

## DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF: HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS

### DESCRIPTION:

Dr. Kenneth J. Doka published his seminal book, *Disenfranchised Grief: Recognizing Hidden Sorrow*, 35 years ago. Grief experts are now using Dr. Doka's concept to describe and support the grief experiences of often overlooked populations. Join Dr. Doka as he discusses what led him to identify disenfranchised grief, along with psychotherapist Doneley Meris and Dr. Tangela Sawyerr, who apply Dr. Doka's work to loss in the LGBTQ+ community and adult sibling loss.

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### 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.

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| <b>LIVE DATE:</b>       | September 10, 2024  |
| <b>TIME:</b>            | Noon to 1:30pm ET   |
| <b>ON DEMAND:</b>       | Available for 6 months; until March 10, 2025  |
| <b>LENGTH:</b>          | 90 minutes  |
| <b>CEs:</b>             | 1.5 hours   |
| <b>CONTENT LEVEL:</b>   | The program is mainly for professionals already working in the field but is practical for all levels of education – entry level, intermediate or advanced.                              |
| <b>TARGET AUDIENCE:</b> | 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.**

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### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

To view the program, you will need a computer and screen, reliable internet access, and speakers.

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

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

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### PROGRAM FEES/MATERIALS:

**Registration includes continuing education and on-demand viewing for 6 months from live date.**

#### Single Webinar Registration

Individual Viewer: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$35.00  
Organizational Viewing: Member: FREE | Non-member: \$135.00

## HOW TO REGISTER:

Register directly online, on HFA's website: <https://www.hospicefoundation.org>

Learn about membership benefits: <https://hospicefoundation.org/Education/Annual-Membership>

## MATERIALS AREA:

Materials are available on HFA's website at <https://hospicefoundation.org/Shop-HFA/My-Account>. From here, click on "Orders/Courses." *Information will be posted to your account as they become available.*

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## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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

1. Define *disenfranchised grief* and describe interventive strategies that are effective with disenfranchised grievers;
  2. Summarize the diverse LGBTI-identities and their death-grief, non-death traumas and life-transition/survival requirement needs and give examples of humane clinical frameworks on how to meet the grief, healing and societal re-integration of LGBTI-individuals after loss(es) and traumas; and
  3. Explain the importance and impact of sibling loss in adulthood and demonstrate strategies that professionals can utilize to promote equitable service provision to bereaved siblings.
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## PROGRAM OUTLINE:

### **Disenfranchised Grief: An Overview (37 minutes)**

- A. Disenfranchised Grief – Definition (2 min)
- B. Circumstances that Lead to Disenfranchised Grief (5 min)
- C. Complicating Factors (6 minutes)
- D. Disenfranchised Grief Is Likely to Result in Complicated Grief Reactions (5 min)
- E. Interventive Strategies for Disenfranchised Grief (7 min)
- F. Assessing Empathic Failure (4 min)
- G. Countering Empathic Ritual (3 min)
- H. Discuss the heuristic value of disenfranchised grief (5 min)

### **Disenfranchised Grief in the LGBTI Communities (25 minutes)**

- A. Social and Cultural Aspects of Disenfranchised Grief (DG) within the LGBTI-Communities - (2 min)
- B. SUBGROUPS within the LGBTI-Communities and their Death and Non-Death Traumas and Experienced – (8 min)
- C. Barriers to Grief Care within the LGBTI-Communities – (3 min)
- D. LGBTI-Specific Clinical and Humane Interventions – (9 min)
- E. Doneley's Recipe for LGBTI-Care – (3 min)

### **Sibling Loss in Adulthood: A Disenfranchised Loss (23 minutes)**

- A. Purpose/Reason for Research/Data (4 min)
- B. Grief Equity (2 min)
- C. Impact of Sibling Loss (6 min)
- D. Disenfranchised Grief (7 min)
- E. Best Practices (4 min)

### **Q&A Session (5 minutes)**

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### CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS:

This program is valid for 1.5 continuing education contact hours. CE certificates are available for 6 months, until March 10, 2025.

A complete list of board approvals for this webinar program is posted to HFA's website at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org) on the program's registration page.

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### 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 which includes a required evaluation form and exam. The exam must be completed at 80% or above (*the exam may be re-taken, if necessary*).

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### EXPERT PANELISTS:

**Kenneth J. Doka, PhD, MDiv**, is Senior Vice President, Grief Programs at Hospice Foundation of America (HFA) and the recipient of the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). A prolific author and editor, Dr. Doka serves as editor of HFA's *Living with Grief*® book series, its *Journeys* newsletter, and numerous other books and publications. He has been a panelist on HFA's *Living with Grief*® program for 30 years. Dr. Doka is a past president of ADEC, a former board member of the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement, and an Advisory Board member to the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). He is the recipient of The International Work Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement's prestigious Herman Feifel Award and ADEC's Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education. In 2006, he was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under New York's first state licensure of counselors. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister.

**Doneley Meris, MSW, FT, CT**, a grief psychotherapist, bereavement counseling mentor and training consultant. Meris is the founder and executive director of HIV Arts Network. He was the director of bereavement services at the New York City LGBT Community Center and chair of both the HIV/AIDS and LGBT Committees at the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC). Over the past four decades, he has trained and mentored graduate psychology and social work students as an adjunct faculty member at New York University and City University of New York's Hunter College.

**Tangela C. Sawyerr, DSW, MA, MSW, LSW**, is an Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Assistant Professor of Teaching at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. With more than two decades of experience in social work, she has practiced in the areas of addiction, homelessness, and child protective services. Dr. Sawyerr's scholarly interests examines the complexities of grief experienced by bereaved adult siblings. She is also committed to advocacy and social justice with underrepresented groups to advance grief equity in bereavement.

### MODERATOR:

**Doneila McIntosh, MDiv, MA**, is a 4th year doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science with an emphasis in Couple and Family Therapy (CFT). Doneila has a Master of Divinity in Theological Studies and a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology. Currently, she is completing a doctoral internship at the African American Child Wellness Institute (AACWI) in Minneapolis. 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. Doneila is the recipient of the 2024-25 McAdoo Dissertation Award from the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). Doneila's research examines the intersections of disenfranchised grief among African American/Black families, particularly in the aftermath of violent death.

#### REVIEWER:

**Angela Novas, MSN, RN, CRNP, ACHPN**, Senior Medical Officer, Hospice Foundation of America

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#### BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES:

- Bonanno, G. (2021). *The end of trauma: How the new science of resilience is changing how we think about PTSD*. Basic Books.
  - Doka, K.J. & Martin, J.L. (2010). *Grieving beyond gender: Understanding the ways men and women mourn*. Routledge.
  - Marshall, B., & Winokuer, H. (Eds.). (2016). *Sibling loss across the lifespan: Research, practice, and personal stories*. Taylor & Francis.
  - Meris, D. (2024). Complicated grief and challenges in LGBTIQ+ communities. In Turner-Blocker, R. & Stauffer, S.D. (Eds.) *Disenfranchised grief: Examining social, cultural and relational impacts*. Routledge.
  - Sprik, P. & Gentile, D. (2019). Cultural humility: A way to reduce LGBTIQ health disparities at the end-of-life. *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*, 37(6), 404-408. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909119880548>.
  - Thompson, N., & Doka, K. J. (2017). Disenfranchised grief. *Handbook of the sociology of death, grief, and bereavement: A guide to theory and practice*, 177-190.
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Reasonable accommodation may be made available, on an individual basis. To request accommodation, please contact HFA via email at [educate@hospicefoundation.org](mailto:educate@hospicefoundation.org) or call 800-854-3402, or write to HFA, 1707 L Street NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20036.

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#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Planners (Panelists and Review Committee Members) disclose no conflict of interest relative to this educational activity. None of the planners or presenters for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies.

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#### FOR QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR ADDRESSING GRIEVANCES

**Please contact Hospice Foundation of America (HFA)**

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