Welcome to our first of two, 2-day virtual learning institutes, taking place on September 10th and 11th. The second institute will take place on November 12th and 13th. This series is geared towards providing front-line workers with tools and strategies that can be used when addressing the needs of individuals experiencing grief and loss during COVID-19 and beyond.

The Institutes Include:

- **Tracked Learning**: Each Institute has four sessions that each have three learning tracks: Grief Sensitivity, Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices for Clinicians, and School Mental Health. You are invited to join whichever track most fits your learning interests!

- **Reflective Discussion**: On both days of each Institute, we will host optional breakout discussions for participants to join, listen and learn from each other’s expertise and experience.

- **Opening Keynote & Closing Activity**: On Day 1, we open with a keynote to set the tone; on Day 2, we close with an integrated activity to support our learning outcomes.

**Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute: Part 1**

Grounding Ourselves in the Basics (frameworks, definitions, and foundational concepts)

**SESSION DESCRIPTIONS**

**Grief Sensitivity Institute Part 1 • September 10 & 11th**

**REGISTER HERE**

Please note that the Eventbrite will hold both days, 9/10-9/11. **We strongly encourage you to create your own calendar holds for sessions of interest** between now and when you get the Zoom links on 9/9/20.

Registration closes at 5pm PT on 9/8/2020

**Grief Sensitivity Institute Part 2 • November 12 & 13th**

**REGISTER HERE**

Registration closes at 5pm PT on 11/10/2020

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

The Institutes are for Community Mental Health Practitioners, Social Workers, Psychologists, Therapists, School Mental Health Personnel, School Counselors, Educators, School Administrators, and anyone interested in enhancing their grief sensitivity. You can find the agenda for Institute 1 below.

This series is made available through the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (MHTTC) Network funded by the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

**Register Today!**

*You must register in order to receive session Zoom links (coming your way via email after you register on 9/9/20)*
**Sessions**

**Accessing Sessions:** We hope you will join as many sessions as possible. Below and on the following page you will find descriptions of each session, their time slot and date, and which learning track the session is part of (Grief Sensitivity, Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices for Mental and School Mental Health Clinicians, and School Mental Health).

**Breaks:** We have built in breaks between sessions so you can attend all sessions and still move around, stretch, have your lunch, and practice self-care. Please note the start and end times for each session.

**Feedback:** Your Feedback is Very Important! We are very interested in your input. Please take a minute or two after each session to complete our brief survey. You will be redirected to the survey following each session. Direct links to the surveys are also available under each session.

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**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**Opening & Keynote Address:** 9:00-9:50am PT / 10-10:50am MT / 11-11:50am CT/ 12-12:50pm ET

**Understanding Grief and Adaptation to Loss During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

M. Katherine Shear, MD

**LEARNING TRACK:** ALL

**Session Description:**

In this keynote address, Dr. M. Katherine Shear will describe a model of grief and adaptation to loss that is derived from clinical and experimental research. She will discuss the new diagnosis of Prolonged Grief Disorder, identify some unique challenges posed by loss during COVID-19, and explain why bereavement during the pandemic is associated with increased risk for the development of Prolonged Grief Disorder (i.e. complicated grief).

**Speaker Bio:**

Dr. M. Katherine Shear, Founder and Director of the Center for Complicated Grief, is an internist and a psychiatrist with the heart of a social worker. She is a talented clinician who is widely recognized for her work in bereavement studies and complicated grief disorder. Dr. Shear developed a short-term psychotherapy for people unable to move forward after a loss that was influenced by her inherent optimism and faith in human creativity and resilience. Complicated Grief Therapy (CGT) has proved to be efficacious in three NIMH-funded randomized controlled trials. Her work has produced several assessment instruments and an instruction manual for CGT—a focused, adaptation-focused approach with the strongest evidence base of any grief treatment to date.

Dr. Shear is the Marion E. Kenworthy Professor of Psychiatry at Columbia School of Social Work and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She served on review committees of the National Institute of Mental Health and on the advisory council for its National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. She served as an advisor to the DSM-5 workgroup on complicated grief and adult separation anxiety, a member of the World Health Organization’s ICD11 Working Group on Mood and Anxiety Disorders, a member of the scientific advisory board of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and an elected member of the board of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.
Session 1: 10:00-11:30am PT/ 11-11:30am MT/ 12-12:30pm CT/ 1-1:30pm ET

No Time Clock on Grief-Reimagining Healing & Learning Spaces
Aaminah Norris, PhD & Babalwa Kwanele, LMFT

LEARNING TRACK: School Mental Health

Session Description:
This session will examine grief and the double pandemics of racial violence and COVID-19, including a discussion of ways that the double pandemics of COVID-19 and antiblackness inform grief, complex grief, and teaching and learning. Aaminah Norris and Babalwa Kwanele will discuss the complexities of racism, how the loss caused by pandemics particularly influences and harms Black children, students, and families, and will introduce possible healing strategies.

Speaker Bios:
Dr. Aaminah Norris, Associate Professor at Sacramento State University, is Founder and CEO of UnHidden Voices LLC, a Black woman-owned educational consultancy with a mission of building empathy and disrupting the invisibility of Black children, students, and families. She has more than 25 years of experience supporting schools and non-profit organizations in addressing issues of educational equity for low-income students from historically marginalized communities. She researches, teaches, and advocates the digital literacies of Black girls and women, with a particular interest in their STEM practices, culturally responsive pedagogies particularly as they connect to maker education, and the pedagogies of Black women teachers.

Babalwa Kwanele is a licensed mental health therapist (LMFT), with over 30 years of professional experience working with culturally diverse youth, children, and families in community mental health and school-based settings. Her work and research has a special focus on prevention and intervention, with the goal of improving academic outcomes and the social determinants of health. She has extensively studied the neurobiology of trauma and the effects of racism and poverty on communities, families, individuals, and complex systems. Kwanele’s areas of specialization are complex multigenerational trauma, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), trauma-informed school based mental health, impact of secondary trauma on educators and learning, complex family systems, cultural humility, and culturally responsive care.

Understanding Loss and Grief In Uncertain Times
Janice Nadeau, PhD, LP, LMFT, RN, FT

LEARNING TRACK: Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices

Session Description:
This session will explore ways to think about types of loss, both ordinary and particular to these times of global threats and social unrest. Many are feeling isolated and alone. Others feel out of control and afraid. We will examine current models for understanding grief and identify the concepts necessary to appreciate more fully what we and those we serve are experiencing at this unprecedented time in history. Dr. Nadeau will draw upon several decades of work as an international expert in the field of loss, grief and bereavement. Illustrations will come from her ground-breaking research on family grief and from her clinical practice as a psychotherapist and educator.
Speaker Bio:
Dr. Janice Winchester Nadeau is a Licensed Psychologist, Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) and Master’s Prepared Nurse. She has been active in the grief and loss field for over three decades. Her Doctoral research at the University of Minnesota led to the publication of Families Making Sense of Death by Sage in 1998. Dr. Nadeau has served as faculty for the Association for Death Education and Counseling teaching Advanced Grief Therapy for six years. Dr. Nadeau has presented her work internationally and has been in private practice at Minnesota Human Development Consultants in Minneapolis since 1994.

Reviewing the Basics of Grief Counseling
Doug Smith, MDiv, MA, MS
LEARNING TRACK: Grief Sensitivity

Session Description:
This session will provide an overview of important foundational concepts and basic assumptions concerning grief and bereavement. We will examine the definitions of various types of grief, including vicarious grief, anticipatory grief, disenfranchised grief and ambiguous grief; including how these have manifested during the pandemic. You will learn how to assess an individual’s style of grieving, their coping strengths, as well as their expectations and needs. Finally, we will examine a possible structure/framework for bringing healing to an individual’s grief.

Speaker Bio:
Douglas Smith has been the lead instructor for the University of Wisconsin’s Grief Support Services Certificate program, which has trained over 600 healthcare professionals in 39 states and 14 countries. He has conducted extensive grief training workshops in all 50 states, and internationally. He also has extensive personal experiences related to grief.

Session 2: 12:35-2:00pm PT / 1:35-3:00pm MT / 2:35-4:00pm CT / 3:35-5:00pm ET
Beyond “Sorry for Your Loss”: Supporting School-Aged Students in their Grief Recovery
Rozlyn Wing-Man Kwong, LMFT
LEARNING TRACK: School Mental Health

Session Description:
While it may not be difficult to have empathy for a student who has experienced a loss, we may struggle with communicating that empathy in a concrete way that supports that student’s grief recovery process. This session is designed to provide a better understanding of grief and loss in students and to explore interventions that providers can use to support grief recovery. This session will explain the foundational principles and Covid-19-specific considerations about providing mental health care for grief and loss within a school setting. We will review grief indicators in students as well as general strategies for helping them grieve in a developmentally-appropriate way.
Speaker Bio:
Rozlyn Kwong is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and the Clinical Trainer and Evidenced-Based Practice Coordinator at Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services. Rozlyn holds multiple certifications to provide treatment, supervision or training in different Evidenced-Based Practices (e.g., TF-CBT, PCIT). She has also completed many trainings specifically in the topic of grief treatment, including Childhood Traumatic Grief (CTG) Treatment, a model using TF-CBT to treat childhood traumatic grief. Not a stranger to grief and personal loss herself, Rozlyn has walked the grief recovery journey with clients from 3 year-olds to adults and has experience in facilitating therapeutic grief groups for different types of loss.

Building Virtual Communities to Support Grieving Youth and Families During These Uncertain Times
Lauren Schneider, LCSW and Talya Schlesinger, MSW
LEARNING TRACK: Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices

Session Description:
While the world was grappling to find footing as the pandemic erupted, we leaned into the time-tested OUR HOUSE model of grief support; harnessing the inherent healing power of connection, for the first time, through an online format. In this session, we will share lessons learned wading through the challenges of supporting families on overwhelm. We will teach how we addressed JW Worden’s Tasks of Mourning using interventions that can be facilitated by volunteer group leaders via an online platform. We will share the magic that can happen when you create virtual spaces with intention for children to connect and support one another around their grief and losses, in spite of Zoom fatigue and physical distance. OUR HOUSE is a grief support center based in Los Angeles, California.

Speaker Bios:
Lauren Schneider is a nationally recognized authority on Children’s Grief. She has provided trainings for mental health clinicians, educators, clergy, health care providers and graduate students throughout the community, and has authored books and curricula on the topic of grief (e.g., “Children Grieve Too: A Handbook for Parents of Grieving Children,” Camp Erin Los Angeles curriculum). She is the Associate Producer of “One Last Hug…and a few smooches” an Emmy award winning HBO documentary about Children’s Grief. She trains and supervises OUR HOUSE group leaders as well as MSW and MFT clinicians and students. Lauren Sneider maintains a private practice in Los Angeles specializing in grief and loss.

Talya Schlesinger is a clinical social worker dedicated to supporting children, adolescents and families. She completed her undergraduate studies in Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience as well as Community Action and Social Change at the University of Michigan. She then received her MSW from the University of Michigan with a concentration in Children and Youth in Families and Society, and a minor in Human Services Management.
Grieving in the COVID Era and Beyond
Michael Hebb and Candi Cann, PhD
LEARNING TRACK: Grief Sensitivity

Session Description:
The pandemic has highlighted the ways in which marginalized communities experience death and loss at much higher rates than white communities, and yet grief theory remains dominated by white and Protestant thought. This session will discuss the ways in which contemporary grief theory often sidelines marginal communities and highlight COVID-19-specific considerations regarding grief and loss.

Speaker Bios:
Michael Hebb is the founder of Death Over Dinner, a Partner at global wellbeing organization RoundGlass and the founder of Convivium, a creative agency that specializes in the ability to shift culture through the use of thoughtful food and discourse-based gatherings. Convivium has worked closely with thought/cultural leaders and many foundations/institutions (e.g., The World Economic Forum, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Apple, United Nations Foundation). His writings have appeared in popular magazines (e.g., GQ, Food and Wine, City Arts). Watch his TED Talk here: What happens when death is what's for dinner?

Candi Cann received her Ph.D. and A.M. from Harvard University following an M.A. from the University of Hawaii. She currently serves as an Associate Professor and Faculty of Residence at Baylor University. Her research focuses on death and dying, and the impact of remembering (and forgetting) in shaping how lives are recalled, remembered, and celebrated. Currently, she is researching diversity in death, examining the whitening of the funeral industry and death studies, and arguing that the field of death and grief has been heavily influenced by white and Protestant worldviews. Check out her website: www.candikcann.com, Academic CV and follow her on Twitter:@CandiCann.

Friday, September 11, 2020

Opening Session: 9:00-9:20am PT / 10-10:20am MT/ 11-11:20am CT/ 12-12:20pm ET
MHTTC Grief Sensitive Virtual Learning Institute Day 2 Opening & Welcome
LEARNING TRACK: ALL

Session Description:
On Day 2 of our MHTTC Grief Sensitive Virtual Learning Institute, we open our full day of learning with a brief whole Institute gathering that will:
• Welcome back participants from Day 1 and welcome in new participants joining us;
• Offer a dedication to 9/11; and,
• Provide an overview and forecast to Day 2, previewing our learning line up.

We look forward to coming together quickly yet intentionally to begin our second day oriented, grounded, and ready.
Supporting Students with Grief and Loss During the COVID-19 Pandemic
David Schonfeld, MD, FAAP
LEARNING TRACK: School Mental Health

Session Description:
This session will provide practical suggestions on how to support grieving students in any context, as well as the unique challenges of supporting grieving students during the current pandemic. A range of topics will be covered, including what not to stay, considerations related to grief across different cultures, how to initiate conversations with grieving students, identifying and addressing guilt, appropriate academic accommodations, and managing grief triggers in the classroom. Participants will be introduced to free online professional development resources from the Coalition to Support Grieving Students. Ample time will be devoted to questions and discussion, including discussion about tiered school-based support grief services.

Speaker Bio:
Dr. Schonfeld established and directs the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement (www.schoolcrisiscenter.org), located at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. He is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Keck School of Medicine. For over 30 years, he has provided consultation and training to schools on supporting students and staff at times of crisis and loss in the aftermath of numerous school crisis events and disasters within the United States and abroad. Dr. Schonfeld frequently speaks on the topics of crisis and loss, has authored more than 150 scholarly articles, book chapters, and books, and has conducted school-based research.

Pandemia: Restoring the Wounded Soul. Latino Reflections on the Meaning of Loss, Grief, and Rituals
Salvador Treviño, PhD & Darice Orobitg, PhD
LEARNING TRACK: Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices

Session Description:
Rituals are actions done in purposeful ways that symbolize something much more than the acts themselves. Every culture has rituals that provide purpose and meaning to experiences. Rituals are made up of actions that represent ideas, thoughts, myths, or beliefs about something specific. They give purpose to action and always serve to connect us to something else, generally something greater than ourselves. In difficult times, rituals provide a certain order to an existence that otherwise might be full of confusion and chaos. Given the current pandemic, loss and grief have taken a front seat. A sense of loss permeates in many of our lives, and for many clients, this may be difficult to name. Furthermore, the inability to perform rituals in our habitual ways can be distressful for many. The current webinar will discuss the experience of loss and grief for Latinos during the current pandemic: including physical and symbolic losses. The presenters will discuss Latinos' values and rituals as they relate to the current pandemic. The importance of the therapeutic relationship will be discussed as well as approaches and strategies that promote new rituals, new meanings, and transformative experience.

Speaker Bios:
Dr. Salvador Treviño teaches professional psychology and lectures extensively on the theories and practices of psychoanalytic psychotherapy, regressive mental states, and Latino behavioral health. Drawing on his scholarship of more than 40 years of community work with Latino immigrants, Dr. Treviño is active in furthering the national conversation on cultural diversity, the impact of historical trauma on Latino mental health, the psychology of racism, and matters of social justice from a psychoanalytic perspective. Dr. Treviño teaches, trains, and supervises psychology doctoral students at Antioch University Santa Barbara. Dr. Treviño is the Executive Director of G-CAPS. He is licensed as a psychologist (PSY25108) and marriage and family therapist (LMFT21937) in the State of California.
Dr. Darice Orobitg is a Clinical Psychologist. She obtained a BA from Washington University in St. Louis and completed her PhD at Carlos Albizu University in San Juan, PR. Dr. Orobitg worked at the PR Rape Crisis Center where, she was a therapist for children, adolescents, and adult survivors of sexual violence. At the PRRCC she was also a clinical supervisor and coordinator of clinical services. She later worked at the National Hispanic and Latino ATTC as trainer and TA consultant offering training and TA to clinicians, counselors, social workers, and other professionals offering services to Hispanic and Latino populations with SUDs. Dr. Orobitg was also a clinical consultant at Proyecto Mujer- a gender-specific treatment program for Latinas with SUDs and trauma histories. Darice is currently the Training and Content Specialist for the National Hispanic and Latino Mental Health Technology Transfer Center. She has been in private practice since 2005.

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**Understanding Grief and Loss**

Kenneth Doka, PhD

**LEARNING TRACK:** Grief Sensitivity

**Session Description:**
This session will define and discuss the process of grief, noting both grief manifestations and the process of grief. Dr. Doka will further explore some of the new theoretical models such as the tasks of grief and the dual process of grief as well as some of the new insights developed in current research such as continuing bonds and grieving styles.

**Speaker Bio:**
Dr. Kenneth J. Doka is a Professor Emeritus, The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America. Dr. Doka has extensive experience in the area of grief, is a prolific author and speaker, providing keynoted addresses internationally. Dr. Doka participates in the annual Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference and has appeared on CNN and Nightline. In addition he has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, funeral service and hospice organizations as well as businesses and educational and social service agencies. Dr. Doka was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 1993. In 1995, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and served as chair from 1997-1999. The Association for Death Education and Counseling presented him with an Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education in 1998 and Significant Contributions to the Field of Thanatology in 2014. In 2000 Scott and White presented him an award for Outstanding Contributions to Thanatology and Hospice. His Alma Mater Concordia College presented him with their first Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a recipient of the Caring Hands Award as well as the Dr. Robert Fulton CDEB Founder’s Award. In 2006, Dr. Doka was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under NY State’s first licensure of counselors.

Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister. [www.drkendoka.com](http://www.drkendoka.com)
Session 4: 12:15-1:45pm PT/ 1:15-2:45pm MT/ 2:15-3:45pm CT/ 3:15-4:45pm ET

Preparing the School Mental Health Workforce to Be Ready for Stress and Loss
Kerry Doyle, LICSW & Lisa Wobbe-Veit

LEARNING TRACK: School Mental Health

Session Description:
The current school landscape is experiencing overwhelming psychosocial needs of students, caregivers who are uncertain how to support youth, and school systems struggling to develop a responsive plan. COVID-19 has only served to exacerbate symptoms of trauma, grief, and loss. In fact, COVID has created an environment in which there are “pre-conditions” to trauma. This session will provide an overview for school mental health professionals on how they can leverage their own resources to support students, families, and communities during these trying times. Inspired by two theoretical frameworks, the Ecobio developmental and the Attachment Regulation and Competency (ARC) models, the session will promote a strengths based approach recognizing the neurobiological impact of stress on the brain, its impact on learning, and its influence on future outcomes. Discussions will revolve around effective communication and psychoeducation strategies to enhance students’ distress tolerance, support caregivers, and empower school personnel to develop creative support solutions.

Speaker Bios:
Kerry Doyle, LICSW, RYT-200 is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. Her practice experience includes mental health clinical social work in the K-12 school and private practice settings. She co-developed a School Social Work Field Training (SSWFT) program with a trauma focus lens that trains school social work students on topics such as trauma-informed schools, trauma sensitive mindfulness, supporting the grieving student, and working with communities around trauma and grief.

Lisa Wobbe-Veit is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California (USC) Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. Wobbe-Veit’s more than two decades of experience covers a wide range of needs, including individual, family and group therapy in school, hospital and outpatient settings. Her passion for working with trauma exposed youth led to clinical services roles as a Medical Social Worker, Outpatient Therapist, School Social Worker, Behavioral Specialist and School Based Consultant. Wobbe-Veit has participated in trauma response work within her various positions. As a Parkland resident, she serves as a Broward County Public Schools recovery consultant following the tragic mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Are You the Therapist a Grieving Client Wants to Meet?
Jill Johnson-Young, LCSW

LEARNING TRACK: Evidence-Based & Culturally Defined Practices

Session Description:
The research about grief responses by those served by hospice at the end of a loved one’s life is pretty clear—survivors, particularly the primary survivor, aren’t open to support from that resource for grief if their attempts to voice emotional needs were met with medical solutions during the dying process. Those who felt they were not well prepared for a death are even less open to hospice based grief services. Survivors who are questioning their faith following the death of a loved one are not best served by a faith based group or provider- it’s just not a good fit in that moment. As a therapist, who are you likely to refer to as a source of grief support? The vast majority of programs belong to one of those two groups. That leaves us, the clinicians, to do this right. To know which survivors do best, who is most at risk, and in COVID, how previous survivors of mass losses found resilience and recovery. We have the research. Why do we keep going back to five stages? How do you meet your grief client in the room, speak their language, not say the wrong thing, and create an environment with words and space to promote healing?
Speaker Bio:
Jill Johnson-Young is a dynamic and engaging local, national, and international speaker who loves teaching both professional and community groups about dementia, death and dying, and grief and loss. She co-owns Central Counseling Services in Riverside, California, where she is also a clinical therapist and practices as a certified Grief Recovery Facilitator. Jill has authored three children’s grief books and an adult grief workbook with more in process, and created www.yourpaththroughgrief.com, a year-long, comprehensive grief support program. She also has a website with resources for therapists, www.jilljohnson-young.com, which includes resources for therapists.

Collective Care in the Workplace
Carla Fernandez, Iana Malcom, & Justin Thongsavanh, MPA
LEARNING TRACK: Grief Sensitivity

Session Description:
This two-part series will share learnings from The Dinner Party, a nation-wide movement turning loss from an isolating experience to one marked by community support, candid conversation, and forward motion. This session will take you through the basic principles of a grief-sensitive workplace, including cultivating a culture of peer support and re-engaging struggling employees. For more information, visit www.thedinnerparty.org/atwork.

Speaker Bios:
Carla Fernandez, Co-Founder, The Dinner Party
Fernandez is the co-founder of the award winning The Dinner Party, which houses Grief At Work. The family dinner table is sacred ground in the Fernandez family - so when her dad passed away of brain cancer, coming back to the table was a natural way for her to connect with others and unpack the experience of life after loss. She is also on the founding team of enso, a mission-driven creative agency working with brands such as Google, Khan Academy, and Nature Conservancy on their impact campaigns. She is an NYU Social Entrepreneurship Fellow, and Senior Fellow at the USC Annenberg School of Communications Innovation Lab.

Iana Malcom is a community manager & BIPOC lead. At 27, and after 7 years of being her Caregiver, she lost her mother to Breast Cancer. At 31 years old, she lost her father to Brain Cancer. Since then she has dedicated her life to the support of Caregivers and all those managing life after loss. Outside of her work as a Community Manager for The Dinner Party, she is a birth and death Doula, Yoga and Meditation teacher, and leads Wellness retreats worldwide with her company Bliss Out Retreats.

Justin Thongsavanh, MPA is a community manager for The Dinner Party. Throughout his career, he has worked for a variety of nonprofits and municipalities focusing on the development and implementation of programs for youth. Prior to joining The Dinner Party, he worked for one of the nation’s largest bereavement camps, developing programs and raising funds for children and teens who experienced the loss of a parent or sibling. After the death of his own father at the age of 12, he felt isolated and alone. As an adult he has made it his mission to not only find a community for himself, but to also help create a community for folks who have experienced loss and subsequent adversities. He holds a B.A. in Liberal Studies, a Certificate in Non-Profit Management, and a Master’s in Public Administration all from California State University, Long Beach.
Closing Session: 1:50-2:45pm PT/ 2:50-3:45pm MT/ 3:50-4:45 CT/ 4:50-5:45pm ET

Listening & Loving: A Conversation with Youth Leaders about Grief and Healing
Latrinity Gulley, Monica Tello, Carizma Hughes, & Marissa Snoddy, LMFT

LEARNING TRACK: All

Session Description:
Join youth leaders from the RYSE Youth Center, a community based organization founded by young people and their adult allies who were experiencing- and still are- violence, loss, homicides, and trauma. Together, RYSE youth and staff created a home agency to address the emotional, mental and political health of youth that centers healing, agency, leadership, and dignity. The MHTTC GSVLI is honored to have RYSE youth sit with one another in a conversation-for them and by them- on what it looks, sounds, and feels like to not only survive grief, but to thrive in its wake. In sharing their experiences and stories, our conference ends with those we serve.

Speaker Bios:
Latrinity Gulley has been a RYSE member since 2018 and is currently a student at Contra Costa College studying Psychology. She has been a part of the Community Leadership Institute (CLI), which is a program that teaches young leaders grassroots organizing. With CLI, she volunteered at various community organizations, including Safe Return. While working to clean up community parks and trails, she simultaneously started the first-ever Black Student Union at her high school. Mental health is essential to Latrinity because of her own struggles and having someone to talk to about what she is going through has been crucial to her healing process. When she gets her degree, she hopes that she will be able to be there for people who too struggle with mental health.

Monica Tello has been a RYSE member since 2018 and is currently a student at Contra Costa College, exploring her career options, with plans to transfer to a university. While in high school, she spent a year volunteering at an animal shelter. Mental health is important to Monica because when she first started coming to RYSE she was going through the “worst year of her life” and having someone to talk to was essential for her to keep pushing and moving forward. “I believe everyone deserves that opportunity.”

Carizma Hughes has been a RYSE member since 2016 and is currently a student at Los Medanos College with plans to transfer to a university to study Elementary Education. She has been a mentor for Project WHAT!, a youth-led program that helps children of incarcerated parents build community by sharing their experiences through storytelling and creative work. She has also facilitated several groups to develop best practices in serving children of incarcerated parents.

Marissa Snoddy is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and the Clinical Director at RYSE Center in Richmond, CA where she leads and provides trauma-informed, culturally relevant, youth and healing-centered therapeutic and integrative supports and programs for young people. She believes healing is essential to liberation, therefore mental health systems must be transformed to be racially just, affirming, and accessible. In addition to her work at RYSE, Marissa Snoddy is an adjunct faculty at the California Institute of Integral Studies in the MA in Counseling Psychology-Drama Therapy program.
**Breakout Discussion Sessions-Optional**

On both Day 1 & 2, we offer three breakout discussion sessions for you to meet other Institute participants, share and reflect on your learnings from the main sessions, and have an opportunity to make meaning of your experience thus far.

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<td>11:45-12:30pm PT / 12:45pm-1:30 MT / 1:45-2:30 CT / 2:45-2:30pm ET</td>
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You have three options for each breakout discussion session: you can join the School Mental Health breakout discussion session, the Evidence Based & Culturally Defined Practices breakout discussion session, or the Grief Sensitivity breakout discussion session.

You do not have had to participate in the track’s main session to participate in the matching breakout. For example, you are more than welcome to attend Grief Sensitivity main sessions and join the School Mental Health breakout discussion sessions.

The breakout discussion sessions will be facilitated by MHTTC staff and will include small group discussions; we highly encourage you to be on video and audio for these sessions.

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**Contact Information**


Looking for additional grief resources?
Visit our webpage: [Responding to COVID-19 | Grief, Loss, and Bereavement](#)

Questions? Contact the MHTTC Network Coordinating Office at networkoffice@mhttcnetwork.org

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**MHTTC**

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration