

DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF AND COVID-19



DESCRIPTION:

Disenfranchised grief refers to losses that are not publicly acknowledged, socially supported, and openly mourned. In the COVID-19 pandemic such losses are myriad –complicating grief. In this webinar we review the unique aspects of the pandemic that contribute to disenfranchising grief both before and after death. We also offer interventive strategies that can assist disenfranchised grievers as they cope with dying, death, and grief.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

This presentation features experienced professionals offering their own expertise on the topic. On the screen, you will see the slide presentation and will be able to hear the experts talking and presenting. If you login for the live version of the program, you'll also have the opportunity to email or text the experts questions that they will discuss and answer during the program's Q & A session.

LIVE DATE:	April 29, 2020
TIME:	Noon to 1:30pm ET
ON DEMAND:	Available for 1 year; until April 28, 2021
LENGTH:	90 minutes
CEs:	1.5 hours for a wide variety of professional boards
CONTENT LEVEL:	The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field, but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.
TARGET AUDIENCE:	Health care clinicians, social service clinicians and others working in the hospice, palliative care, counseling, hospital, nursing home, funeral home or faith community environments

This program will be live on the air date, recorded and made available for on demand viewing. The recorded program will be available approximately a day after the live event.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view this online program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers. If you are showing to a large group, you will need a way to project on a large screen and a sound amplification system. Please test your system ahead of time to ensure you have the capabilities to view and hear the program, as HFA does not provide refunds on registration. Please be sure to test on the SAME equipment you will use on the day of the program viewing.

TEST LINK for Audio and Video: <https://zoom.us/test>

Technical Questions? Please go to <https://zoom.us/> and click “support”

REGISTRATION / VIEWING INSTRUCTIONS:

Eventbrite registration is required to receive viewing instructions. Please register at <https://disenfranchisedcovid.eventbrite.com>. An auto-generated email containing the viewing link will be sent after you register, which may end up in your junk folder.

The program will be recorded and available for on demand viewing at: <https://hospicefoundation.org/Education/Disenfranchised-Grief-and-Covid-19>

Please email educate@hospicefoundation.org if you have any questions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Define *disenfranchised grief* indicating the ways that such grief may be experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
 2. Describe the many losses that might be experienced as a result of the current pandemic;
 3. Discuss factors that may disenfranchise both COVID-19 deaths as well as deaths from other factors;
 4. Indicate ways that current restrictions on gatherings and travel may engender disenfranchised grief, as families may not be able to be together at the end of life;
 5. Discuss alternative ways to offer bereavement support in view of the constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic;
 6. Discuss the needs and strategies to provide bereavement care to professionals within organizations such as hospitals, hospices, and palliative care units who are caring for the ill and bereaved.
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PROGRAM OUTLINE:

- I. Disenfranchised Grief and the COVID-19 Pandemic (30 minutes)
 - A. Defining Disenfranchised Grief
 - B. Disenfranchised Grief as Experienced in COVID-19
 1. Losses experienced as a result of the pandemic
 2. Loss of an Assumptive World
 3. The lack of bereavement support
 4. The role of ritual
 5. Disenfranchised grief in COVID-19 deaths
 6. Disenfranchised grief in non-COVID-19 deaths
 7. The disenfranchised grief of medical and mental health staff
 - C. The Challenge of Care
 - II. Evaluating Alternative Options: Calvary as Case (25 minutes)
 - A. Using Social Media: The Value of Virtual Support
 1. Care at Calvary
 2. Virtual visits
 3. Virtual support groups
 - B. Supporting Grievers with COVID-19 Related Death
 - C. Supporting Grievers with a non-COVID-19 Death
 - D. Supporting the Staff
 - III. Conclusion: Implications for Bereavement Care – Post-Pandemic (25 minutes)
 - A. Implications for Caring for the Dying and Bereaved
 - B. Implications for Supporting Health Care Professions
 - C. Rethinking Ritual
 - IV. Question and Answer Session (10 minutes)
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CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 hours of CE credit. CE credits are free and are available for 1 year, until April 28, 2021.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org.

COURSE COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS:

Participants must attend the entire 1.5 hour program. Partial credit is not awarded. Participants must also complete the entire CE process online, before the CE deadline (see above for specific CE deadlines). In order to go online, attendees will need to enter in a Course Code, which is only provided at the end of the program. Attendees will also need to enter in their Site ID# (same as their Invoice # when they purchased the program). The online CE process includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (the exam may be re-taken, if necessary). Attendees will be able to choose the board they wish to receive credit from (from Hospice Foundation of America's list of board approvals*) and will then be able to print their CE certificate immediately after completing all CE requirements online (on HFA's CE site at educate.hospicefoundation.org).

*A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at www.hospicefoundation.org.

EXPERT PANELISTS:

Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv, is Senior Bereavement Consultant to HFA and recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Death Education and Counseling. He serves as editor of HFA's *Living with Grief*[®] book series and its *Journeys* bereavement newsletter. He is a prolific author, editor, and lecturer; past president of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC); and a member and past chair of the International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement (IWG). In 2018, the IWG presented Doka with the Herman Feifel Award for outstanding achievement in thanatology. He received an award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education from ADEC in 1998. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister and a licensed mental health counselor in the state of New York.

Maria Georgopoulos, LMHC, FT, is Director of the Bereavement Services Department at Calvary Hospital. She is responsible for 32 bereavement support groups in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan that serve hundreds of adults, children and teenagers each year; leads a team of 7 bereavement counselors, and spearheads Calvary's efforts to expand the Hospital's professional learning programs in the New York area. Prior to Calvary, Ms. Georgopoulos worked in the mental health profession in other settings including The American Red Cross of Greater New York as a Caseworker after 9/11. In addition to her work in bereavement, Ms. Georgopoulos is a licensed mental health counselor with a private practice in NYC and provides counseling for diverse populations of people with varying difficulties.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

Valentine, C., Bauld, L., and Walter, T. (2016). Bereavement Following Substance Misuse: A Disenfranchised Grief. Jan. 7, 2016. OMEGA—Journal of Death and Dying.

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Wyatt, M. and Liggett, S. The Potential of Painting: Unlocking Disenfranchised Grief for People Living With Dementia. June 20, 2018. In *Illness, Crisis and Loss*.

Davidson, D.A. (2018). "Sibling Loss: Disenfranchised Grief and Forgotten Mourners." In *Bereavement Care*, Vol. 37 (3), p. 124-130.

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SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITY (ADA):

Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at educate@hospicefoundation.org or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity.

FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

Please contact Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)

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