session 2- The Power of Music in Working with Youth Who  
Creative Arts Add-On Are Grieving (1.5 CE)  
Session 2**

Application Entry Reference: Creative Arts

### Presenter Information

Presenter #1:

Faith Halverson-Ramos

Music Therapist- Private Practice

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic: Faith Halverson-Ramos, MA, LPC-S, ADDC, MT-BC, maintains a private mental health music therapy practice where she works with teens, young adults, adults, and older adults who have experienced trauma and significant loss in their lives. Trained from a transpersonal perspective and heavily influenced by integral spirituality and contemplative practices, she has presented internationally and nationally on mindfulness and music, and spirituality and aging, and has also contributed to publications on topics involving spirituality, music therapy, and aging. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Therapy at Colorado State University where she supervises music therapy practicum students in early childhood and special education settings and assisted living communities.

Highest Degree Earned: Master

Field of Study: Music Therapy

License Information: LPC-S, ADDC, MT-BC

### Session Information

Title of Session: The Power of Music in Working with Youth Who Are Grieving

Session Description: A substantial number of youth in the US have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Studies suggest that music plays a significant role in supporting the grieving process of those who are bereaved. Music is also known to play a significant role in the lives of adolescents, where it can serve as a means for self-expression, mood regulation, and the development of a sense of identity that brings with it a sense of belonging. Music can evoke, invoke, and provoke, and because of this, it is important to be able to understand how music can help youth who are grieving, while also recognizing ways that it can harm, depending on their individual background and experiences. This presentation will provide you with interactive musical experiences that you can modify within your scope of practice to incorporate into your work with youth who are grieving.

Content Level: Intermediate - This best describes a topic or issue that the audience likely has a theoretical foundation for understanding and/or a working knowledge

Childhood bereavement area addressed: Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- Identify ways that music is used to support youth who are grieving.
- Examine ways in which music-evoked autobiographical memories can have a positive and negative impact.
- Practice active and receptive methods for utilizing music in bereavement work with youth.

Session Format: Experiential

CE Content Information
------------------------

CE Contact Hours Awarded: Yes

Social Work Content Area(s):

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills

Counseling Content Area(s): Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship

References:

- Merrill Jr., K., Catron, E., Hamlin, E., Calhoun, J., & Hastings, S. O. (2022). Uses and gratifications of music in bereavement: A qualitative inquiry. *OMEGA - Journal of Death and Dying*, 0(0), 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228221121490a>
- Peck, L. S., Greeley, P. (2020). Autobiographical significance of meaningful musical experiences: Reflections on youth and identity. *Music & Science*, 3, 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2059204320974221>
- Saarikallio, S. H., Randall, W. M., Baltazar, M. (2020). Music listening for supporting adolescents' sense of agency in daily life. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02911>
- Sakka, L. S., Saarikallio, S. (2020). Spontaneous music-evoked autobiographical memories in individuals experiencing depression. *Music & Science*, 3, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2059204320960575>
- Silverman, M. J., Gooding, L. F., Yinger, O. (2020). It's... complicated: A theoretical model of music-induced harm. *Journal of Music Therapy*, 57(3), 251-281. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmt/thaa008>

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

**Presentation ID: CA Session 3- The Playful Power of Puppets: Using Puppetry and Creative Arts Add-On Role Enactment to Process Collective Loss with Youth (1.5 CE) Session 3**

Application Entry Reference: N/A

Presenter Information

Presenter #1:  
Adam Stevens  
NYU  
Adjunct Faculty

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
They are a Registered Drama Therapist who works adolescents in the Tri-state area. Adam supports queer, POC, and neurodiverse youth in transforming their loss, grief, and trauma into unapologetic, abundant joy and empowerment. Adam in the faculty in the Creative Arts Therapy Programs at Antioch University, NYU, and Marymount Manhattan College. They have sat on the Board of Directors for the North American Drama Therapy Association as Chair of the Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity Committee. Adam currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Alliance for Children's Grief. They were named Artistic Director for the Collideoscope Repertory Theatre Company by NYU with the mission is to advance racial justice and healing through artful affinity and performance. They were awarded the NADTA Raymond Jacobs Memorial Diversity Award and the NADTA Performance Award for their work with CRTA and in recognition of their outstanding dedication to diversity in the field of drama therapy, through advocacy, championing justice equity access and cultural humility. Their research focuses on offering space for Black clients to reclaim racialized roles and deconstruct stereotypes connected to generational and historical trauma and grief. Adam's superpowers are rooted in the fantastical forces of creativity and love.

Highest Degree Earned: MA  
Field of Study: Expressive arts therapy and grief and bereavement  
License Information: RDT, LCAT-LP

Presenter #2:  
Opher Shamir  
NYU  
Adjunct Faculty

Bio highlighting their experience/qualifications to present on this topic:  
Opher Shamir, MA, LCAT, RDT, is a licensed creative arts therapist, registered drama therapist, and therapeutic theater artist. He is an adjunct faculty at New York University's Drama Therapy Program, teaching therapeutic theater. He also works as a clinician, clinical supervisor, and training coordinator at Dwellness In-Home Psychological Services in Brooklyn. Opher is an award-winning researcher with experience in qualitative, quantitative, and arts-based research, editing, peer-reviewing, and poster session curating.

Highest Degree Earned: MA

## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

Field of Study: Psychology and Drama Therapy  
License Information: RDT, LCAT

### Session Information

**Title of Session:** The Playful Power of Puppets: Using Puppetry and Role Enactment to Process Collective Loss with Youth

**Session Description:** Loss is hard to talk about, especially for children and adolescents. Puppets are a fun, creative, and engaging tool that can help connect youth with their narratives of grief and loss. The aesthetic distance puppets offer makes it more approachable and accessible to process and interpret our bereavement stories. In this workshop, drama therapists will facilitate a short group process of puppet enactments building on the topic of collective grief, present research background, and share examples from past projects. This workshop is experiential in nature and will offer the participants the opportunity to practice with puppets. An intersectional identity lens will be used to provide space for diverse grief narratives, especially those from marginalized communities.

**Content Level:** Basic - This best describes a topic or issue that the prospective audience is encountering for the first time in a meaningful way

**Childhood bereavement area addressed:** Programming and/or Activities/Techniques

After the session, those who attended will be able to:

- consider the use of the projective techniques in drama therapy as a distancing tool to support the collective experiences of grief, using the creative projective tool of puppetry and theater.
- understand the need for conversations about race, gender identity/expression, sexuality, and other intersecting identities that are integral to effective, ethical, and clinical practice of grief work.
- develop tools to utilize creative/expressive arts therapy techniques as clinical interventions with diverse populations to support grief and bereavement with children and adolescents.
- garner resources that can serve as responsive programs and interventions during events of acute need or crisis, a vision aligned with the transformative potential of the arts in fostering resilience and growth in bereft youth.
- reflect on how they can use the presented methods in their own places of practice.

**Session Format:** Experiential

### CE Content Information

**CE Contact Hours Awarded:** Yes

**Social Work Content Area(s):**

- Theories and Concepts of Human Behavior in the Social Environment
- Social Work Practice, Knowledge, and Skills
- Diversity and Social Justice



## 2024 National Symposium on Children's Grief- Session Catalog

### Counseling Content Area(s):

- Counseling Theory/Practice and the Counseling Relationship
- Social and Cultural Foundations
- Group Dynamics and Counseling

### References:

- Curtis, A. M. (1999). Communicating with bereaved children: A drama therapy approach. *Illness, Crisis & Loss*, 7(2), 183-190.
- Irwin, E. C. (2018). Puppet play therapy with children of all ages. In A. A. Drewes & C. E. Schaefer (Eds.), *Puppet play therapy: A practical guidebook* (pp. 17-26). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Landy, R. J. (1996). *Persona and performance: The meaning of role in drama, therapy, and everyday life*. Guilford Press.
- Markovits, A. (2020). Puppet theatre: A way to tell what cannot be told and to face pain. *Journal of Applied Arts & Health*, 11(1-2), 149-155.
- Omens, S. (2024). *Dramatherapy and the Bereaved Child: Telling the Truth to Children During Difficult Times*. Taylor & Francis.
- Renzenbrink, I. (2021). *An Expressive Arts Approach to Healing Loss and Grief: Working Across the Spectrum of Loss with Individuals and Communities*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Standard, M. E. (1999). *The use of puppets in children's grief groups: an exploratory study* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin--Stout).