

Sixth Annual Conference

Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss

Restoring Joy to Children and Their Families



March 17, 2010

**The Pasadena Convention Center
Exhibit Hall and Ballroom**

300 East Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 793-2122

Restoring Joy to Children and Their Families

Pasadena Convention Center Grounds

Rooms

Ballroom D/E - Morning/Lunch Program

Room A - 1a, 1b, 1c

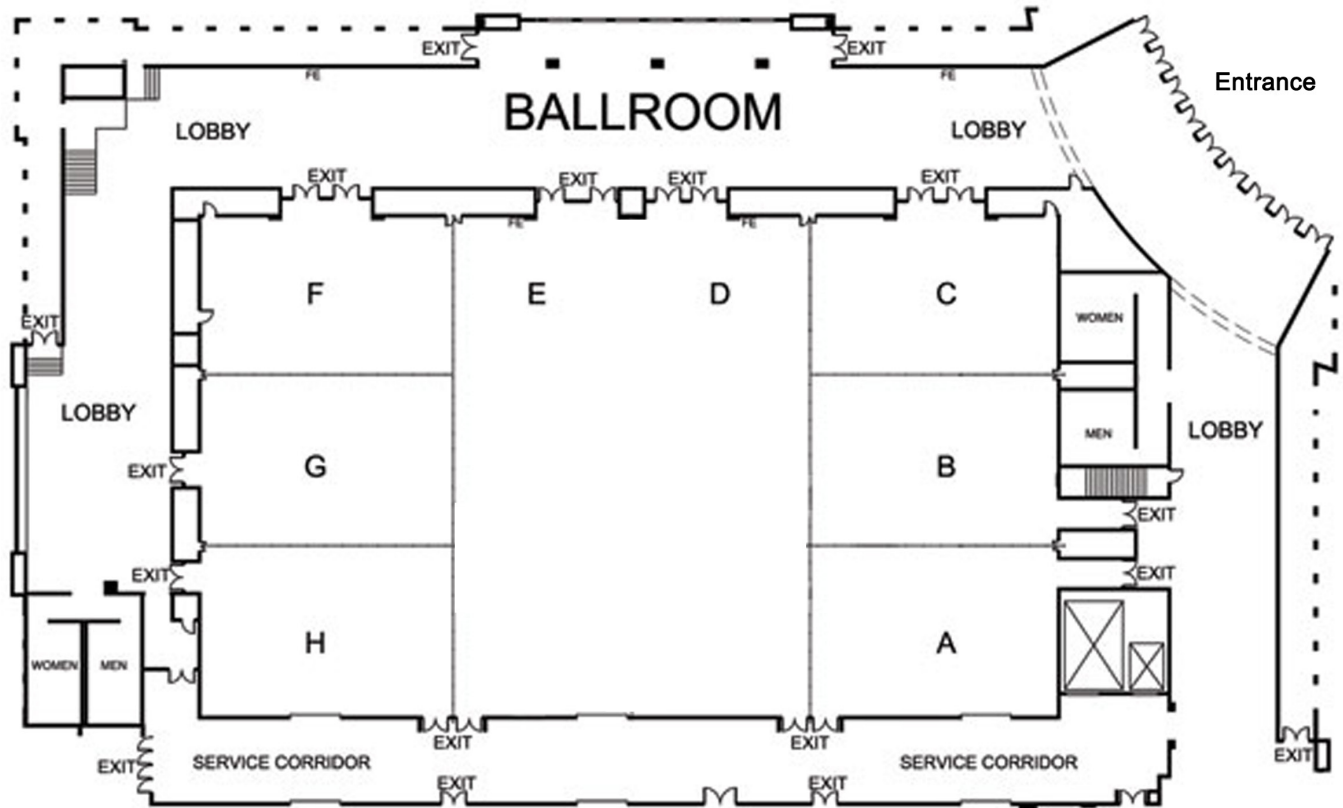
Room B - 2a, 2b, 2c

Room C - 3a, 3b, 3c

Room F - 4a, 4b, 4c

Room G - 5a, 5b, 5c

Room H - 6a, 6b, 6c



Welcome to “Restoring Joy to Children and Their Families”

Welcome to the 6th Annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference!

Six years ago, this conference developed out of an idea that we wanted to bring together professionals that work with children impacted by grief and traumatic loss. Throughout the years, this conference has grown beyond our expectations! With the support of the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Mental Health and Public Health, the Los Angeles County Office of Education, ICAN/ICAN Associates, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a Program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, The California Association for Child Life Professionals, and many other professionals, we have been able to come together each year to talk freely about treating grief and loss.

This conference is an opportunity for all of us to learn from one another. Please, take the time to talk with one another today. Reach out to each other who work with issues related to grief and traumatic loss, as this work cannot be done alone!

We also come together with an understanding that professionals give of themselves when working with issues related to grief, especially in response to violent death. To serve our communities well, we must also acknowledge our own losses and the compassion we feel when treating the loss of others. We hope that today’s conference is a personal and professional journey that helps each of you “restore joy” in order to effectively take care of yourself and the children and families that you serve.

There is something here for all of us. Welcome, and welcome back!

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Paul Click, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Joan Cochran, LMFT, CT, Center for Grief and Loss for Children
Lidia Escobar, LCSW, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director, ICAN
Michael Durfee, MD, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, President, California Association for Child Life Professionals
Briana Guzman, BA, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Laurence Kerr, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Shirley E. Logan, LCSW, LA County Dept. of Children & Family Services
Doris Lopez-Manson, CSA1, LA County Dept. of Children & Family Services
Vivian Ng Liang, BA, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Maria Elena Tomé, BA, CCLS, LAC+USC Medical Center
Patricia Lopez White, MA, MFT, LA County Dept. of Mental Health
Sonia Vazquez-Gomez, CSA1, LA County Dept. of Children & Family Services

Sixth Annual Conference
**Childhood Grief and
Traumatic Loss**

Restoring Joy to Children and Their Families



MAJOR SPONSORS

California Association for Child Life Professionals (CACLP)

The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a Program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and ICAN Associates

ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR)

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH)

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Special thanks to our friends at the Pasadena Conference Center for their consideration and assistance: Tara Gadsby, CMP, Sales Manager; Naz Sabripour, Senior Event Manager; Randy Shoemaker, Sales Manager, PSAV; and Stacy Ober, Director of Catering Sales, Boston Culinary Group.

Continuing Education Credits

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To receive CEUs, you are required to sign in and out at the CEU table, located near the registration tables.

- Sign in must be no later than 8:30am
- Sign out will be no earlier than 4:30pm
- At the time of sign out, as a requirement from the accrediting agency, you will also need to return your completed and signed Program Evaluation (which has been provided to you in your conference bag) to the CEU table.

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS

March 17, 2010



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health

LCSWs / LMFTs

CEUs for LCSWs and LMFTs will be provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. This course is approved for 6.5 Continuing Education Units by the California Board of Behavioral Science Examiners (provider Number PCE 3704).

Child Life Specialists

In order to obtain PDH credit for this conference, you must provide proof of registration along with a conference program as you will need to document the content outline mandated by Child Life Council. If you registered online, your email confirmation is your proof of registration. If you registered by mail or on site, please pick up your proof of attendance at the registration table on the day of the conference. There is no additional fee to obtain credit for CLS.

Bookstore Hours and Location

Ballroom Lobby Area

Hours 7:30am - 3:15pm

Conference Agenda

7:30 am – 8:15 am

REGISTRATION

8:15 am – 8:45 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS [Ballrooms D/E]

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Conference Executives

Joan Cochran, MA, CT, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a Program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services

Michael Durfee, MD, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review

Linda Garcia, CCLS, President, California Association for Child Life Professionals

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Honorable Margaret S. Henry, Supervising Judge, Dependency, Los Angeles Superior Court

William Martone, CEO, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a Program of Hathaway-Sycamores, Child and Family Services

Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

Dr. Charles Sophy, FACN, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services Medical Director

8:45 am – 10:00 am

PANEL PRESENTATION [Ballrooms D/E]

Over 100 Years of Experience

Leslie Delp, MA, Executive Director, Olivia's House - A Grief and Loss Center

Helen Fitzgerald, CT, Training Director, American Hospice Foundation

David Kessler, author of "The Needs of the Dying: A Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort and Love to Life's Final Chapter" and "On Grief and Grieving" which was co-authored with Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

Facilitated by:

Donna Schuurman, Ed.D, CT, Executive Director, The Dougy Center

Michael Durfee, MD, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review

Conference Agenda

- 10:00 am – 10:15 am** **CHOIR PRESENTATION** [Ballrooms D/E]
Combined Youth Choirs of Grant A.M.E. Church and The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm** **WORKSHOP SESSION ONE** [Ballrooms A/B/C/F/G/H]
- 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm** **LUNCH / PRESENTATION** [Ballrooms D/E]
- Connecting the Dots: Helping Children to Communicate and Express Their Hidden Feelings**
Presented by:
Helen Fitzgerald, CT, Training Director, American Hospice Foundation
Michael Durfee, MD, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm** **WORKSHOP SESSION TWO** [Ballrooms A/B/C/F/G/H]
- 3:15 pm – 4:45 pm** **WORKSHOP SESSION THREE** [Ballrooms A/B/C/F/G/H]

**Conference Workshop Session I
10:30am – 12:00pm**

1a. The Grief I.E.P. – The Individual Learning Plans of Traumatized Children [Ballroom A]

Leslie Delp, MA, Founder and Executive Director, Olivia's House

Each child deserves support through bereavement. However, not all children need the same type of support. Using a “Grief IEP” model, attendees will learn how to assess and evaluate the specialized needs children have after a traumatic death. Participants will create a “triage” of care for the most critical losses with examples of adjunctive resources. The attendee will understand the role a professional has in making the appropriate referrals.

Objectives:

1. To understand the “Grief IEP” and the need for such a measure
2. To recognize what role a professional plays in the triage of care following a trauma
3. To facilitate the network of adjunctive resources with regards to the referral process

2a. Working with Children/Youth/Teens Impacted by Violence, Homicide, Loss, Trauma and the Juvenile Justice System [Ballroom B]

*Arvis Jones, BA, MT, Assistant Director, Music Therapist, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children
Herman Perrault, MA, LMFT, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist; Grief Therapist*

We are proposing a comprehensive presentation, which will provide an overview of the developmental stages and responses to grief, victim treatment issues and the emotional/psychological effects of grief, homicide and trauma on children, youth, and teens and how the current juvenile system handles these issues. There will be particular focus on how after experiencing events such as, a parent beating a sibling to death, the youth then follows that same pattern of behavior and what can be done to help prevent the re-occurrence of violence in their lives. Participants will be provided information on ways to help these youngsters cope with the loss of a loved one, and the trauma that the various types of deaths, i.e. homicide and illness can cause. The presentation will also look at trouble signs and how to evaluate when the grief issues have not been resolved.

Objectives:

1. Describe the connection between traumatic childhood grief and future violence
2. Describe at least one simple action to help prevent trauma with grief
3. Describe at least two actions to help a teen or adult temper their conflict about traumatic grief

**Conference Workshop Session I
10:30am – 12:00pm**

**3a. Understanding & Helping Children, Teens and Families After a Homicide and Other Crimes
[Ballroom C]**

Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT, Executive Director, The Dougy Center

Children, teens and families who have been victimized by crime, or have lost a family member or friend to homicide experience a host of responses beyond the direct loss. Understanding these fundamental changes and losses is integral to responding helpfully and appropriately. Resiliency literature, PTSD literature, trauma and grief literature all help inform an understanding of their needs and effective ways to help. This course will cover three areas: understanding the changes imposed by crime; explaining the top three needs faced by crime victims; and methods for addressing these changes and needs. It is intended for anyone who is in a professional or personal position to assist children, teens and families following homicide and other crimes, as well as family members who have been themselves victimized.

Objectives:

1. To explore 17 ways a child's/adult's world changes after being victimized by crime, including losing a friend or family member to homicide
2. To explain the top three needs faced by a child or adult post-victimization
3. To suggest methods for addressing the changes and needs of victim-survivors

**4a. Wounded Warriors: Support to Keep Child Trauma Workers Resilient and Hardy
[Ballroom F]**

*Linda Boyd, MN, Consultant for professionals in multiple agencies, LA County Department of Mental Health
Michael Durfee, MD, Child Psychiatrist, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Paula Gamboa, BS, Supervising Children's Social Worker, Emergency Response Command Post DCFS
Bonnita Wirth, PhD, Occupational Psychologist, Los Angeles City, Department of Personnel Medical Services
Division*

Traditionally, first responders who arrive to a trauma scene are police investigators and fire/EMT. For cases involving children and death, child protective services, coroner investigators, health professionals, attorneys, school personnel, clergy and mental health professionals may also be involved. Violence and child fatality can ripple through an agency and impact all personnel—including administrative staff. Support for staff may come from peers, supervisors, friends and family. Some agencies provide additional crisis consultants following critical incidents, such as a child fatality. However, oftentimes the needed support is minimal or inadequate, resulting in workers feeling overwhelmed by grief, emotionally drained and depleted. This workshop will discuss strategies to assist personnel dealing with child death and trauma. Audience participation will be encouraged to describe interventions that have helped workers dealing with child death. The objective of this workshop is to encourage agencies to increase the support for staff and thereby improve the services for people they serve.

Objectives:

1. To identify the types of stress on professionals who work with child fatality and violence
2. To enumerate three factors that increase the trauma of an event
3. To describe a program that may support staff in your agency

**Conference Workshop Session I
10:30am – 12:00pm**

5a. Compassion Fatigue: Prevention, Power and Passion [Ballroom G]

David Kessler, author of “The Needs of the Dying: A Guide for Bringing Hope, Comfort and Love to Life’s Final Chapter” and “On Grief and Grieving” which was co-authored with Elisabeth Kübler-Ross

We all sometimes take our work home. We can also become our work. It isn’t burn out, we become tired of being compassionate all the time. This lecture will focus on making a difference, without it taking a toll.

Objectives:

1. Learn keys to recognize compassion fatigue
2. Identify tools used by rescue personnel that can help you in your daily work
3. Teach your spouse and family how to support you better in your work

6a. Complimentary Practices in Early Intervention [Ballroom H]

*Briana Hamill Pollard, OTR, OTD/L, CIMI Occupational Therapy Supervisor, Violence Intervention Program
Mel Herst, LMF, Senior Clinician of Mental Health, Violence Intervention Program*

The workshop will focus on the interdisciplinary complimentary fields of relationship based therapy and occupational therapy as utilized with traumatized children and their families. Presenters will explore the foundation of child development through discussing the relationship between sensory processing, neurodevelopment and the bonding experience between a child and her caregiver.

Topics that will be discussed include: assessing the needs of the family, educating caregivers about trauma and brain development, and treatment strategies based on the expansion of the dyadic treatment process. Presenters will not only provide information on these topics they will provide case studies to supplement the learning process. This workshop is recommended for therapists and caregivers of children of all ages.

Objectives:

1. Link neurodevelopment to relational process in the dyadic session
2. Link sensory processes to neurodevelopment and regulatory systems
3. Emphasize the critical role of the caregiver in the dyadic treatment process

**Conference Workshop Session II
1:30pm – 3:00pm**

1b. Preliminary Research on Children in Grief [Ballroom A]

Joan Cochran, LMFT, Executive Director, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children
Shirley Erker, LCSW, Clinical Director, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children
Arvis Jones, Assistant Director, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children
Mary Catherine Snyder, LMFT, Clinical Supervisor for the Center for Grief and Loss

The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a program of Hathaway-Sycamores, has been working with children in grief for the last ten years. In May of 2009, The Center received a large grant to work in nine middle schools in and around Los Angeles. The Center developed a program based on “The Courage to Remember,” a program developed by SAMHSA. This program may be found on their web site at www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov. Our youth who have attended this 10 week program have been involved in a psychological assessment before and after their attendance. The results will be shared with participants in this workshop. These results will include before and after variances on anxiety, depression, anger and PTSD to name a few.

Objectives:

1. To identify the difference between grief and age appropriate child development
2. To recognize and treat grief with this program 10 week program
3. To teach this program in your own individual or group setting and
4. To use the psychological assessment as a frame for your clients progress

2b. The S Word: A Cry For Help [Ballroom B]

Greg Carlsson, LMFT, Clinical Services Coordinator, Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles - Housing Management Division
Rosemary Rubin, MS, Organization Facilitator, Los Angeles Unified School District, Co-Chair, Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team

Despite the desire for some adults to deny that suicide happens - it is the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 25. It is every California citizen’s responsibility to do their part to prevent suicide and to respond quickly when children are at risk. In this interactive discussion, panelists will present findings supporting the best prevention and early intervention practices for professionals.

Objectives:

1. Participants will identify the need for suicide prevention and early intervention
2. Panelists will present findings about best prevention practices in Los Angeles County
3. Participants will discuss the prevention and early intervention needs for clients of their agency

**Conference Workshop Session II
1:30pm – 3:00pm**

3b. What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do: Interactive Activities for Helping Grieving Children, Teens and Families [Ballroom C]

Pamela Gabbay, MA, FT, Program Director, The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children.

Do you ever wonder how you can help grieving families? Those who have been affected by the death of someone close often have trouble verbally expressing themselves. Board members from the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) via The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children and OneLegacy will discuss and describe hands-on, practical activities designed to facilitate communication and to enhance coping and emotional expression with grieving family members. You will receive samples of some of the various activities presented and will leave with many fantastic new activity ideas!

Objectives:

1. Utilize activities for group or family cohesion and connection
2. Apply the use of activities to help children through the grieving process
3. Utilize age-appropriate activities to connect with and support grieving teens

4b. Grief and Loss Within Helping Professions and the Line [Ballroom F]

Julie Bishop-Kellerman, Senior Forensic Attendant, Los Angeles County Department of Coroner
Michael Durfee, MD, Child Psychiatrist, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review
Roy Fernandez, Forensic Technician II, Los Angeles County Department of Coroner
Chantel Hopson, CSA, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
James Charles, Detective, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
DCFS Line Staff

There is a special pain for professionals who have cared for a child who dies - stirred by visceral memories of previous contacts. Child protection workers, who seldom see death, may experience daily fear that a death might happen. Medical trauma staff and law enforcement may see death more often and require more peer support. Notorious cases with media coverage can bring additional trauma. Some may leave their profession or confound healing with destructive health habits. Peers and family may withdraw. Line staff from child protective services who have lost a child to death will be joined by representatives from the coroner and law enforcement to discuss what happened, what hurt and what helped. A working group after the workshop will pursue creation of resources.

Objectives:

1. Relate at least one description of distress from professional involvement with child death
2. Describe at least two ways to help train or otherwise prepare line staff for such a loss
3. Describe at least three ways to temper additional trauma after the death
4. Describe at least four ways that such distress could be tempered

**Conference Workshop Session II
1:30pm – 3:00pm**

5b. Best Practices to Support the Family When a Child Dies [Ballroom G]

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, President, California Association for Child Life Professionals
Maria Tomé, CCLS, Director, Child Life Program, LAC + USC Medical Center

When a child dies in a hospital setting the emotional toll on parents, siblings, and relatives is devastating. Their grief reactions will heal overtime and the memories of their loved one will last for a lifetime. At the same time, the memories of their last moments with their loved one and how they were treated by health care professionals will never be forgotten. Health care professionals are challenged to balance their own emotions while supporting a family when a child dies. Well prepared and trained professionals must be ready to respond to any grief reactions in addition to supporting when a family asks for support in telling the surviving siblings that their loved one has died and facilitating the rituals of closure. From the emergency room to the intensive care unit, to the cancer ward or surgical unit, health care professional must be ready to appropriately handle the intensity of providing quality bereavement practices. Death of a child and child survivors of death also merits thoughtful support and prepared resources to guide the family as they begin their grief journey.

Objectives:

1. List three ways to support children who survive the death of a loved one
2. Describe three supportive interventions for the entire family
3. List at least three types of materials/resources that may assist in this process

6b. Attachment Styles and Grief: How to Adapt Your Intervention to Attune to the Child's Individual Style [Ballroom H]

Kerttu Cantin, MA, MFT, Private Practice
Virginia Green, PhD, MFT, Adjunct Faculty, Antioch University

Understanding the attachment style of the grieving child gives us early insight into how he or she will manage the feelings of loss, and provide essential cues for how to treat them in ways that will engage, inspire, and help them heal. We will also see how our own attachment styles as healers can help or hinder the healing process.

Based on the pioneering work of John Bowlby and his colleagues, and including most recently David Wallin, workshop attendees will conduct a self-inventory to ascertain their own attachment style. Using case studies, and current research on the brain and its naturally hardwired need to be attached, we will provide a very current review of state of the art intervention strategies and treatment approaches.

This workshop will offer practical suggestions, including innovative creative ideas for bridging the gap for the avoidant or ambivalent child.

Objectives:

1. Identify your own attachment style and learn ways to use it to enhance the healing process
2. Receive a concise review of current brain research on attachment and grief
3. Receive interactive, practical skills training for using innovative and proven interventions to reach the ambivalent or avoidant child faced with fatal community and family violence, and chaotic families

**Conference Workshop Session III
3:15pm – 4:45pm**

1c. Using Creativity to Communicate Effectively With Children [Ballroom A]

Helen Fitzgerald, CT, Training Director, American Hospice Foundation

This presentation will focus on tools that can be used to enhance communication between adults and children who are suffering significant losses in their lives. Art, game playing and many other creative ideas will be explored for their effectiveness and ease in use in particular situations. This presentation includes a PowerPoint presentation and a video showing the speaker's work with very young children.

Objectives:

1. Provide participants with tools they can use to establish a comfort level with grieving children
2. Help children express themselves through the use of art, game playing, and other creative activities
3. Provide tools to children to improve their own communications at home

2c. How Could This Happen: Now What? [Ballroom B]

Michael Pines, PhD, Co-Chair, Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team

Irene Pines, MA, LMFT, Program Director for Community Schools, Pacific Clinics

Sara Sherer, PhD, Director of Clinical Services, Childrens Hospital of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Adolescent Medicine

Despite the desire for some adults to deny that suicide happens, it is the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15 to 25. In the aftermath of a suicide, there is an elevated risk for other children and adults at school and in the community. In this interactive discussion, panelists will present findings supporting the best practices for professionals.

Objectives:

1. Participants will identify the need for post-vention crisis intervention
2. Panelists will present findings about best practices in Los Angeles County
3. Participants will discuss post-vention needs for clients of the agency

**Conference Workshop Session III
3:15pm – 4:45pm**

3c. Watch Your *#S%&* Language: How to Understand and Talk with Grieving Children and Teens [Ballroom C]

Michelle Post, MA, LMFT, Clinical Aftercare Specialist, OneLegacy

How many times do you hear kids/teens or adults talk about what dumb things people said to them while they were grieving? Yet, those of us in the counseling and medical fields are still using Stage Models of Death and Dying created in the 70's. Using the work of J. William Worden, Ph.D. and Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D. combined with a DVD called CODENAME:SIMON, professionals and beginners will learn about normal child/teen grief and how to talk with children & teens about death and grief. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of how children think and feel, normal grief responses, and what reactions might require a higher level of care or intervention.

Objectives:

1. Identify normal, age-appropriate grief responses for different developmental ages of children and teens
2. Utilize age-appropriate language to explain grief, death, suicide, cremation, funerals, and other death-related concepts to children and teens
3. Identify “red-flag” grief responses that may indicate a need for a higher level of care for children & teens

4c. Basic Programs for Line Support – a Working Group [Ballroom F]

Michael Durfee, MD - Host, Child Psychiatrist, Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review

Bonnita Wirth, PhD - Co-Host, Occupational Psychologist, Los Angeles City, Department of Personnel Medical Services Division

Julie Bishop-Kellerman, Senior Forensic Attendant, Los Angeles County Department of Coroner

Linda Boyd, MN, Consultant for professionals in multiple agencies, LA County Department of Mental Health

James Charles, Detective, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Paula Gamboa, BS, Supervising Children's Social Worker, Emergency Response Command Post DCFS

Chantel Hopson, CSA, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services

DCFS Line Staff

This workshop will also function as a working group to address the special needs of professionals who work with child death and/or children who lose a loved one to death. The primary focus will be agency staff but include others. The group will support systems with components made for line professionals, supervisors and management addressing Social Services, law enforcement, coroner, health, and mental health. Program concepts will include: peer support, healthy lifestyle (exercise, diet, sobriety), the need for friends and for privacy, support at home and at work, suggestions for agency investigation of itself benefits of multiagency teams, therapy, and the need to prepare with guidelines, protocols and training. Special issues include media, funerals, long term commitments to children and additional stress when professionals lose a loved one or colleague to death.

Objectives:

1. Describe at least three components of a support system for line staff with cases involving death
2. Describe at least three problems that complicate the line experience when someone dies
3. Define at least one program component that may be useful in your work

**Conference Workshop Session III
3:15pm – 4:45pm**

5c. Pediatric Hospice: What Dying Children and Their Families Can Teach Us [Ballroom G]

*Traci Harumi Aoki, BS, CCLS, CTRS, RTC, Child Life Specialist, Kaiser Permanente
Beverly Perrin, BSN, CHPN, Hospice Nurse, UC Davis Hospice*

Dying children have much to teach us. This presentation will educate professionals on how to provide support to families who have a child with a terminal diagnosis. They will learn about the concept of pediatric hospice. Information will be given on how to help the child and family cope with imminent death, preparing them for the dying process, and teaching them how to say goodbye. This session will highlight the dying process for a child and it will touch on what the child and their family are going through emotionally and physically. The audience will have the opportunity to hear stories about how families find strength, resilience, and meaning amid their child's illness and death.

Objectives:

1. The participant will gain a general understanding of a pediatric hospice program
2. The participant will recognize the importance of preparing children and families for the dying process
3. The participant will be able to describe three barriers of pediatric hospice

**6c. Working with Multi-Cultural Children/Youth/Teens Exposed to Violence, Loss and Trauma:
Using Music as an Intervention, Also, How to Help Yourself with Music [Ballroom H]**

Arvis Jones, BA, MT, Assistant Director, Center For Grief And Loss For Children; Music Therapist

Music is the universal language. This presentation will focus on using music therapy techniques for the non-musician clinician, teacher, volunteer and anyone involved with children exposed to violence, loss, trauma and grief. As a right-brain activity, learn how music can break-through some of the barriers these children have when traumatized by environmental factors. The focus is on how music (from different cultures) interventions can help address issues and responses to grief, victim treatment issues and the emotional/psychological effects of grief, homicide and trauma on children, youth, and teens. The workshop will also focus on how the professional can use music to help relieve their own stressors before and after clinical sessions.

Objectives:

1. An increased understanding of the definition of music therapy
2. A better understanding of how music impacts grief and loss
3. A better understanding of identifying trouble signs and how to use music interventions to help resolve them
4. Understanding the potential for change in behaviors and attitudes that music can effect

Presenter Biographies

***Traci Harumi Aoki, BS, CCLS, CTRS, RTC**, has been a CCLS and TR Specialist for thirteen years working with children and adolescents of various populations including spinal cord injuries, rehabilitation, burn injuries, plastic surgery, medical-surgery, orthopedics, infectious diseases, hematology/oncology, palliative care and hospice. Most recently, she has been working in the general inpatient pediatric setting.*

***Julie Bishop-Kellerman** is currently a Senior Forensic Attendant with the Los Angeles County Department Of Coroner. She has been involved with the funeral industry as well as the forensic science aspect of death and dying for over 13 years. She is a graduate of Cypress Mortuary College and a licensed embalmer with the state of California. She is a supporter of the Garden Of Angels Program, which is involved with the care, and burial of unclaimed baby John and Jane Does at the Coroner's office. She is also a member of the Special Operations Response Team (S.O.R. T.) and the Skeletal Recovery Team with the Department of Coroner.*

***Linda Boyd, MN**, is the Program Manager of four Law Enforcement Mental Health Teams for Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health. She is the co-creator and co-founder of these collaborative teams, which combines law enforcement officers and mental health clinicians responding to 911 calls involving the mentally ill or someone in an emotional crisis. The original program is the Los Angeles County Sheriff - Department of Mental Health - Mental Evaluation Team (M.E.T.). The next is the Los Angeles Police Department - Department of Mental Health - Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (S.M.A.R.T.), then the Long Beach Police Department - Department of Mental Health - Long Beach Mental Evaluation Team (L.B.M.E.T.), and most recently the Pasadena Police Department- Department of Mental Health-Homeless Outreach and Psychiatric Evaluation Team (H.O.P.E.). Ms. Boyd is also the Program Coordinator of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team (C.I.S.M.) for the Department of Mental Health. Ms. Boyd and the C.I.S.M. team have been involved with numerous debriefings of emergency service personnel, and/or victims and witnesses after plane crashes, murders, robberies, suicides, death of children as well as after the civil unrest, fires and earthquakes. Ms. Boyd holds a Master's Degree in Nursing from U.C.L.A. with an emphasis on Community Mental Health. In addition, she has attended numerous courses and workshops on C.I.S.M. and is a trainer of the Basic Critical Incident Stress Management Course. Ms. Boyd has conducted numerous presentations, trainings and workshops on Critical Incident and Disaster Stress, Suicide Intervention, Mental Health 101 for Law Enforcement, as well as on the Development of Collaborative Law Enforcement, Mental Health Teams.*

***Kerttu Cantin, MA, MFT**, has a private practice in which she specializes in treating children and families, focusing on grief and loss. She has worked in several settings with children who have experienced severe traumas. She is completing her doctoral dissertation on the group therapy model for grieving children and adolescents.*

Presenter Biographies

Greg Carlsson, LMFT, is the Clinical Services Coordinator, for the Housing Authority of County of Los Angeles, (HACoLA). He coordinates clinical services and case management for L.A. County's housing developments - North to Lancaster, South to Marina Del Rey and Lomita, East to Whittier and West to West Hollywood. As a liaison for HACoLA Greg works with The Department of Children and Family Services, (DCFS) and the Department of Mental Health, (DYIH). Greg has helped to develop an Assisted Living Waiver Project at two of the County "Seniors/disabled" sites and developed an Emancipated Youth Transitional Living Program with DCFS which houses Transitional Foster Youth in County Housing Developments. In 1985 through Candle Lighters of Pasadena, Greg began working with terminally ill children and with parents who had lost children to life threatening accidents and/or illness. Greg has continued his grief work and also facilitates celestials "Celebrations of Life" for many residents and families from public housing sites who have suffered the loss of loved ones. Greg is also a member of the County Adolescent Death Review Team studying completed deaths by youth in LA County. In his private practice in Pasadena, Greg works with adolescents, families, couples and individuals.

Mary Catherine Snyder, LMFT, has her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas. She received her Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California. She additionally did post-graduate studies in art therapy at Phillips Graduate Institute in Encino, CA. Mary Catherine is now a Clinical Supervisor at The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a division of Hathaway Sycamores Child and Family Services. Prior to this Mary Catherine was the Clinical Director of a non-profit outpatient substance abuse agency in Hollywood, Ca. She is a core faculty instructor for Gerry Grossman Seminars, assisting MFT's and ASW's to pass the California BBS board exams. She has a small private practice and does private tutoring and research and development for Continuing Education courses.

James Charles is a native Texan, born in Port Arthur, raised in Houston. In 1978 he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, serving five years as an infantry officer. He has been employed by the LASD for over 25 years, and has over 12 years of investigative experience. Mr. Charles is currently assigned to Homicide Bureau, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, specializing in homicide and officer involved shooting investigations.

Joan Cochran, LMFT, is the Executive Director and founder of The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, a program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services. In 1986, Joan created and directed two nursing services as well as a training center for nurses and nursing assistants. More than 4,000 nurses and nurses aides graduated from this free training program that included a curriculum for grief and loss services. In 2002, Joan graduated from Pacific Oaks College with a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. "The Center" grew out of Joan's thesis, that included grief and loss interventions for very young children. Today "restoring joy to children and their families" has become the goal and a gift for the dedicated volunteers and staff of The Center for Grief and Loss for Children.

Leslie Delp, MA, holds a B.S.Ed. in Elementary Education and Psychology from Pennsylvania State University and a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Towson University. Leslie is the owner of Grief and Bereavement Services, a private counseling and consultation practice, specializing in Family Bereavement. Leslie is the founder and Executive Director at Olivia's House - A Grief and Loss Center for children located in York, Pa. Since 1994, she has written and created children's bereavement programs, one of which is "Camp Mend A Heart", offering support for bereaved children through a camping experience.

Presenter Biographies

Michael Durfee, MD, is a child psychiatrist who retired after 34 years with the LA County Department of Health. He has held appointments at the USC School of Medicine and is a Visiting Scholar in Public Health at UCLA. Dr. Durfee developed county wide child abuse prevention programs in Mental Health and created Child Death Review in 1978 that expanded internationally. He co-founded the ICAN Grief Group to address the needs of children and families and works to develop a model program in LA County and inspires similar programs nationally. His work with child death review and grief is available on the web page for the ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review, www.ican-ncfr.org. He can be reached at michaeld55@aol.com.

Shirley Erker, LCSW, retired from the California Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Division (former California Youth Authority). Shirley is now an employee of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services with the Center for Grief and Loss for Children. She works supervising clinical staff in the program and works in two groups for families with children who have lost a loved one to death. This peer support group includes children ages 3-12, teens and care providers. The children have experienced a loss of parents or siblings including loss to natural disease or violence.

Roy Fernandez, MD has been in the forensic environment for around 20 years. He is currently assigned to various radiology departments and has the great privilege of working with doctors, transport staff, and law enforcement. He takes great pride in his work assignments and makes sure they are carried out thoroughly and completely. Mr. Fernandez also belongs to a few teams that handle disasters (D-MORT and WMD), gives college class tours, and is also involved in hiring new recruits.

Helen Fitzgerald, CT, is an author and lecturer certified in thanatology by the Association for Death Education and Counseling. For 23 years she was the coordinator of the Grief Program for Mental Health Services in Fairfax County. There she conducted many groups for adults as well as grieving children from pre-school age through high school. She has served as the Director of Training for the American Hospice Foundation since 1998, providing training on grief issues for educators, social workers, and human resource personnel throughout the United States. Her books include *The Grieving Child* (1992), *The Mourning Handbook* (1994) and *The Grieving Teen* (2000). A second expanded and updated edition of *The Grieving Child* was published in 2004. Earlier she wrote a chapter on children's grief groups for *Prevention in Community Practice* (1991). She has also written two manuals: *Grief at School* (1998) and *Grief at Work* (1999). She is a columnist for the websites www.beliefnet.com and www.americanhospice.org. Ms. Fitzgerald has appeared on the CBS Morning Show, NBC Today Show, and Nick News on the Nickelodeon cable network. She also consulted for the ABC series, *Full House*. Earlier in her career, Ms. Fitzgerald served for 10 years as a creative therapist in the psychiatric department of Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. *Washington Magazine* named Ms. Fitzgerald as one of the top Washington psychotherapists in 1998. She has been called upon to address crisis situations at schools and organizations in the Washington area, including the World Bank, the US Congress, and Children's Hospital. After the World Trade Center attack she worked with New York City firefighters on ways to help victims' children. Ms. Fitzgerald has conducted training sessions in grief for the National Conference of School Psychologists as well as chapters of that conference throughout the country. She has also trained personnel at the Naval District of Washington and the US Marine Corps at Quantico, VA. Ms. Fitzgerald is a former board member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, which presented her in 1999 with its annual Clinical Services Award. Also in 1999 she was presented the Community Service Award of the Social Work Association of Fairfax County, VA. She serves on the advisory board of Haven of Northern Virginia. Her biography appears in *Who's Who in America*.

Presenter Biographies

Pamela Gabbay, MA, FT, is the Program Director of The Mourning Star Center for Grieving Children in Palm Desert, California where she works extensively with grieving children, teens and their families. She is also the Camp Director for Camp Erin - Palm Springs, the first Camp Erin in California. Pamela is the current Vice President of the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Grieving Children. In 2008, Pamela and the Mourning Star Center were featured on the National Hospice Foundation of America's Bereavement Teleconference *Living with Grief: Children and Adolescents*. Formerly, Pamela was President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She is also a contributing author at *Open to Hope*. Pamela was awarded the Fellow in Thanatology by the Association for Death Education and Counseling and is a Certified Bereavement Counselor. For more information, please visit www.mourningstar.org.

Paula Gamboa, BS, has worked with the Department of Children & Family Services for approximately 23 years as a First Responder to cases of Child Abuse, Critical Incidents and Child Fatalities. She has experience in the investigative protocols of Child Abuse and Child Deaths as an Investigative Social Worker in Los Angeles County. She currently supervises child abuse investigators within the department's After Hours Program (Emergency Response Command Post) who conduct these investigations all over Los Angeles County. The ERCP works closely with Law Enforcement, Hospitals and the Coroner's office. Paula is a member of the DCFS/Law Enforcement Liaison workgroup that is working towards building a more collaborative response to Child Abuse Investigations. She is also a member of the workgroup on Grief, Mourning and Loss, and Worker Support initiated by DCFS.

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, is a Certified Child Life Specialist with extensive experience providing therapeutic interventions with traumatized, abused, chronically ill, and burn injured children. Her expertise includes individual and group therapeutic play, crisis intervention, grief and mourning counseling, and family assessment and treatment. She is a consultant to ICAN/NCFR (National Center on Child Fatality Review), Founder and President of the CACLP (California Association of Child Life Professionals), and a member of Child Life Council. She has conducted local, national, and international presentations on the topics of child life, grief and loss, cultural awareness, and family violence. Ms. Garcia was a Child Life Specialist at the UCLA Medical Center and the Grossman Burn Center, and Manager of Child Development Services at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Currently, is part-time faculty at (CSUN) California State University, Northridge and USC School of Social Work.

Virginia Green, PhD, MFT, wrote her dissertation on the importance of adapting child psychotherapy to the attachment styles of the patient. Dr. Green has run a nonprofit day care and adolescent clinic where she provided counseling to gang youth and abused children, most of whom have suffered grave and violent traumas.

Mel Herst, LMF, is a therapist who specializes in treating children who have experienced early childhood abuse and neglect with residual effects of serious behavioral and emotional problems. He works with both adoptive and foster families in his private practice. In addition he is a senior mental health clinician at the Violence Intervention Program, in Los Angeles.

Presenter Biographies

Chantel Hopson, CSA, has worked for the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) for over 16 years as a line worker. She has experience in Emergency Response investigating child abuse referrals, and case management of Family Maintenance, Family Reunification, and Permanent Placement cases. In 2005, she conducted an exploratory study of children's social workers that have experienced a child fatality in the workplace from which she wrote her master thesis "Children Social Worker's Attitudes and Beliefs Regarding the Death Review Process." Ms. Hopson is dedicated to finding ways to support social workers when there is a death in the work environment, as well as supporting social workers to address the needs of the children and families we serve when they have suffered a death.

Arvis Jones, BA, MT, received a B.A. degree from California State Long Beach with a Music Therapy Certificate. She was the first African-American Music Therapist employed by Arts & Services for the Disabled. Arvis was also the first Music Therapist at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, working with children and youth of all ages who have emotional and environmental problems where she developed a program to address the needs of children and youth ages 2½ to 24 years. Arvis is currently the Assistant Director of The Center For Grief and Loss for Children, a program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services where she helps to provide a supportive environment for families who experience some type of loss and grief. She provides grief and loss training for therapists, clinicians, teachers, after-school personnel, clergy, parents, and volunteers to help them provide concrete supportive counseling to children, youth, teens and families. She is a board member of The National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), a member of Musicians In Action (MIA), a member of American Music Therapy Association (AMTA), a member of Association For Death Education and Counseling (ADEC), a member of the Watts Gang Task Force, a member of Project Accountability, and a member of the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD), where she is on the advisory board for the Top Teens of America.

David Kessler is one of the most well-known experts on grief and loss today, reaching hundreds of thousands of people through his books. "On Grief and Grieving" was co-authored with the legendary Elisabeth Kübler-Ross. They also co-authored "Life Lessons" and his first book, "The Needs of the Dying," often the #1 selling hospice book that received praise by Mother Teresa. His volunteer work includes the Red Cross, LAFD and the LAPD. His work has been discussed in the LA Times, the NY Times, and has been featured on CNN, NBC, MSNBC, PBS, Entertainment Tonight, and Oprah's Friends. He has written for the Boston Globe, The LA Times and The SF Chronicle. His new book, "Visions, Trips and Crowded Rooms: Who and What You See Before You Die" will be published in April 2010. For more info on David's work, visit www.Grief.com

Presenter Biographies

Herman Perrault, MA, LMFT, is a grief therapist with Loved ones Victim Services. He has eighteen years of experience counseling with children and their families who are suffering from traumatic grief due to a murder or attempted murder of a family member. He conducts group therapy programs with the Department of Children and Family Services, Sexual Abuse Treatment Program for children and their family members who have been impacted by intra-familial sexual abuse. Mr. Perrault is recognized as an expert witness in the area of child sexual abuse by the Juvenile Dependency Court. He is a graduate of California State University, Northridge where he earned his Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance, his license in Marriage and Family Counseling and his School Psychologist Credential.

Beverly Perrin, BSN, CHPN, has worked in hospice for 18 years, specializing in pediatrics for the last seven. She gives trainings for ELNEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium), and for the Hospice Volunteer Consortium. She has been the keynote speaker at the UC Davis Hospice bereavement event since 1999.

Irene Pines, MA, LMFT, is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who received her MA in Counseling Education from California State University, Northridge and then completed training at UCLA Extension's Alcohol/Drug Abuse Studies Program. As the Director of Mental Health Services for Community-Based Schools, Irene supervises mental health therapists and substance abuse counselors in charter for high-risk adolescents and at Los Padriños Juvenile Hall. Previously, she helped to establish and supervise mental health services for the Ventura County Juvenile Drug Court. Prior to her work at Pacific Clinics, Ms. Pines was a clinical supervisor at a residential treatment center for adolescent boys and she also taught Peer Counseling at Beverly Hills High School and Arcadia High School. Irene is presently a core member of the Los Angeles County Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team where she supplies expertise about co-occurring disorders.

Michael Pines, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and an advocate for children in Los Angeles County. He received a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1977. In 2007 Dr. Pines retired from the Los Angeles County Office of Education where he established and managed the School Mental Health Center. Child abuse and youth suicide prevention are the cornerstones of his professional activities. Founder and cochair of the Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team, Dr. Pines also represented schools and mental health services on the Los Angeles County Child Death Review Team and the local Mental Health Services Act Planning Committee. In 2007 and 2008 he served on the California State Suicide Strategic Plan Advisory Committee. At UCLA Extension, Dr. Pines prepares mental health professionals to assess and treat suicidal clients. Dr. Pines also maintains a small psychotherapy practice in Northridge, California and is an onsite crisis intervention consultant for businesses and government agencies.

Presenter Biographies

Briana Hamill Pollard, OTR, OTD/L, has served as an adjunct clinical instructor in the Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Department at the University of Southern California and is currently the Rehab Services Occupational Therapy Supervisor and the Violence Intervention Program-Community Mental Health Center in East Los Angeles. Dr. Pollard has experience practicing in early intervention, feeding and sensory integration clinics, pediatric physical disabilities and community based infant mental health. In 2007, Dr. Pollard pioneered a program that focused on bringing occupational therapy services to one of the largest centers in Los Angeles County that serves child survivors of maltreatment. Dr. Pollard has been trained in working with a multidisciplinary team to provide family education, advocacy and strengths-based intervention for children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, sensory processing disorders and child survivors of trauma.

Michelle Post, MA, LMFT, has a private practice in Los Angeles and is dedicated to supporting grieving families. Internationally, she speaks and trains others on the topic of children and teen grief, trauma, death notification, stress management, and self-care. She is Clinical Aftercare Specialist for OneLegacy, Board Member for the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC), an Advisory Board Member for TheACY Foundation, formerly a faculty trainer for CMI/American Academy of Bereavement, and the former Director of Child & Adolescent Programs for a grief center in LA. She is honored to be mentored by Dr. J William Worden and to be a member of his group of southern California Bereavement Specialists.

Rosemary Rubin, MS, is co-chair of the Los Angeles County Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Committee. She served 10 years in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Suicide Prevention Unit. She co-authored LA USD Youth Suicide Prevention Training Manual (Rev) and the LA USD Quick Reference Guide. She co-authored a chapter on suicide prevention in *Empowering the 21st Century Professional School Counselor*. She currently works as an Organization Facilitator and chairs the Local District 2 Crisis Team for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She has made numerous presentations on youth suicide prevention.

Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT, is Executive Director of The Dougy Center for Grieving Children & Families, where she has served in various roles since 1986. She has written and trained internationally on children's bereavement issues, and is the author of *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 in 2003 received their Annual Service Award. She is a member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement, and serves as Vice President on the board of The National Alliance for Grieving Children .

Presenter Biographies

Sara Sherer, PhD, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the USC Keck School of Medicine, is a licensed clinical psychologist with the Division of Adolescent Medicine, and the Division of General Pediatrics I University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Sherer is the Director of Behavioral Services for the Division of Adolescent Medicine, and the Psychology Training Director at the UCEDD, overseeing the APA accredited Psychology Predoctoral Internship, as well as the APA accredited Psychology Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Sherer supervises staff and trainees in various programs and is involved in the development and implementation of multiple training activities for providers serving children, adolescents and families. Dr. Sherer is recognized for her involvement with advocacy and services related to youth suicide. She is a certified facilitator of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, and is a member of the Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team. She has also served on the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect Youth Suicide Task Force. Her areas of interest are depression and suicidal behaviors, adolescent developmental tasks, educational challenges, adolescent risk taking behaviors, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders, eating disorders, chronic illness, and training and supervision issues. ssherer@chla.usc.edu

Maria Tomé, CCLS, is a certified Child Life Specialist who has worked with children, youth, and families in a variety of settings and capacities for over 25 years. She is currently the Child Life Director at LAC + USC Medical Center providing therapeutic interventions for chronically and terminally ill children and their families. Ms Tomé has facilitated children's support groups at the Grossman Burn Center, Padres Contra el Cáncer, and The Center for Grief and Loss for Children working with Adolescents. Ms Tomé is a co-author of the Bereavement Packet currently being offered to families after the death of their child at Los Angeles Childrens Hospital and is on the planning committee for the annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference. She is a member of Child Life Council and a Founding Board member of the CACLP (California Association of Child Life Professionals).

Bonnita Wirth, PhD, is a licensed psychologist, a licensed Clinical Social Worker, and a Board Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress. She is currently an Occupational Psychologist for the Personnel Dept., Medical Services of the City of Los Angeles and a member of Los Angeles County Fire Department's Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

Dr. Wirth has provided interventions to many survivors and organizations around traumatic assault or death, workplace violence, and large-scale disasters. She has responded to over 38 national and local disasters, including nine aviation crashes. She helped create and train the Tri-City Peer Support Team for the Pasadena, Burbank and Glendale Fire Departments. She has provided several hundred CISM interventions to first responders, bank employees, and trauma survivors. Dr. Wirth is a national trainer and workshop leader in the field of traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, disaster mental health, and compassion fatigue. Recently she has been working with the Los Angeles County Dept. of Children and Family Services training workers in compassion fatigue.

Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss

Restoring Joy to Children and Their Families

Entertainer Biography

Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church Youth Choir

The Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church Youth Choir, where Rev. Leslie R. White is the pastor, has performed in many venues all around the city of Los Angeles and Orange County, including The Crystal Cathedral. This year they have combined with the children of the Center For Grief and Loss For Children and children from St. Lawrence of Brindisi Catholic School in Watts, California, where under the direction of Arvis Jones, Assistant Director of the center, they will provide a dynamic musical experience for this annual conference.



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Notes

