

Community Relations & Outreach for Bereavement Programs

June 6 - Bereavement Professional Chat Box Transcript

Steve Gonzales: Looking forward to the subject matter!!

Rachelle Stephens: Ideas for getting the news out that supports are available with and without connection to hospice care.

Kevin Cross: To be encouraged in the task I do with the bereaved and to learn how to sharpen my skills.

April Evans: Pretty new to Bereavement management still; looking for new ideas especially as my hospice expands its coverage area.

Diane Snyder Cowan: New ideas -- from Patti Anewalt.

Steve Gonzales: I do a lot of community education workshops in the Lansing, MI for the past 4 years and I still have much to learn on reaching my community.

Melissa Peters: Our hospice program is looking to expand our bereavement programming and the services we offer.

Susan Burket: How not to over-promise.

Sheralyn Castro: For 35 years we've had a spring Celebration of Remembrance and the past 2 years there's been an enormous decrease in participation. What are other programs doing?

Sylvia Currie: How to increase group attendance.

Ahley Newman: Connecting with nontraditional community organizations with BV offerings - chamber of commerce, civic groups, etc.

Kara Thoma: Looking for new ideas!

Deedy Smith: Just always looking for new ideas that will benefit our families.

Wendy Shumaker: Wanting to effectively but compassionately reach our bereaved individuals to tell stories to the public.

Trish Warford: I want to learn more about reaching my community and partnering with other organizations.

Greg Yeager: I'm in a rural area and want to branch into churches; advice on working with churches.

Thanks!

Jennifer Saienni: Can you share the chart that you share with your bereaved- just to see the template?

Kevin Cross: Am considering forming a seven week creative writing group that focuses on grief.

Kara Thoma: We post all our groups and programs on our website through our blog, as well as creating events for all of these on our Facebook page.

April Evans: Working on starting a Spanish speaker's grief group.

Rachelle Stephens: College Campus - coffee time groups... High Schools - suicide focus supports.

Sheralyn Castro: We recently offered a monthly drop-in group for the newly bereaved through flyers in our mailings to Hospice bereaved clients, we offered a daytime and an evening group on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Attendance has been very spotty and sometimes no one. Are others offering this? We are now looking at using FB to publicize it.

Jennifer Saienni: How do you handle outside bereavement groups like suicide, car accidents, vs. hospice bereavement? What percentage of an organization's bereavement staff is supporting non-hospice bereavement groups?

Sheralyn Castro: We provide support via phone and mailing information to community callers, but we don't have staff for community counseling. Our support groups are open to all types of loss and tend to be 50/50 hospice.

Rachelle Stephens: I have seen nursing homes see huge supports from individual grief support made available to nursing home residents regardless of service active or not on hospice care. I will follow grief group with visiting those individuals that cannot attend due to sadness or illness or bedbound.

Grant Howarth: I'm a board-certified music therapist and was able to start offering music at community memorial services for situations such as school shootings and the Orlando massacre. This got me plugged into community resources.

Wendy Shumaker: Our bereavement counselor started a Men's Breakfast Support Group. It started with just a handful and grew to be a fairly large number. These men find this format a safe, friendly, man-sharing kind of conversation. The key is understanding how men process grief differently.

Diane Snyder Cowan: Nice! I am an MT-BC as well. Thank you for doing that and it certainly helps promote your services and the great things our agencies can offer.

John Edwards: Our grief groups have worked best when we have partnered with a funeral home.

Steve Gonzales: Maybe an upcoming webinar on Grants for Bereavement Programs A How to Primer.

Rachelle Stephens: I liked the idea of meeting at junior high schools. I have seen families disconnect telephones and accesses to children are cut off.

Jennifer Richardson: Thank You so much!

Mary Thompson: Thank you so much. Lots of helpful information!

Barb Goll: Thank you very much for your insight.

Melissa DelaCalzada: Thank you all! Please contact us with any questions!