

Grief Sensitivity
Virtual Learning
Institute

November 1 & 2, 2023

A TWO-DAY, NO-COST,
TRAINING EXPERIENCE
FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MENTAL
HEALTH WORKFORCE

ABOUT GSVLI

Welcome to our MHTTC Network's two-day institute, a no-cost, virtual learning space designed for providers and professionals (general mental health and school mental health) supporting individuals and communities experiencing grief and loss.

This year's theme is "*Working with grief in the context of violence: Strengthening our skills to strengthen ourselves.*"

WHO?

GSVLI is 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 attend either day and any session no matter your role to support your interests and learning. The populations you serve may be discussed across each Institute day, settings, and sessions.

WHEN?

Wednesday, November 1, 2023: General Mental Health Workforce Sessions, with a [special focus on gender-based violence, institutional violence, community violence & grief](#)

Thursday, November 2, 2023: School Mental Health Workforce Sessions, with a [special focus on school violence \(prevention, intervention and postvention\) & grief](#)

HOW?

Both days of the GSVLI will be rich with faculty who will offer grounding and foundations for grief sensitivity for the mental health or school mental health workforces and its intersection with violence. Faculty will share where we have been as a field, where we are now, and where we are going (new research, findings, and learnings to impact our practice).

Each day will begin with a grounding keynote, followed by two panels to deepen our learning, and close with a workshop practice session.

BECOME GRIEF SENSITIVE WITH US!

9:00 am-3:00 pm PT / 10:00 am-4:00 pm MT / 11:00 am-5:00 pm CT / 12:00-6:00 pm ET each day

November 1, 2023

REGISTER NOW

November 2, 2023

REGISTER NOW

GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE: November 1, 2023

Opening & Welcome: 9:00-9:15 am PT

Keynote: 9:15-9:45 am PT

Panel 1: 10:00-11:15 am PT

Panel 2: 11:30 am-12:45 pm PT

Workshop Practice Session: 1:10-2:40 pm PT

Gratitude & Closing: 2:45-3:00 pm PT

Opening & Welcome: 9:00-9:15 am PT

Keynote: 9:15-9:45 am PT

Panel 1: 10:00-11:15 am PT

Panel 2: 1:10-2:40 pm PT

Workshop Practice Session: 1:10-2:40 pm PT

Gratitude & Closing: 2:45-3:00 pm PT

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- For each day of the Institute, each session is hosted by one single Zoom link; by registering you have access to all sessions. Should you wish to attend both days, there are two separate Zoom links and you need to register for each.
- The video recording of each day will be made available on our site and on our webpage for grief, loss, and bereavement resources [here](#).
- Certificates of completion (issued for each day of the Institute) are available for participants who attend 50% or more of either day. CEUs are not available for these sessions.
- Visit [our website](#) to access additional MHTTC resources
- Questions? Contact us at networkoffice@MHTTCNetwork.org

Program Overview: Day 1, Wednesday November 1st, 2023

General Mental Health Workforce Sessions

Note: Times and speakers may be subject to change

Opening & Welcome - Grieving in the Context of Violence and Violence in the Context of Grieving MHTTC Staff	9:00-9:15am PT (view your time zone)
Keynote - When Grief meets Injustice: Moving Forward without Causing Further Harm Nelba Márquez-Greene <i>Nelba L. Márquez-Greene (This Grieving Life) explores the intersection of grief and injustice and the many systemic barriers to care that fully encompasses this space. Additionally we will discuss the core tenets of resilience, how we misapply them and how we can better understand grief resilience in our practice to support survivors and surviving.</i>	9:15am-9:45am PT (view your time zone)
Overview of Day MHTTC Staff	9:45-10am PT (view your time zone)
Panel 1: Grieving through and due to Institutional and Community Violence Anitra Warrior, Lisa Good & Mark Sanders <i>How can we support clients and the field in their grieving when we experience violence in the community? What are the special considerations we need to know and hold when addressing people and peoples who were harmed by systems and structures that were supposed to help? This panel offers us insight, invitation and inspiration to better our practices and policies.</i>	10:00-11:15am PT (view your time zone)
Break	11:15-11:30am PT (view your time zone)
Panel 2: Grieving through and due to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Jennifer Khalifa, Leontyne Evans & Lisa Zoll <i>Grief sensitivity and responsiveness to clients and communities who have experienced gender based and interpersonal violence is an often overlooked and rarely explored phenomena. This panel of IPV experts helps us strengthen our skills and understanding of this experience so that we can better support our clients whose grief should not be hidden or disenfranchised.</i>	11:30-12:45pm PT (view your time zone)
Break	12:45-1:00pm PT (view your time zone)
Workshop Practice Session: Supporting Youth, Families and Communities Grieving a Homicide Death Samantha Anthony, Uplift Center for Grieving Children <i>This presentation will discuss the ways in which we can support youth, families and communities who are grieving a homicide death. It will explore the ways in which homicide-related grief may present in youth, families and communities. It will additionally discuss the socio-emotional and socio-cultural impacts of homicide-related grief. This presentation will aim to equip supporting adults with tools, interventions and language around supporting youth, families and communities that are grieving a homicide death.</i>	1:10-2:40pm PT (view your time zone)
Gratitude & Closing MHTTC Staff <i>Coming back together, we offer gratitude for the rich learning we held during Day 1 and look ahead to Day 2 (November 2nd).</i>	2:45-3:00pm PT (view your time zone)

Program Overview: Day 2, Thursday November 2nd, 2023

School Mental Health Workforce Sessions

Note: Times and speakers may be subject to change

<p>Opening & Welcome - School Violence & Grief: Where we are now, and where do we need to go? MHTTC Staff</p>	<p>9:00-9:15am PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Keynote - Supporting Schools through Violence, Loss, and Grief: A Social Justice Perspective Tashel Bordere <i>Dr. Bordere begins our day by describing factors related to violence and loss, those that pose challenges for children and teens coping with violent loss in schools, and experiences of suffocated grief. Additionally, the presentation will address culturally resonant ways to offer support that enfranchises grief.</i></p>	<p>9:15am-9:45am PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Overview of Day MHTTC Staff</p>	<p>9:45-10am PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Panel 1: Grief Sensitive School Crisis Response Hannah West, Saun-Toy Trotter, & Tuyl Mogabgab <i>How might we apply grief sensitivity to the way we respond to crises at schools? Where is room needed for grief counseling knowledge, skills, and practice in crisis responder training and professional development? How might our crisis responses get stronger if we understand grief better? Join Hannah West, Saun Toy Trotter and Tuyl Mogabgab to explore grief sensitivity's important role in school violence prevention, intervention and postvention crises work.</i></p>	<p>10:00-11:15am PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Break</p>	<p>11:15-11:30am PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Panel 2: Unpacking the Uncomfortable - Cultural Humility's Role in Our School-Based Grief Work Canada Taylor Parker, Nicole Barnes & Samira Moosavi <i>Join three children, youth and school-based grief professionals from across the country to discuss grief sensitivity's role in helping schools navigate immigration violence (e.g., across the U.S.-Mexico border), Black grief in schools (e.g. culturally responsive suicide postvention work for Black youth and families), healing from community-based violence (e.g., helping schools grieve post-George Floyd's death in Minneapolis), and more.</i></p>	<p>11:30-12:45pm PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Break</p>	<p>12:45-1:00pm PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Workshop Practice Session: Growing through Grief: Understanding and Supporting Students Exposed to Loss Marisa Nowitz and Oscar Widales-Benitez, Trauma and Grief Center at the Hackett Center for Mental Health <i>In this interactive workshop, Marisa Nowitz and Oscar Widales-Benitez explore how mental health clinicians can best support youth who have experienced loss due to violence. The training will also include case study applications, a specific exploration of LGBTQ youth grief, grief cultural humility with a special focus on Spanish-speaking school members who have immigrant narratives, and an opportunity to discuss the "cost of caring" and strategies to promote mental health clinicians' resilience.</i></p>	<p>1:10-2:40pm PT (view your time zone)</p>
<p>Gratitude & Closing MHTTC Staff <i>Coming back together, we offer gratitude for the rich learning we held during Day 1 and Day 2.</i></p>	<p>2:45-3:00pm PT (view your time zone)</p>

WELCOME TO GSVLI 2023!

Both days of the GSVLI will be rich with faculty who will offer grounding and foundations for grief sensitivity for the mental health or school mental health workforces and its intersection with violence. These faculty will share where we have been as a field, where we are now, and where we are going (new research, findings, and learnings to impact our practice).

Each day will begin with a grounding keynote, followed by two panels to deepen our learning, and close with a workshop practice session.

Accessing Sessions: You can attend either day and any session no matter your role to support your interests and learning. The populations you serve may be discussed across each Institute day, settings, and sessions.

We hope you will join as many sessions as possible. This brochure provides descriptions of each session, their time slot, and date.

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.

Please note: Speaker lineup and session times are subject to change.

Wednesday, November 1, 2023: General Mental Health

Special focus on gender-based violence, institutional violence, community violence and grief.

Opening & Welcome: 9-9:15 am PT / 10-10:15 am MT / 11-11:15 am CT / 12-12:15 pm ET

Grieving in the Context of Violence and Violence in the Context of Grieving

MHTTC Staff

Keynote: 9:15-9:45 am PT / 10:15-10:45 am MT / 11:15-11:45 am CT / 12:15-12:45 pm ET

Keynote - When Grief Meets Injustice: Moving Forward Without Causing Further Harm

Nelba Márquez-Greene, LMFT

This presentation explores the intersection of grief and injustice and the many systemic barriers to care that fully encompasses this space. Additionally we will discuss the core tenants of resilience, how we misapply them and how we can better understand grief resilience in our practice to support survivors and surviving.



Speaker Bio:

Nelba L. Márquez-Greene holds a Bachelor of Music from the Hartt School and a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Joseph College. Nelba taught and supervised at the Family Therapy program at the University of Winnipeg's Aurora Family Therapy Centre and later worked as the Coordinator for Klingberg Family Therapy Center's outpatient child and adolescent psychiatric clinic. She also served as adjunct faculty at Central Connecticut State University.

Nelba founded the CTAMFT (Connecticut Association for Marriage and Family Therapy) Diversity Committee and served on the CTAMFT Board of Directors. For her advocacy, she received the 2004 Minority Fellowship Award by the AAMFT, the 2004 Distinguished Professional Service Award, and the 2013 Service to Families Award by the CTAMFT. In 2018, she was profiled as one of "100 Women of Color" and a YWCA (CT) Women's Leadership Award recipient. She was featured in People Magazine's October 2019 issue as one of Ten Women Changing the World and also recognized by Chelsea Clinton and Hillary Clinton in their Book of Gutsy Women.

Nelba has testified and advocated at the state and federal levels on many different mental health initiatives, hosted TEDx talks, and is a nationally sought after speaker. In the many years that have followed, stints in advocacy, public policy, community care, etc. have affirmed her core belief that in order to change the world we must take care of people. First- that grief, trauma and loss must be allowed in the room. Second- that tools, language, skills, resources and acceptance should be available to live a full, grieving life. Learn more about Nelba and her work: <https://www.thisgrievinglife.com/>

Panel 1: 10-11:15 am PT / 11-12:15 pm MT / 12-1:15 pm CT / 1-2:15 pm ET

Grieving Through and Due to Institutional and Community Violence

Lisa Good, MSW; Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC; Anita Warrior, PhD

How can we support clients and the field grieve when we experience violence in the community? What are the special considerations we need to know and hold when addressing people and peoples who were harmed by systems and structures that were supposed to help? This panel offers us insight, invitation and inspiration to better our practices and policies.



Speaker Bio:

Lisa Good a nationally recognized Grief and Trauma Recovery Strategist, has helped countless individuals, organizations and communities respond to the devastating impact of violence-related trauma, grief, and loss. As the Founder and Director of Urban Grief, an organization that serves urban neighborhoods, Lisa has empowered community leaders and residents with the resources needed to address these difficult challenges.

In this capacity, Lisa has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about the disastrous effects of community violence, death and loss through community education, crisis response, victim advocacy and grief support. She also counsels and mentor survivors on their journey to heal. In her practice as a social worker with a Master's degree in Social Work from the State University of New York, Lisa has used her keen insights about violence-related trauma, grief, and loss to facilitate the healing process and improve her clients' well-being. And, through her compassionate and authentic counseling, she has helped many individuals successfully overcome their battles.

A woman with many achievements, Lisa has been recognized by many prestigious organizations as a champion in the fight to end gun violence in communities. She is also a recipient of the WERCing Women of Achievement Award, NAACP Frontline Community Service Award and Albany City's Women's History Leadership Award for Community Violence and Trauma Awareness. Continuing her steadfast commitment to eradicating violence, Lisa is actively engaged in breaking down the barriers of isolation by fostering connection and collective strength of their community resources.



Speaker Bio:

Mark Sanders is an international speaker, trainer, and consultant in the behavioral health field whose work has reached thousands throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Caribbean and British Islands. Mark is the author of five books, which focus on behavioral health. Recent writings include *Slipping through the Cracks: Intervention Strategies for Clients Multiple Addictions and Disorders*, *Recovery Management: and Relationship Detox: Helping Clients Develop Healthy Relationships in Recovery*.

He has had two stories published in the New York Times best-selling books series, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Mark has been a certified addictions counselor for 34 years. He has received numerous awards including a Life Time Achievement Award from the Illinois Addiction Counselor Certification Board and the Barbara Bacon Award for outstanding contributions to the Social Work profession as a Loyola University of Chicago Alumni.

Mark is co-founder of Serenity Academy of Chicago, the only recovery high school in Illinois. He is past president of the board of the Illinois Chapter of NAADAC. He has had a 30 year career as a university educator having taught at the University of Chicago, Illinois State University, Illinois School of Professional Psychology, and Loyola University of Chicago, School of Social Work.



Speaker Bio:

Anitra Warrior is the owner of Morningstar Counseling and Consultation in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is from the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma. She earned her Ph.D. in counseling psychology in 2015 and has operated her clinic since 2012. Since receiving her PhD, Dr. Warrior has established four additional clinics that are now located throughout eastern Nebraska.

Morningstar offers counseling on two college campuses, as well as in schools, communities, and other integrated care locations with the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska. Clinic sites are based on reservations and in rural and urban settings. Dr. Warrior specializes in treating trauma in children through the utilization of evidenced based practices that have been adapted to the American Indian population. Most recently, Morningstar has become a training site for doctoral candidates with the Munroe-Meyer Institute. This track will focus on integrated care on the reservation as well as provide additional clinical training opportunities in schools, colleges, and in the tribal communities.

Panel 2: 11:30 am-12:45 pm PT / 12:30-1:45 pm MT / 1:30-2:45 pm CT / 2:30-3:45 pm ET

Grieving Through and Due to Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Interpersonal Violence (IPV)

Leontyne Evans, PLMHP, PLADC, MFT; Jennifer Khalifa, MSW, CHES; Lisa Zoll, LCSW

Grief sensitivity and responsiveness to clients and communities who have experienced gender based and interpersonal violence is an often overlooked and rarely explored phenomena. This panel of IPV experts helps us strengthen our skills and understanding of this experience so that we can better support our clients whose grief should not be hidden or disenfranchised.



Speaker Bio:

Leontyne Evans Leontyne Evans is a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who currently resides in Omaha, NE. She has made a name for herself by turning her pain into her purpose. After graduating from Bellevue University with a degree in Psychology and Behavioral Science, Leontyne began living out her passion by becoming a Domestic Violence Intervention Specialist, Trained Mediator, Life Coach specializing in healthy relationships, and Author.

She continued her education, graduating with a masters in clinical counseling, adding licensed therapist to her resume. She devotes her time to helping Survivors repair their hearts by facilitating groups and hosting events to encourage individuals to find happiness within themselves and practice self-love!

Leontyne currently owns and operates The Relationship Corner, a therapeutic collaborative where she specializes in marriage and family therapy. She is a published Author of three books, "Princeton Pike Road", "Relationships, Friendships, and Situationships-90 days of Inspiration to Keep Your Ships From Sinking", and a fiction novel, "Addicktion" which all explore the impact trauma can have on one's ability to build and maintain healthy relationships. Leontyne is also a nationally recognized author for her publications in Counseling Today. She has appeared on the front page of The Omaha World-Herald, and has shared her story with various news outlets such as KETV, KMTV, and USA today. She is the 2020 recipient of the Midlands Business Journal's 40 under 40 award, 2021 recipient of the Ten Young Outstanding Omahans award, and the 2022 recipient of the Urban League of Nebraska Change maker award.



Speaker Bio:

Jennifer Khalifa is a dedicated professional with a Master of Social Work degree from Boston University, coupled with certification as a Health Education Specialist (CHES). Over a span of 15 years, she has showcased her passion and expertise by developing, leading, and implementing impactful local and national programs focused on the prevention of intimate partner violence (IPV) and grief support.

At the core of Jennifer's career is a commitment to social welfare and effecting meaningful systems change. Her dedication is evident in her relentless pursuit of educating and empowering disadvantaged communities and victims of violence, as well as individuals grappling with grief. Jennifer's contributions have been instrumental in the establishment and expansion of "Healthy Emotions and Attitudes in Relationships Today" (H.E.A.R.T.), an influential teen dating violence prevention program.

In addition to H.E.A.R.T., she has successfully developed various other prevention programs addressing critical issues such as intimate partner violence, inclusivity, healthy masculinity, and restorative justice practices, all while integrating support for those experiencing grief. Recognized as an authority in the field of intimate partner violence and grief support, Jennifer has been featured as a guest expert on notable platforms such as "The Doctors" and talk radio. Her insights and expertise have also been acknowledged by prestigious publications including The Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register. Beyond media appearances, Jennifer is a highly sought-after guest lecturer in high schools, colleges, and universities, as well as a featured speaker at national conferences. Through her tireless efforts, Jennifer continues to make a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals and communities, advocating for a safer, empathetic, and supportive society for those affected by intimate partner violence and grief.



Speaker Bio:

Lisa Zoll graduated with her MSW from Temple University, Harrisburg in 2003. Lisa's experience includes 12 years as a Clinical Psychiatric Specialist at the Penn State University Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, working in the Adult Partial Hospitalization Program and Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic. In 2008, Lisa began teaching Loss & Grief as an Adjunct Instructor in the Master of Social Work at Temple University, Harrisburg.

In 2014 she was appointed as a full-time faculty instructor where she taught courses across the curriculum until the closure of the program. Her experience as a volunteer firefighter and EMT at Camp Hill Fire Department, Company 14 led her to become a trainer and volunteer for the Keystone Crisis Intervention Team (KCIT) and to join with the On the Job and Off's First Responder Assistance Program to provide mental health services to first responders. Lisa founded "Grief Relief, LLC" in 2019 and specializes in helping clients challenged by loss, grief, and trauma. She has published several articles and has spoken on the local, state, and national level about loss and grief and how they can impact individuals, families, communities, and organizations. She completed EMDR training in January 2022.

Workshop Practice Session:

1:10-2:40 pm PT / 2:10-3:40 pm MT / 3:10-4:40 pm CT / 4:10-5:40 pm ET

Workshop 1: Supporting Youth, Families and Communities Grieving a Homicide Death

Samantha Anthony, MS, LPC

This workshop explores the ways in which we can support youth, families and communities who are grieving a homicide death: the ways in which homicide related grief may present in youth, families and communities and the socio-emotional and socio-cultural impacts of homicide related grief. Through this interactive workshop, we hope to equip supporting adults with tools, interventions and language around supporting youth, families and communities that are grieving a homicide death.



Speaker Bio:

Samantha Anthony (MS, LPC) is a grief clinician who operates out of Uplift Center for Grieving Children in Philadelphia. She has lived in the USA for 14 years after immigrating from Malawi. She has an M.S in Clinical Child Psychology and a vested interest in the interconnected areas of childhood mental health, with special focus on grief, trauma, social justice, and education.

Gratitude & Closing: 2:45-3:00 pm PT / 3:45-4:00 pm MT / 4:45-5:00 pm CT / 5:45-6:00 pm ET

Coming back together, we offer gratitude for the rich learning we held during Day 1 and look ahead to Day 2 (November 2nd).

Thursday, November 2, 2023: School Mental Health

Special focus on school violence (prevention, intervention and postvention) and grief.

Opening & Welcome: 9-9:15 am PT / 10-10:15 am MT / 11-11:15 am CT / 12-12:15 pm ET

School Violence & Grief: Where are now, and Where Do We Need to Go?

MHTTC Staff

Keynote: 9:15-9:45 am PT / 10:15-10:45 am MT / 11:15-11:45 am CT / 12:15-12:45 pm ET

Keynote - Social Justice in School Loss, Grief & Violence

Tashel Bordere, PhD, FT

This presentation will describe factors related to violence and loss. We will discuss factors that pose challenges for children and teens coping with violent loss in schools and experiences of suffocated grief. Additionally, the presentation will address culturally resonant ways to offer support that enfranchises grief.



Speaker Bio:

Tashel Bordere is an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science and State Extension Specialist in Youth Development at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She currently serves as Board Member of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Board Member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, and Advisory Council Member of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

She has specialized education and training as a Certified Thanatologist (Death, Dying, and Grief). She has served as Editor of the ADEC Forum publication. Dr. Bordere's research program assumes a contextual approach focusing on trauma, loss (homicide loss, assaultive violence – sexual assault), suffocated grief and Black youth and family bereavement. She studies cultural practices that promote healing and survival. Dr. Bordere has done numerous workshops, consultations, keynotes, and published research relating to social inequities and culturally responsive practices in loss including her co-edited/co-authored book, *Handbook of Social Justice in Loss and Grief* (Routledge). She recently completed a Forward Promise Fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focusing on the promotion of healing, growth, and thriving among boys and young men of color. Dr. Bordere has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the Ronald K. Barrett Award (2018) from the Association of Death Education and Counseling for research on Black adolescent and young adult grief, 2022 Excellence in Engagement in Outreach Award at the University of Missouri, and the CASE Award for outstanding faculty mentorship to underrepresented college students. She has been featured in multiple media outlets including USA Today, New York Times, Legacy.Com, Psychology Today, Houston Chronicle, Philadelphia Inquirer, NPR (WPSU Take Note), on national and international podcasts (Grief Outloud – Dougy Center), and webcasts (National Alliance for Grieving Children), and the Open to Hope Cable Show – Saving At Risk Youth. Dr. Bordere developed the S.H.E.D. Loss and Grief Tools Training.

Panel 1: 10-11:15 am PT / 11-12:15 pm MT / 12-1:15 pm CT / 1-2:15 pm ET

Grief Sensitive School Crisis Response

Tuyl Mogabgab, LCSW-BACS, MPH; Saun-Toy Latifa Trotter, MA; Hannah West, PhD, LP, BCBA

How might we apply grief sensitivity to the way we respond to crises at schools? Where is there needed room for grief counseling knowledge, skills, and practice in crisis responder training and professional development? How might our crisis responses get stronger if we understand grief better? Join Hannah West, Saun Toy Trotter and Tuyl Mogabgab to explore grief sensitivity's important role in school violence prevention, intervention and postvention when we are holding crises.



Speaker Bio:

Tuyl Mogabgab was trained as a Crisis Intervention Specialist (CIS) in 2005, offered crisis support in Louisiana following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and received her Certificate in Disaster Mental Health from Tulane University in 2010. She has been certified as a School Suicide Prevention Specialist by the American Association of Suicidology since 2015 and has trained over 5,000 mental health professionals, administrators, school staff, parents, and students in suicide prevention since that time.

Tuyl was the Director of Suicide Prevention Programming at Project Fleur-de-lis in New Orleans and Director of Restorative Practices. During that time, Tuyl blended crisis support and suicide prevention programming with restorative, trauma-informed and grief-informed practices by incorporating the use of Circle in school crisis response and ongoing support. She trained school mental health professionals in holding Circles to support their staff amidst the ongoing traumatic stress and ongoing traumatic grief that emerged during and after the pandemic. Tuyl has held over 100 circles over the last three years and over 50 virtual circles with school-based clinicians and healthcare professionals across the nation. In July 2023, Tuyl relocated with her family to Colorado and is currently serving as the School Social Worker at Salida Montessori Charter School.



Speaker Bio:

Saun-Toy Latifa Trotter is a healer. She is the Manager of School Based Behavioral Health programs at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and a Trauma Informed Systems trainer and Coach. She brings over twenty years of experience providing behavioral health services to adolescents and families, including 14 years of practice at school based health centers.

She serves on the board of the National School Based Health Alliance. Saun-Toy is committed to culturally responsive, trauma and resilience informed practices that foster individual, organizational and community wellness.



Speaker Bio:

Hannah West is a regional trainer for the Mid-America MHTTC and behavioral health provider at Sunflower Pediatric Behavioral Health in Shawnee, Kansas. Dr. West believes all people have the right to be the best versions of themselves, and she has experience in providing evidence-based psychological assessment and therapy services to children and adolescents utilizing primarily cognitive behavioral and behavioral approaches.

Dr. West is passionate about assisting schools and districts at the systems level through consultation and coaching to match student academic, behavioral and mental health needs with resources available through the development of multi-tiered systems of support. She is also passionate about working with schools to implement best-practice prevention, intervention, and postvention supports related to school crises. As part of this work, Dr. West is an advocate for screening and referral procedures that identify students and educators who may be experiencing complicated reactions to crisis events and grief. She provides training and consultation regarding best practices in intervention, as well as in educator well-being and mental health literacy to better support those who support others.

Panel 2: 11:30 am-12:45 pm PT / 12:30-1:45 pm MT / 1:30-2:45 pm CT / 2:30-3:45 pm ET

Unpacking the Uncomfortable - Cultural Humility's Role in Our School-Based Grief Work

Nicole Barnes, LICSW; Samira Moosavi, CCLS; Canada Taylor Parker, CFSP, EOLD

Our school cultures are diverse and the way our students, families and staff grieve are, too. Our schools are embedded in socio-cultural and political contexts, and the way our students, families and staff grieve are, too. Join three children, youth and school-based grief professionals from across the country to discuss grief sensitivity's role in helping schools navigate immigration violence (e.g., across the U.S.-Mexico border), Black grief in schools (e.g. culturally responsive suicide postvention work for Black youth and families), healing from community based violence (e.g., helping schools grieve post-George Floyd's death in Minneapolis) and more.



Speaker Bio:

Nicole Barnes is the Program Manager for the Park Nicollet Foundation [Growing Through Grief Program](#). Growing Through Grief is a school-based grief support program providing peer support groups, individual counseling, and death related crisis support across 16 school districts in the Twin Cities and Western Wisconsin area.

Nicole is a 16 year employee of the Park Nicollet Health Care system with a background in Social Work and NonProfit Administration. She finds joy in leading projects that build healthy and strong partnerships between the healthcare system and community.

**Speaker Bio:**

Samira Moosavi is psychosocial professional within the field of childhood bereavement. Throughout her professional career, she has overseen children's grief support programming providing peer-based grief support groups, school-based programming, and weekend grief camps. Trained as a Certified Child Life Specialist, Samira has over a decade of experience working with children and families in healthcare settings and in the community.

She strives to create safe spaces to explore grief, share stories and support coping. Offering training to a range of professionals within local and national communities on childhood bereavement and how to support children who are grieving is one of her great passions.

**Speaker Bio:**

Canada Taylor Parker is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Postvention Response Lead, Multnomah County Health Department/5 Oak Portland, OR. Since 2005 Canada has worked in behavioral health care serving youth and adults, with 6 years focused in deathcare, helping families navigate grief, loss, and trauma, amidst crisis.

Relational, restorative, and transformative approaches are key underpinnings to Canada's holistic, integrative philosophy to creating change and healing for all. Currently she is the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the Multnomah County Health Department and serves as Postvention Lead for her county. Canada was honored with the Trillium Health Mental Health Hero award in 2021 for her work in grief and suicide prevention. Additionally, Canada is a Certified Funeral Celebrant, Death Doula, and Psychological Autopsy Investigator. Grounding spaces in humor, authenticity, and vulnerability are essential to Canada's professional and personal life, and especially her work in suicide prevention.

Workshop Practice Session

1:10-2:40 pm PT / 2:10-3:40 pm MT / 3:10-4:40 pm CT / 4:10-5:40 pm ET

Growing Through Grief: Understanding & Supporting Students Exposed to Loss

Marisa Nowitz, MSW, LCSW-S & Oscar Widales-Benitez, PhD
Trauma and Grief Center at the Hackett Center for Mental Health

Bereavement is a universal experience. When a child loses someone significant in their life, there can be many questions about how to best support the child who is grieving. Is there an unhealthy way to grieve? Do children grieve the same way as adults? This workshop led by Marisa Nowitz and Oscar Widales-Benitez will explore these questions and more, including how mental health clinicians can best support youth who have experienced loss due to violence. The training will also include case study applications, a specific exploration of LGBTQ youth grief, grief cultural humility with a special focus on Spanish-speaking school members who have immigrant narratives, and an opportunity to discuss the "cost of caring" and strategies to promote mental health clinicians' resilience.



Speaker Bio:

Marisa Nowitz is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Supervisor with over twenty years of clinical experience, as well as expertise in education, training, and program development. As Senior Director of School and Community Engagement at the Trauma and Grief (TAG) Center, Marisa directs the external training program and provides school and community-based trainings in a variety of mental health topics related to supporting youth exposed to trauma and loss.

In her previous role at the TAG Center, Marisa supervised a clinical team and provided evidence-based, trauma- and bereavement-focused services as part of the coordinated response efforts in the community of Santa Fe, TX following the tragic school shooting in 2018. Prior to joining the TAG Center, Marisa spent much of her career working as a clinical social worker and supervisor at MD Anderson Cancer Center, creating programming for children whose parents had cancer. Marisa completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Social Work from the University of Houston.



Speaker Bio:

Oscar Widales-Benitez is the Senior Clinical Implementation Specialist and the Trauma and Grief Center at the Hackett Center for Mental Health. A bilingual (English/Spanish) licensed psychologist and a Nationally Certified School Psychologist who has specialized in providing culturally responsive, evidence-based services for traumatized and bereaved youth.

Oscar has received specialized training in evidence-based trauma- and grief-informed assessment and intervention and is certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) as well as Trauma and Grief Component Therapy. Oscar's research interests include understanding risk and protective factors impacting the psychological functioning of traumatized and bereaved Latinx and LGBTQ+ youth, the development and validation of culturally responsive assessment and intervention services, and the intersection between culture and mental health, particularly related to acculturative stress among recent Latinx immigrants. In his role at the Trauma and Grief Center, Oscar assists with the TAG Center's response to the Uvalde tragedy, providing trainings to school- and community-based clinicians as well as educators and school staff in trauma- and grief-related topics, and expanding the TAG Center's reach to other Spanish-speaking communities. Oscar earned his BA in Mathematics from Texas A&M International University, his M.Ed. in School Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and his PhD in School Psychology from Texas A&M University. He completed his pre-doctoral internship at the University of California, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital, Los Angeles (CHLA) with an emphasis on trauma psychology (Project Heal), and a postdoctoral fellowship in outpatient psychology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Children's Medical Center Dallas.

Gratitude & Closing: 2:45-3:00 pm PT / 3:45-4:00 pm MT / 4:45-5:00 pm CT / 5:45-6:00 pm ET

Coming back together, we offer gratitude for the rich learning we held during Day 1 and Day 2.

Contact Information Visit our event page!

<https://mhttcnetwork.org/centers/global-mhttc/grief-sensitivity-virtual-learning-institute>

Thank you to the following Centers on the MHTTC Grief, Loss, and Bereavement Coordination Group:

Central East MHTTC
Mid-America MHTTC
Mountain Plains MHTTC
Northwest MHTTC
Pacific Southwest MHTTC
MHTTC Network Coordinating Office

Looking for additional grief resources?

Visit our webpage: [Grief, Loss, and Bereavement](#)

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

Thank you
for your
commitment to
getting grief
sensitive,
together.