Welcome to today’s panel!

• First time using Webex?
  – You can communicate with other attendees or the host in the Chat Box and seek technical assistance if needed.

  – You can type questions about the material presented in the Q&A section.

• Today’s webinar will be recorded and shared publicly. Please keep this in mind when sharing information and experiences during the webinar.

Achieve with us.
“Being With” People with I/DD Experiencing Grief and Loss

Barbara Williams Stewart
&
Mary Anne Tolliver
Learning Objectives

• Participants will learn a post-modern perspective of grief and how to recognize its subsequent expressions and reactions in persons with I/DD.

• Through a narrative of one person’s terminal illness, participants will learn how to coordinate services/resources for persons with I/DD and their families.

• Participants will leave equipped with basic tools to “Be With” and support grieving persons, their families, other staff and peers.
“In times of grief and sorrow I will hold you and rock you and take your grief and make it my own. When you cry I cry and when you hurt I hurt. And together we will try to hold back the floods of tears and despair and make it through the potholed street.”

The Notebook by Nicholas Sparks
• Working Definition of Grief

• The Concept of “Being With”

• Monica’s Story
TYPES OF LOSSES

• Death of a family member
• Relationship breakup
• Everyday losses
  ▪ job
  ▪ retirement
  ▪ staff
  ▪ friends
  ▪ declining health
  ▪ Move out of family home
• One’s own mortality
• Pile up of losses
Monica’s Losses

- Parents’ death
- Transition to supported living
- Unfulfilled dreams
- Brother’s death
- Monica’s Death
Grief Reactions and Expressions in Persons with I/DD

- Physical reactions
- Behavioral reactions
- Cognitive reactions
- Emotional reactions
- Spiritual reactions
MONICA IS DIAGNOSED WITH TERMINAL CANCER

WHAT NOW?

1. Families’ response

2. Who informs the person with I/DD?

3. What to discuss?

4. Treatment
   • Hospice
     ▪ Role of the Individual
     ▪ Role of Support Team
     ▪ Role of the Family
     ▪ Role of the Grief Counselor
Strategies to Support a Person Who is Grieving

- Eye contact and facial expressions
- Vocal style
- Body language
- Verbal following
- Open-ended questions
- Paraphrasing
- Reflecting feelings
Books:
In the Presence Of Grief: Helping Family Members Resolve Death, Dying, and Bereavement Issues, Dorothy S. Becvar, 2003

The Tunnel And The Light: Essential Insights on Living and Dying
Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D. 1999

Booklets:
Hard Choices For Living People
Hank Dunn, 2011
To Order: www.hardchoices.com

Gone From My Sight: The Dying Experience
Barbara Karnes, 2008
To Order: www. Bkbooks.com
More Resources

**Online:**

L’Arche Grief Materials  

Supporting People with Disabilities Coping With Grief and Loss  
Questions?

Please raise your hand and we will call on you OR type your question into the chat box.
Next Webinar

Tuesday, August 11th, 2015, 2:00-3:00 PM Eastern
SibTips Webinar: Understanding the Alphabet Soup of Future Planning

If you have any questions, please contact us at
futureplanning@thearc.org