

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.



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

“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.



For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

“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

Grief Resources

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](http://www.Bkbooks.com)

More Resources

Online:

L'Arche Grief Materials

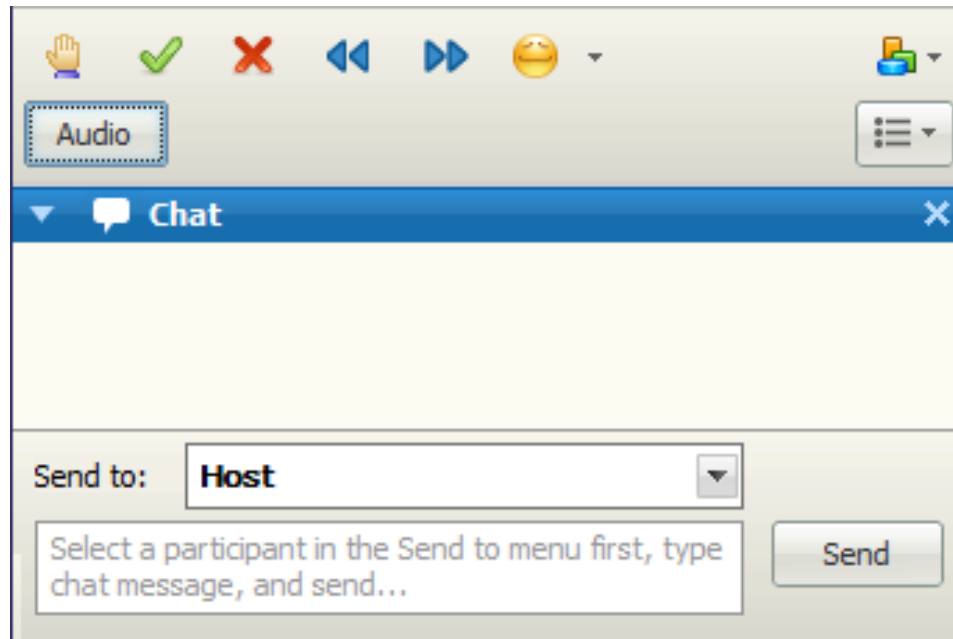
www.Aging-and-disability.org/en/grieving

Supporting People with Disabilities Coping With Grief and Loss

www.scopevic.org.au/index.php/cms/frontend/resource/id/130

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