



Tenth Annual California Conference

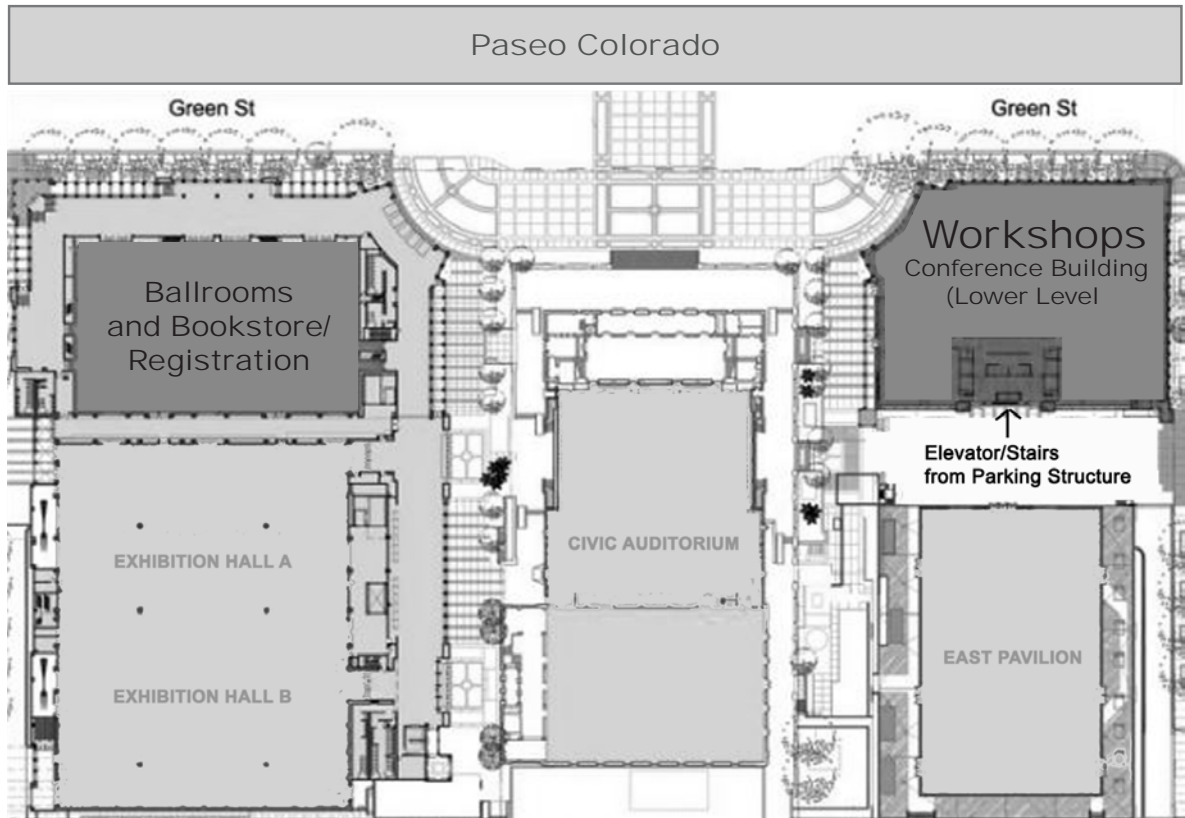
CHILDHOOD GRIEF AND TRAUMATIC LOSS

Restoring Joy to Children and Families

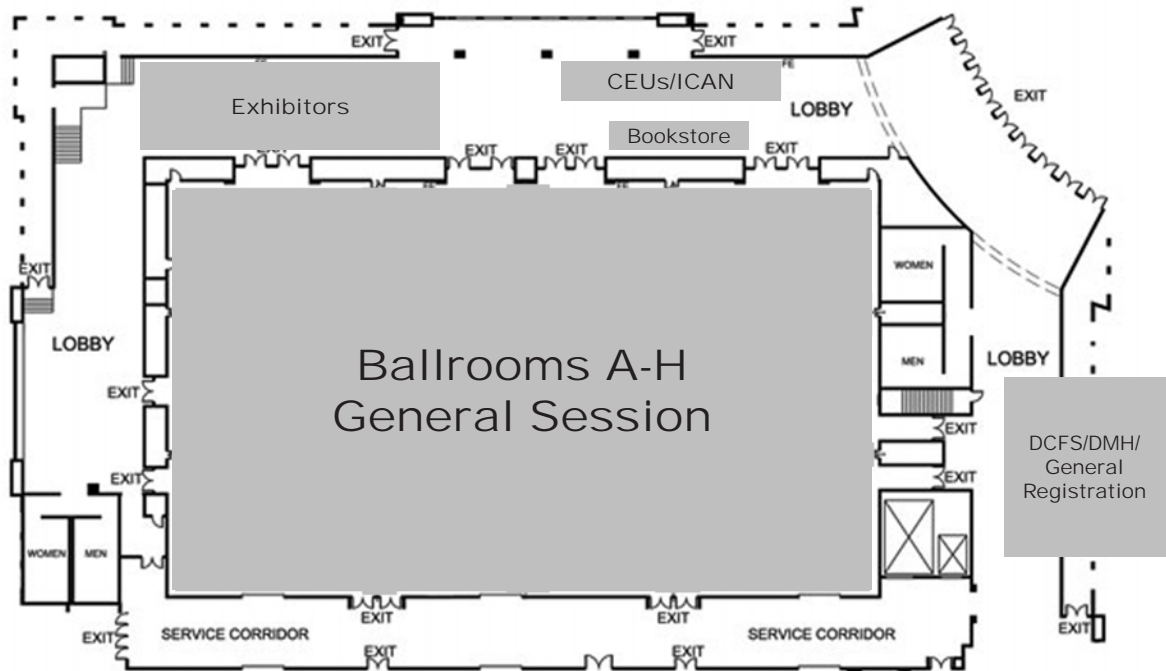
March 20, 2014

**The Pasadena Convention Center
300 East Green Street
Pasadena, CA 91101**

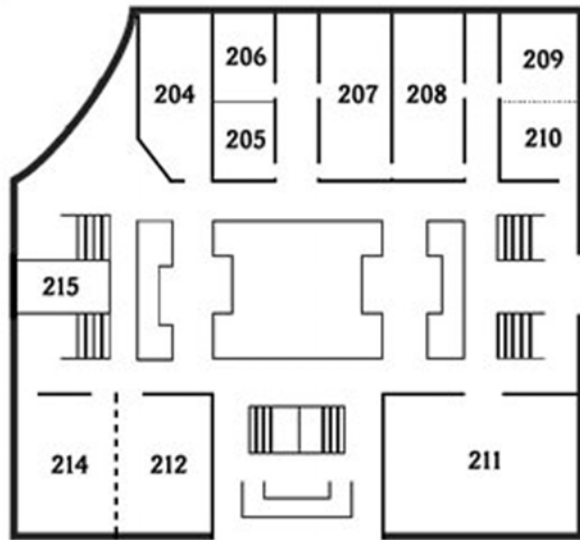
PASADENA CONVENTION CENTER GROUNDS



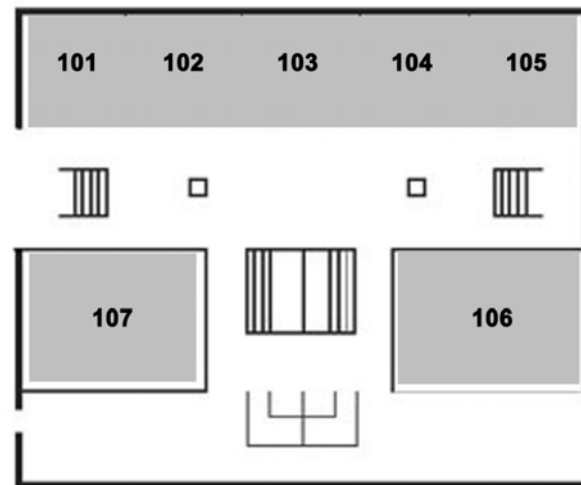
Ballroom and Exhibition Hall



Conference Rooms



Upper Level



Lower Level

Rooms

Ballroom A-H - Morning/Lunch Program

Room 101 - 1a, 2a, 3a

Room 102 - 1b, 2b, 3b

Room 103 - 1c, 3c

Room 104 - 1d, 2d, 3d

Room 105 - 2c

Room 106 - 1e, 2e, 3e

Room 107 - 1f, 2f, 3f

Bookstore Hours and Location

Ballroom Lobby Area

Hours 7:30am - 1:00pm



Welcome to our Tenth Annual Conference on Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss.

We began this conference ten years ago to improve our skills and create resources for these children and families. We were working with children who survived fatal family violence and wanted more direction on what to do.

Since our first year, treatment programs for this client population have expanded and are serving more families. Also, the spectrum of people attending the conference has grown to representatives from social services, mental health and education agencies, as well as many other departments within and outside of Los Angeles County.

Past topics have included research on the impact of grief on brain development, infant and toddler grief, survivors of fatal family violence, trauma models, suicide, staff burn out and fatigue, postpartum depression and how to talk with children about death. This year we celebrate our accomplishments with a special panel of local heroes.

In ten years, we now know more about traumatic childhood grief and we also see more clearly how much more we need to do. Some children are simply lost in our maze of agencies and services. We have no measure of our support for children with funerals, memorabilia and someone who can listen and talk to the child about death. Meanwhile, we are also learning about ourselves and what helps when we lose someone to death.

The information presented today is for children, families and other professionals who need your guidance in this area. Please help us reach these families by applying what you learn today.

Executive Committee

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director, ICAN

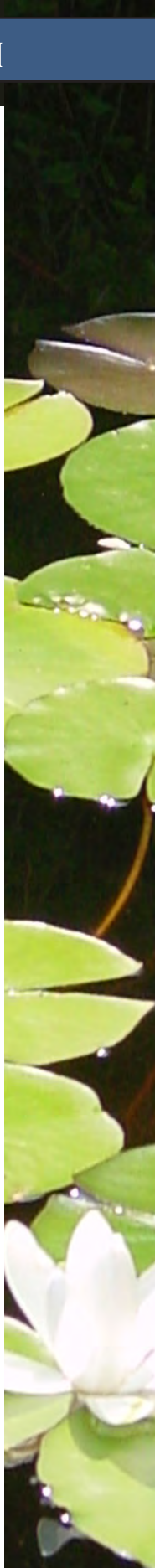
Michael Durfee, M.D., ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review

Joan Cochran, LMFT, CT, Hathaway Sycamores Center on Child Grief

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, Grossman Burn Center, West Hills Medical

Maria Elena Tomé, BA, CCLS, LAC+USC Medical Center

Lidia Escobar, LCSW, Program Administrator, ICAN





Partners

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)
Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH)

Sponsors

The Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and ICAN Associates
ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review (NCFR)
California Association for Child Life Professionals (CACLP)
National Alliance for Grieving Children

Planning Committee

Edie Shulman, Assistant Director, ICAN
Sandy DeVos, Program Administrator, ICAN
Cathy Walsh, Program Administrator, ICAN
Sabina Alvarez, Senior Secretary, ICAN
Eakita West, Administrative Assistant, ICAN
Lorraine Abasta, Senior Secretary, ICAN
Paul Click, Training Coordinator, ICAN Associates
Diana Godinez, Program Assistant, ICAN Associates
Laurence Kerr, Technical Coordinator, ICAN Associates
Kenneth Rios, Program Assistant, ICAN Associates

Special Thanks

Angelita Diaz-Akahori, Psy.D., LA County Dept. of Mental Health
Sandra Guine, Program Manager, Child and Adolescent Health Programs and Policy
Doris Lopez-Manson, CSA I, LA County Dept. of Children & Family Services

LCSWs / LMFTs

CEUs for LCSWs and LMFTs will be provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. This course is approved for 6 Continuing Education Units by the California Board of Behavioral Science Examiners (provider Number PCE 3704).

This CEU certificate (for LCSW/LMFTs) can be provided to other disciplines who require continuing education in the counseling field. Please check with your licensing bureau.

Child Life Specialists

In order to obtain PDH credit for this conference, you must provide proof of registration along with a conference program as you will need to document the content outline mandated by Child Life Council. If you registered online, your email confirmation is your proof of registration. If you registered by mail or on site, please pick up your proof of attendance at the registration table on the day of the conference.

Psychologists

This conference is co-sponsored by The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT) at Alliant International University. IVAT is approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. IVAT maintains responsibility for this continuing education program and its content. This conference is approved for up to 6.0 continuing education credits for psychologists.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

To receive CEs/CEUs, you are required to sign in and out at the CEU table, located near the registration tables.

- Sign in must be no later than 9:15 a.m.
- Sign out will be no earlier than 4:30 p.m.
- At the time of sign out, as a requirement from the accrediting agency, you will also need to return your completed signed Program Evaluation (which will be provided to you in your conference bag) to the CEU table.
- Partial Credit will not be awarded.

There Will Be No Exceptions



Opening Panel – “Local Heroes”

Today we have local heroes in the field of Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss. Through related experiences, they will provide attendees with tools to use in their personal and professional lives. They will speak about funerals, graves, memorabilia and the need for professional support.



Linda Garcia, Child Life Specialist, Grossman Burn Hospital
The importance of memorabilia and continuity with the past

Chantel Hopson, Administrator, LA County Department of Children and Family Services
Social Workers with a death on their caseload, and the need to support line staff

Michelle Post, One Legacy, a donate life organization
The importance of staff self-care and burn out prevention to sustain ourselves in service of the children who we support

Maria Tomé, Child Life Specialist, LAC + USC Medical Center
Helping a young child say good-bye to a loved one that has died

Facilitators:

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

Michael Durfee, Chief Consultant, ICAN-NCFR



7:15 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Conference Overview

Deanne Tilton Durfee, *Executive Director, Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect*

Conference Executives

Joan Cochran, *MA, CT, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, Hathaway-Sycamores*

Michael Durfee, *M.D., Chief Consultant, ICAN National Center on Child Fatality Review*

Linda Garcia, *MA, CCLS, The Grossman Burn Center, West Hills Medical*

Welcome Guests

Honorable Michael D. Antonovich, *Supervisor, Fifth District, Los Angeles Board of Supervisors*

Philip L. Browning, *Director, LA County Dept. of Children and Family Services*

Terri Boykins, *Acting Deputy Director, LA County Department of Mental Health*

Samuel Heinrichs, *Executive Vice President, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, Hathaway-Sycamores*

Honorable Michael Nash, *Presiding Judge, Dependency, LA County Superior Court*

Charles Sophy, *M.D., FACN, Medical Director, LA County Dept. of Children and Family Services*

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Local Heroes

Linda Garcia, Chantel Hopson, Michelle Post, Maria Tomé

Facilitated by Deanne Tilton Durfee and Michael Durfee

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.

WORKSHOP SESSION I

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH

Durfee Award Presentation

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

WORKSHOP SESSION II

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WORKSHOP SESSION III

1A

You Don't Have to Give 'Til It Hurts: Preventing Burnout With Mindful Meditation

101

Georgiana Lotfy, LMFT, DMIN, Marriage & Family Therapist, Private Practice

“The greatest gift we can bring to challenges is our wisdom and greatness of heart. Without it, we perpetuate the problems; with it, we can begin to transform the world...”

~ Jack Kornfield

As you witness or hear about other people's suffering and need, you become exposed to the possibility of changes in your own psychological and spiritual well being. Irritability, exhaustion, isolation, difficulty relaxing, impatience with others and feelings of hopeless and helplessness can overpower us as we attempt to transform the world in our work. Our responsibility to help the suffering and sadness of traumatized children and families has the power to change the way that you see yourself, the world, and what matters to you. This workshop provides definition of Burnout, gives guidelines and framework of prevention and provides a safe place of healing. There will be a multimedia presentation, interactive small group discussion, Burnout Prevention and guidelines, and Guided Imagery of Mindful Meditation, complete with soothing music and instruction in mindful meditation.

1B

A Closer Glance of Effective Bereavement Practices

102

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS

Maria Tomé, BA, CCLS

When children and youth experience the loss of a loved one, it is a time of sadness and often confusion. Grieving that loss requires one to reestablish their role and go on living without that person who died. Children and youth struggle to find meaning and need support from family, friends, and sometimes professionals. How children are supported during this difficult time can have impact on their emotional growth and ability to move on. Caregivers including parents, relatives, teachers, and other professionals who work with children have a tremendous responsibility when providing bereavement support. This workshop will provide tools and resources to support children and youth.

1C

Thinking Inside the Box: Why and How to Involve Children in Mourning Rituals

103

Lauren Schneider, LCSW, Clinical Director of Children's Program, Our House Grief Support Center

The course of a child's mourning process can proceed smoothly when they are given the proper support from the onset. The child's ability to grieve requires an understanding of what happened to the body at the time of the death and afterwards. Inclusion in mourning rituals can offer both the support and information the child needs at this juncture. In this workshop the participants will learn why, how and when to include children in mourning rituals including viewings, funerals and memorials. Language to use when explaining death, funerals and cremation along with suggestions of interactive ways that children can participate will be shared.

Session I -- 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

1D

Family Suicide Loss: Supporting Parents and their Children

104

*Nina Gutin, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Suicide Prevention Partnership
Pamela Gabbay, M.A., FT, Director of Mourning Star Centers and Programs*

This workshop will address the unique aspects of grief following a suicide loss within a family system. Presenters will describe common issues experienced by adults after a suicide loss, as well as those experienced by children at different developmental stages. They will then highlight challenges that families may encounter after such a loss, including issues around disclosure, how to support grieving children as a parent while in the midst of one's own grief process, and potential conflicts with family members who may grieve in dramatically different ways. Attention will be accorded to the role of stigma, and how this may impact the disclosure of the suicide, the accessibility of support and the grief process itself. Options for effective interventions will be discussed, including the provision of "Survivors" support groups, support services for children, guidelines for individual treatment, as well as online and other resources for support and education.



1E

Maternal Depression, Attachment and Childhood Grief: Theory, Prevention and Intervention

106

Diana Lynn Barnes, Psy.D., Psychotherapist, Private Practice

Gabrielle Kaufman, MA, LPCC, BC-DMT, NCC, Director, LAC Perinatal Mental Health Task Force

The time between pregnancy and the first year postpartum is one of tremendous psychological vulnerability. A woman's depression during this perinatal period has a profound effect on the relationship between a mother and her child. When left untreated, perinatal depression has potentially lethal consequences for a woman's well-being; furthermore, the disruptions in the attachment relationship that occur as a result of a mother's depression not only interferes with the growing child's psychological, cognitive and social development, but often leads to what is phenomenologically felt to be the loss of one's mother. This workshop explores the profound effects of maternal loss resulting from depression along with addressing ways to work with children who are experiencing the grief that results from disrupted attachment. The relationship between perinatal depression, suicide and future vulnerability to depression will be discussed. Childhood experiences of loss, especially the felt sense of having "lost connection" with one's own mother is a risk factor for future perinatal depression. The intergenerational experience of depression, subsequent grief and loss as well as specific strategies for prevention and intervention will be addressed.

1F

Cinematherapy: An Intervention To Enhance Family Grief Counseling

107

Susan Celentano, MS, LMFT, Bereavement Psychotherapist, Private Practice

This presentation will illustrate how traditional therapy and support groups are limited when dealing with the multi-layered experience of traumatic grief. Incorporating creative methods can enhance grief therapy by providing a richly textured context in which to process loss and facilitate healing. Dramatization can serve to broaden our understanding of issues, identify adaptive responses, illuminate different perspectives, develop options for coping and instill hope. Families can be fractured or bonded by tragedy and loss. Characterization in film can provide role models for productive vs destructive responses to the traumatic event or loss. This presentation will assist clinicians and support group leaders in utilizing films as an adjunctive therapeutic technique in grief work. Film clips will be shown to illustrate how fictional characters cope with the challenge of grief.

Session II -- 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

2A**The Trauma of Loss: Psychology, Family, Neurobiology****101**

Michael Levittan, Ph.D., Psychotherapist, Private Practice

This workshop focuses on the issue of traumatic loss from perspectives of the individual psyche, family systems, and neurobiology. In-depth definitions and dynamics of trauma and loss are provided, as well as distinctions between them. Existential issues of loss and their relationship to human mortality and fear of death are explored. The post-traumatic reactions of intrusions, abandonments, and dissociation, as well as symptoms of the PTSD diagnosis are expounded from the perspective of unmourned losses. The neurobiology of unprocessed loss is understood in terms of brain structure, neurochemical reactions, and functional isolation. Lastly, guidelines for dealing with loss, inspiring hope, and healing from traumatic loss are presented. This workshop fits well with the conference theme of grief and loss and provides attendees in-depth psychological and neurobiological perspectives in order to deal with unmourned loss. It is especially unique in extending the discussion of the impact of traumatic loss to dynamics of mortality, family systems, and neurobiology.

2B**Trauma and Loss in the Family: Reclaiming Hope after Traumatic Events****102**

Hilary Catling, LMFT, Clinical Supervisor, Victor Community Support Services

This interactive strength-based workshop will provide participants with treatment issues when working with a family, or a child within a family who has gone through a traumatic event(s). The focus will be on the beauty of the human spirit and how we “rise out of the ashes” after walking through grief and pain. Catling will draw upon her years as a marriage and family therapist working in non-profits as well as faith-based organizations. She will discuss real life examples of trauma cases she has worked on, utilizing multi-media to present treatment for children and their families as they journey through their trauma story to hope and joy!

2C**Trauma-Focused CBT and Art Therapy: An Integrated and Interactive Approach****105**

Illene Lopez, MA, MFT Intern, Clinician, Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, The Center for Grief and Loss

Erengo Suto, MA, MFT Intern, Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services

Art therapy can be an adjunctive approach to bridge the main concepts of an EBP, such as TF-CBT, to bring awareness to the intra-psychic self. It can be a universal and creative process that promotes wellness and healing, by awakening underlying thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Regulating qualities within the art media and interventions can help work through therapeutic impasses that hinder progression and movement. This workshop will demonstrate art therapy techniques in an applied and integrative manner when used in conjunction with TF-CBT. The objectives are to develop an understanding as to how art therapy can facilitate communication within treatment, to obtain art interventions to enhance TF-CBT treatment components and to engage in an experiential workshop in order to enhance understanding and practical application of interventions.

2D**CSI – Coroner Suicide Investigation****104**

Michael Pines, Ph.D., Director, Pines Institute

Linda Boyd, RN, MA, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

After the suicide of a young person, survivors want to know “why?” The ICAN Los Angeles County Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team and the Los Angeles County Department of Coroner-Medical Examiner conduct follow back studies to increase their understanding of the critical risk factors. Enhanced death scene investigation procedures are now in use whenever suicide is the suspected mode of death. Interactive training is used to increase the investigation skills and documenting the possible risk factors. The presenter will discuss the unique opportunities of the field investigator to collect information and provide postvention support for survivors. In addition, participants will be able to view selected simulated video interviews with survivors and other witnesses.

2E**What Have You Done for YOU Lately? Burn out and compassion fatigue prevention for caregivers****106**

Michelle Post, MA, LMFT, Manager, Donor Family Aftercare for OneLegacy

Have you been feeling stressed, complaining without offering solutions, experiencing somatic complaints? You may be burning out or experiencing compassion fatigue or practitioner decay. We teach our grieving families and children to care for themselves, but sometimes neglect ourselves in the process. The cost of losing experienced people in time and money to search for and train new staff and volunteers can be averted with a little TLC. Join this interactive fun discussion about what you can do for yourself and your colleagues to assess, prevent, and treat compassion fatigue.

2F**Triggers and Tension: Best Practices for Working with Children in Trauma****107**

Courtney D'Amico, Program Manager, Comfort Zone Camp

Understanding emotional and psychological trauma can help us identify the best ways to interact with children in the midst of their circumstance. We will identify tools and activities within an evidence-based therapeutic model employed by Comfort Zone Camps for 15 years and explore how participants can support their clients using similar tools. An important and often overlooked aspect of trauma work is having a clear plan for combatting the tension of vicarious trauma or compassion fatigue. This discussion will include a focus on vicarious trauma and practical ways that we can take better care of ourselves in order to care of our clients experiencing first-hand trauma.

Session III -- 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

3A**The Interagency Youth Resiliency Team (IYRT)****101**

Edith Herrejon, Clinical Program Manager, EMQFamiliesFirst
Benjamin Barnett, Youth Partner, EMQFamiliesFirst
Maria Mora, Family Service Advisor, EMQ FamiliesFirst IYRT Program

The Interagency Youth Resiliency Team (IYRT) Program specifically offers mentoring to 13 to 21 years olds (enabled by the passing of Extended Foster Care benefits) that have been or are “system involved” with foster care or probation and hire and train former “system involved” youth as professional mentors.

3B**Who Helps Children After Fatal Family Violence? A System of Care Approach****102**

Michele Winterstein, Ph.D., Executive Director, For The Child
Nicole Gerth, LMFT

When a child loses a loved one (parent, sibling or other close relative) to death because of fatal violence within their own family, the normal process of grieving becomes intertwined and complicated by violence and trauma. The need for safety- and the law enforcement and child welfare system interventions that are essential in response to fatal family violence- often leave the child disconnected from the extended family, cultural and community supports that are most needed at this time, including participation in funerals, memorials, cemetery visits and memorabilia. When is mental health care needed? How can these services be funded within existing resources? This presentation will propose a community based care review team model in which law enforcement, child welfare, community mental health agencies and the faith community work together with families as a system of care to make sure these children receive the timely and critical support they need.

3C**Integrated Grief Therapy for Children: Benefits & Challenges****103**

Mekel Harris, Ph.D., NCSP

The majority of children experience the death of a loved one throughout the course of their childhood (Harrison & Harrington, 2001). Further, nearly 5% of children experience the death of a parent prior to the age of 18 (Harrison & Harrington, 2001; Social Security Administration, 2000). Given these statistics, it is imperative that parents/caregivers and professionals alike be equipped to manage potential psychosocial outcomes of these grieving children. The presentation seeks to review the application of a therapeutic approach, the integrated grief therapy for children (IGTC) model (Pearlman, Schwalbe, & Cloitre, 2010). The presenter will, through use of a clinical case study, outline fundamental assumptions, treatment principles, and phases of treatment essential to the IGTC model.

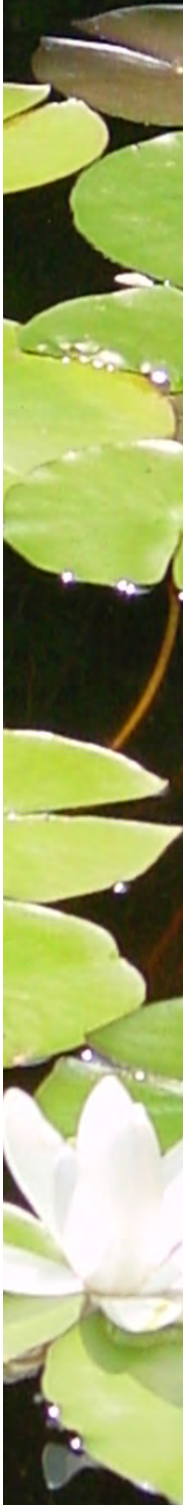
3D

The Secret Society of Gang Grief

104

Melissa Lunardini, M.A., MFT-I, Program Coordinator, The Mourning Star Center
Pamela Gabbay, M.A., FT, Director of Mourning Star Centers and Programs

Uncovering the secret society of gang grief can be a difficult task for grief professionals. This presentation is particularly helpful for that attendee who works with a population that may be grieving a gang related death. Participants will learn language, lifestyles, and grief related rituals specific to gang related grief. Specific tools and techniques that are used to build rapport with gang related survivors will be discussed. Attendees will learn ways to overcome secrecy, stigma, retaliation, shame, guilt and mistrust.



Session III -- 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

3E

Music Therapy Techniques for Children Exposed to Violence & Trauma

106

Arvis Jones, BAMT, Assistant Director, The Center for Grief and Loss for Children, Hathaway-Sycamores

Music is truly a universal language. This presentation will expand your knowledge about the power of Music, and how it can be used beyond being a reliever of stress. We will explore your own music preferences and how those choices can affect you. Some of these techniques have been introduced to the Sandy Hook School Music Therapists. Knowledge of music can be used to help you connect with clients who are not ready to talk about their trauma and/or grief issues. This comprehensive presentation will include experiential music therapy exercises (for non-musicians), that will provide an overview of the developmental stages and responses to death, victim treatment issues and the emotional/psychological effects of grief. This presentation will partially focus on a grief and loss program that was successfully used in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Participants will be provided music interventions that have been developed by the presenter to help youth cope with the loss of a loved one, and the trauma that the various types of deaths, i.e. homicide and illness can cause. You will be exposed to examples of how to 'break-through' some of the barriers these children have.

3F

Grief and Loss in Immigrant and Refugee Children

107

Cynthia Schroder, RN, LCSW, Clinical Director Foster Care, Crittenton Services for Children and Families

This workshop will cover the experience of children immigrating without parents to the United States. It will include issues of grief and loss, (including family and culture) and obstacles to adjustment in a completely different environment in the care of strangers. It will include the children detained by I.C.E at the border, who have come to work or be reunited with parents only to end up in Long Term Foster Care, child victims of trafficking grief and loss issues, children who have seen their parents murdered and escaped with their lives, and children separated by war, political and religious discrimination. It will cover the complex issues of PTSD as it relates to personal trauma, separation from family, and feelings of survivor guilt. It will also include treatment strategies including a brief introduction to Culturally Modified Trauma Focused CBT.

Diana Lynn Barnes

Diana Lynn Barnes, PsyD is a psychotherapist who specializes in women's reproductive mental health. A past president of Postpartum Support International, Dr. Barnes currently sits on their President's Advisory Council. In addition to her position on the training faculty for the Los Angeles County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force, she also sits on the statewide Maternal Mental Health Collaborative. In addition to private practice, she is regularly called by defense counsel as an expert witness on cases of infanticide, neonaticide, pregnancy denial and child abuse. Dr. Barnes is the co-author of "The Journey to Parenthood: Myths, Reality and What Really Matters" (Radcliffe, 2007) and the editor and a contributing author of a volume on "Women's Reproductive Mental Health across the Lifespan" (Springer, 2014). She is a fellow of The American Psychotherapy Association and a clinical fellow of The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists and The California Marriage and Family Therapists. In 2009, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Eli Lilly Foundation for her outstanding contributions to the field of child-bearing illness.

Benjamin Barnett

Benjamin Barnett has earned his Associates degree from Everest College in 2012. Benjamin was working as a machinist for the last 6 years and decided he wanted to use his personal background to help out youth. Benjamin is a former probation youth that has moved past his struggles with the system to better himself. Currently, Benjamin is working as a Youth Partner at EMQ FamiliesFirst with the Interagency Youth Resiliency Team. There, he is able to understand what the youth are going through, and help them move past the barriers that he once faced in his life. He plans to go back to school and attain his Bachelors degree.

Linda Boyd

Linda P. Boyd, MN, is the Program Manager of three Law Enforcement Mental Health Teams for Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health. She was the co-creator and co-founder of four collaborative teams, which combines a law enforcement officer and a mental health clinician responding to 911 calls involving the mentally ill or someone in an emotional crisis. The original program is the Los Angeles County Sheriff - Department of Mental Health - Mental Evaluation Team (MET). The next is the Los Angeles Police Department - Department of Mental Health - Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART), then, the Long Beach Police Department - Department of Mental Health - Long Beach Mental Evaluation Team (LBMET) and most recently the Pasadena Police Department - Department of Mental Health - Homeless Outreach and Psychiatric Evaluation Team (HOPE). She is also the Program Manager for the PEI School Threat Assessment Response Team (START). Ms. Boyd holds a Master in Nursing Degree from U.C.L.A. with the emphasis on Community Mental Health. Ms. Boyd has conducted numerous presentations, trainings and workshops on Critical Incident and Disaster Stress, Suicide Intervention, Mental Health 101 for Law Enforcement, as well as on the Development of Collaborative Law Enforcement, Mental Health Teams.

Hilary Catling

Hilary Catling is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Southern California. She currently supervises interns at Victor Community Support Services, and is an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University, teaching Clinical Skills and Family Therapy. In her private practice, she has specialized in treating children and their families who have been traumatized, including those involved in National and International kidnapping cases for nearly 20 years. She is a frequent trainer and seminar speaker on topics such as: The Importance of Art and Play as Healing Tools, Boys 101, Treating Trauma in the Family, Treating the Sexually Abused Child and the Effects on Children of Domestic Violence. She has been published in *The Therapist* with articles on Treating Trauma in the Family (November/December, 2012) and Mindfulness in Supervision (September/October, 2013).

Susan Celentano

Susan Celentano is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist in private practice in Los Angeles, CA for 23 years. Susan specializes in grief and loss, incorporating innovative and creative techniques toward a fresh approach to each unique grief journey. Susan is a dedicated and passionate clinician, as well as a lively public speaker. In 2008, Susan created Beyond Surviving, educational and experiential groups designed to facilitate personal growth and transformation following profound loss. Susan's presentations on Cinematherapy have received accolades for their value as professional enhancement, as well as a method to assist clients in navigating the difficult terrain of complicated grief. Susan holds certifications in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing and Bereavement Facilitator. She is a current Advisory Committee Member of the DiDi Hirsch Mental Health Services Survivors After Suicide Program and a past board member of The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Courtney D'Amico

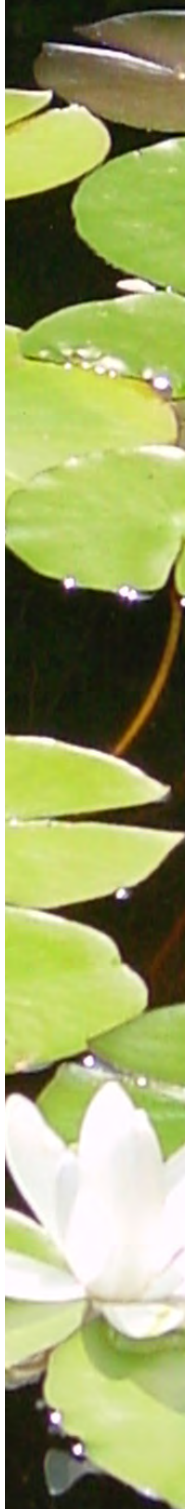
Courtney D'Amico serves as Program Manager for Comfort Zone Camp, offering weekend camps for children, ages 7-17, who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling or primary caregiver. She is responsible for the West Coast operations including managing intake assessments and volunteer training along with all program-related activities and fundraising events. She regularly provides education and advocacy on behalf of grieving children in the community.


Michael Durfee

Michael Durfee MD child psychiatrist has 39 years work with child abuse. He began and spread Child Death Review internationally. His first job was, child psychiatrist in MacLaren Hall then as the acting pediatrician. Several thousand foster children later he worked for mental health and public health. Now retired, he works with hospitals to serve infants, toddlers and high risk pregnancies. He helped create this conference and is working on programs to serve children with traumatic grief.

Pamela Gabbay

Pamela Gabbay, M.A., FT, is the Director of Mourning Star Centers and Programs where she oversees six children's grief programs in two California counties. She is also the Camp Director for Camp Erin, a





children's bereavement camp. Pamela is on the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, recently serving as Vice President. In 2008, Pamela and the Mourning Star Center were featured on the Hospice Foundation of America's Bereavement Teleconference Living with Grief: Children and Adolescents. Formerly, Pamela was President of the Southern California Chapter of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Pamela is a contributing author at Open to Hope and an adjunct instructor at Brandman University. Pamela earned her Master's degree in Cognitive Psychology from Claremont Graduate University and was awarded the Fellow in Thanatology by the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Linda Garcia

Linda Garcia, MA, CCLS, is a Certified Child Life Specialist with extensive experience providing therapeutic interventions with traumatized, abused, chronically ill, and burn injured children. Her expertise includes individual and group therapeutic play, crisis intervention, grief and mourning counseling, and family assessment and treatment. She is a consultant to ICAN/NCFR (National Child Fatality Review), President of the CACLP (California Association of Child Life Professionals). She has conducted local, national, and international presentations on the topics of child life, grief and loss, cultural awareness, and family violence. Ms. Garcia was a Child Life Specialist at the UCLA Medical Center and the Grossman Burn Center, and Manager of Child Development Services at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. Currently, employed at Grossman Burn Center at West Hills Medical Center. She is part-time faculty at (CSUN) California State University, Northridge, and USC and CSLA Center for Social Welfare.

Nicole Gerth

Nicole Gerth, LMFT, has more than 10 years of experience in the assessment and treatment of children who have been victims of abuse and maltreatment. She is certified in Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy as well as Parent Child Interaction Therapy. Nicole also supervises for The Child's Child Abuse Response Team (CART), which responds with Law Enforcement and Forensic Nurse Specialists when a child has been a victim of abuse and requires a forensic medical exam. Nicole has treated many children and families who have coped with fatal family violence, recognizing the often complicated aftermath these children and families face.

Nina Gutin

Nina J. Gutin, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist with a private practice in Pasadena, California. She conducts trainings on suicide prevention and postvention for mental health trainees, is on the advisory board for the Los Angeles (Didi Hirsch) Suicide Prevention Center's "Survivors after Suicide" program, and co-facilitates their "Survivors After Suicide" groups in the San Gabriel Valley. She is co-chair of the Clinician-Survivor's Task Force of the American Association of Suicidology, which aims to provide education, resources and support to clinicians and other caregivers who have experienced a personal or professional suicide loss. She is also a member of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Suicide Prevention Network. Her family foundation, the Suicide Prevention Partnership, aims to promote comprehensive community-based responses to the needs for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.

Mekel Harris

Mekel Harris, Ph.D., NCSP is an Assistant Professor within the Clinical Psychology department at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology – Los Angeles. Dr. Harris' areas of expertise include health psychology, assessment, and health- and school-based consultation. She has presented at over 15 national and international conferences within the past five years, targeting pediatric health issues, childhood grief, and pediatric palliative care. Apart from her academic responsibilities, Dr. Harris works as a licensed psychologist in private practice in Pasadena, CA. She holds a national certification in School Psychology, as well as certification through the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Further, she serves as a NIMH grant reviewer and is currently pursuing board certification through the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). Dr. Harris earned her doctoral degree from University of Houston and completed her pre-doctoral internship and two-year post-doctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA).

Edith Herrejon

Edith Herrejon is a MFT Intern who earned her Master's degree from California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) in 2010. In 2007, she presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) conference on early childhood and best mental health treatment options for children ages 0-5. Edith has been working in the area of mental health for the past 7 years, specializing in the areas of early childhood, attachment based services, and developmentally appropriate practices. Edith's professional background includes Wraparound Principles, Therapeutic Behavioral Services, and work as a Clinician. Most recently, Edith is the Clinical Program Manager at EMQ FamiliesFirst with the Interagency Youth Resiliency Team (IYRT). She plans to attain her MFT license within the next year and pursue a doctorate degree.

Arvis Jones

Arvis Jones received a B.A. degree from California State University Long Beach with a Music Therapy Certificate. She was the first African American Music Therapist employed by Arts & Services for the Disabled. Arvis was also the first Music Therapist at the Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic, working with children and youth of all ages who have emotional and environmental problems where she developed a program to address the needs of children and youth ages 2½ to 22 years. Arvis is currently the Assistant Director of The Center For Grief and Loss for Children, a program of Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services where she helps to provide a supportive environment for families who are experiencing some type of grief and loss.

Gabrielle Kaufman

Gabrielle Kaufman is a dance/movement therapist and licensed professional clinical counselor with over 20 years experience in the helping profession. Currently, she is director of Training and Technical Assistance for the Los Angeles County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force. Prior to this, she served as director of the New Moms Connect Program of Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles providing services to new parents, particularly those suffering from

symptoms of postpartum depression. Ms. Kaufman has worked extensively with new families and aided in providing solutions to many parenting concerns. She has run several programs for high-risk children and teens, taught classes to parents of newborns and toddlers, and runs support groups for single parents and women with postpartum depression. Ms. Kaufman has spoken widely, published articles on parenting, and served as editor for *Bringing Light to Motherhood*. She serves as Los Angeles coordinator for Postpartum Support International, and also has a private practice in Los Angeles providing services in both English and Spanish languages.

Michael Levittan

Dr. Michael (Levittan) is an accomplished and recognized expert on Domestic Violence, Anger Management, and PTSD. He is a licensed psychotherapist, director of state-certified batterers' treatment program, serves as an Expert Witness in court, teaches courses at UCLA Extension, National Alliance on Mental Illness, International Conference on Violence, Abuse & Trauma, L.A. Superior Court, California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists, U.S. Marines, Women's Shelters, etc. He appeared as an expert on Tyra Banks Show, *Staring Over*, *Bad Girls Club*, *Montel Williams*, *Hollywood 411* & radio, on-line & print. He wrote "The History of Infanticide" recently published a chapter in *Violence in Our Society* & appears in newly-released documentary on parenting, "The Golden Opportunity of Child Development." He recently completed soon-to-be-published "Essentials of Anger Management." Dr. Michael passionately believes in his work to further the cause of safety in the family & peace in the world.

Ilene Lopez

Ilene Lopez, M.A., is currently a clinician with Hathaway-Sycamores Child and Family Services, The Center for Grief and Loss. She has had years of experience in working with children, specializing in developing coping skills to manage stressors, particularly trauma associated with grief and loss. Ms. Lopez has utilized Evidenced Based Practices, such as TF-CBT in her work with children and families. Through her Art Therapy background, she has successfully incorporated the use of its techniques in her treatment, which has enhanced the effectiveness of interventions. Ms. Lopez received a B.A. degree from Loyola Marymount University in Business Administration and her M.A. in Psychology, with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy/Art Therapy at Philips Graduate Institute. She is also a member of The American Art Therapy Association (AATA). Ms. Lopez enjoys all things Disney.

Georgiana Lotfy

Georgiana Lotfy is a Licensed Marriage Family Therapist, and teacher who has worked with children, individuals and couples, for over twenty years. For ten years she supervised and trained Marriage Family Interns who worked with traumatized (Trauma Focused CBT) foster children and their families at Star View Community Services in Long Beach. She has a Private Practice and consults with agencies on Prevention of Vicarious Trauma. She specializes in treating severe mental illness, survivors of trauma and Addiction. She is an accomplished public speaker, providing lively, interactive and informative multi-media presentations on Compassion Fatigue and Prevention of Vicarious Trauma. She also facilitates restorative

mindful meditation workshops. She has created and narrated APPs for iPhone and Android devices. Her FREE App is available by searching your APP store for "Room to Breathe." She released a Meditation cd, entitled "Heal Your Love: Mindful Christian Meditation." She holds a Masters in Psychology and a Doctorate in Ministry.

Melissa Lunardini

Melissa Lunardini, M.A., MFT-I, earned her Master's in Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage Family therapy from Chapman University. Melissa is the Program Coordinator for the Mourning Star Center in Palm Desert, CA. She is also administration and runs the teen portion for Camp Erin Palm Springs. In addition to Mourning Star, Melissa also practices therapy at All-Desert Wellness Centers providing individual, couples, and family therapy. Melissa is a member of The National Alliance for Grieving Children, American Academy of Bereavement, and California Association for Marriage Family Therapists.

Michael Pines

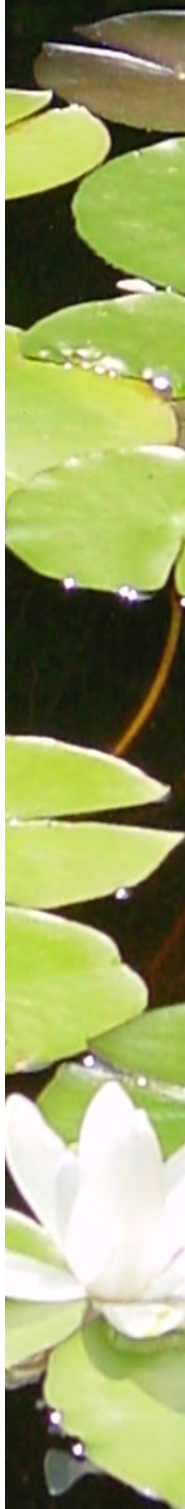
An advocate for children in Los Angeles County, Dr. Michael Pines is a Clinical Psychologist. He received a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in 1977. In 2007 Dr. Pines retired from the Los Angeles County Office of Education where he established and managed the School Mental Health Center. In 2000, Dr. Pines and his colleagues established the Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team and he continues to co-chair that multi-disciplinary prevention committee. Michael is on the faculty at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles. There he coordinates research activities in crisis intervention and suicide prevention. Dr. Pines trains mental health professionals to assess and treat suicidal clients for UCLA Extension and delivers staff development to educators and agency professionals through his Pines Institute.

Michelle Post

Michelle Post is a LMFT, CE Provider, and Clinical Supervisor in private practice in LA. As Manager of Donor Family Aftercare for OneLegacy, she provides supervision and bereavement services in So-Cal. She's a faculty member for Global Leadership Symposium and coaches Executives on leadership and team-building. Internationally, she consults/trains in areas of grief, trauma, death notification, stress & burn-out prevention, group facilitation, suicide intervention, leadership and team-building, and is a member of Dr. Worden's SoCal Bereavement Specialists.

Lauren Schneider

Lauren Schneider, LCSW Clinical Director of Child and Adolescent Programs. Lauren, a nationally recognized authority on Children's Grief, has provided trainings for mental health clinicians, educators, clergy, school personnel and graduate students throughout the community since 2000. Lauren is the author of "Children Grieve Too: A Handbook for Parents of Grieving Children." She also created "My Memory Book for Grieving Children" as well as grief related curriculum for use at Camp Erin Los Angeles and in OUR HOUSE grief support groups. Lauren is the Associate Producer of "One Last Hug, and a Few Smooches," an HBO documentary about Children's



Grief. She trains and supervises OUR HOUSE group leaders as well as MSW and MFT clinicians and students. Lauren maintains a private practice specializing in grief and loss.

Cynthia Schroder

Cynthia Schroder is a Registered Nurse and Licensed Clinical Worker. She has worked in the field of Social Work for 23 years almost exclusively with children and families who are underserved. She was in medical social work for five years working in the NICU and at City of Hope, and Hospice. She taught upper division social work at Whittier College and has worked with female inmates, juvenile sex offenders, juvenile parolees SED children and families, and homeless families. She was Deputy Director of Children's Programs at Prototypes Women's Center working with children who lived with mothers who were in residential drug and alcohol treatment. She was Associate Director at The Whole Child and has been the Clinical Director for Foster Care at Crittenton Services for Children and Families for the past four years working with refugee children, trafficked children, minor asylees and unaccompanied alien children. The children in her long term foster care program are eligible for legal relief due to abandonment, abuse, and neglect, political asylum, and human and labor trafficking. In addition, she is a field instructor for graduated students from five California State Universities, and has a private practice.

Erengo Suto

Erengo Suto, M.A, ATR, a registered Art Therapist and MFT Intern, is currently a clinician at Hathaway- Sycamores Child and Family Services, Outpatient. At the department, she leads parenting groups and implemented a bullying group focused on utilizing Art Therapy to reduce aggressions amongst peers. Ms. Suto's work focuses on utilizing her expertise to enhance efficacy of EBPs by incorporating art interventions to work through therapeutic impasses and to reinforce their individual components. She is trained in TF-CBT, Triple P, and Seeking Safety. Ms. Suto completed her education at Loyola Marymount, holding an M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy with an emphasis in Clinical Art Therapy. She recently presented at the 2013 National American Art Therapy Conference on Utilizing Visual Expression to Enhance Bicultural Identity Integration.

Maria Tomé

Maria Elena Tomé, CCLS, is a certified Child Life Specialist who has worked with children, youth, and families through interventions for hospitalized children and families. Ms. Tomé is a co-author of the Bereavement Packet currently being offered to families after the death of their child at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles and is on the planning committee for the annual Childhood Grief and Traumatic Loss Conference. She is a member of the Child Life Council and a Founding Board member of CACLP (California Association of Child Life Professionals).

Michele Winterstein

Dr. Winterstein- Executive Director of For The Child, Long Beach, CA- is a licensed clinical psychologist with thirty years experience creating and managing innovative treatment programs for abused,

neglected and violence exposed children and their families in a high poverty, densely populated and diverse urban community in South East Los Angeles County. She has testified as an expert witness in child welfare, juvenile and family law court cases. She currently serves as the Clinical Committee Co-Chair for a multi-agency SAMHSA funded project to improve care and system coordination for the youngest, most vulnerable children and families needing mental health, child welfare or court services in Los Angeles California. She is co-editor and contributing author to a widely used practice guide "Standards of Care For Child Crime Victims" c. 2001, published by a statewide task force convened by the State of California, Victims of Crime Program.







Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect

The Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) serves as the official County agent to coordinate the development of services for the prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect. ICAN's Policy Committee includes 32 County, City, State and Federal agency heads, as well as, UCLA, Police Chiefs' Association and five private sector members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. ICAN's Operations Committee and 22 ad hoc committees carry out the work of ICAN by addressing a broad spectrum of issues related to the health and safety of children and families. Twelve community-based, interdisciplinary child abuse councils interface with ICAN, providing valuable information regarding many related issues.

ICAN Associates is a private, non-profit corporation that works in partnership with ICAN. Its Board of Directors consists of business, media and community leaders. This organization addresses the important issues identified by ICAN through the provision of services and materials, including the sponsorship and coordination of media campaigns, community educational forums and projects, special events, newsletters and funding. Further, ICAN Associates provides support for direct and indirect services to prevent child abuse and enables integration and collaboration among child service agencies.

This strong, multi-level, multidisciplinary and community network provides a framework through which ICAN is able to identify those issues critical to the well-being of children and families. With limited resources available, ICAN develops strategies to implement programs that will improve the community's collective ability to meet the needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children. The work of ICAN has received national recognition as a model for inter-agency coordination for the protection of children. In 1996, ICAN was designated as the National Center on Child Fatality Review (ICAN/ NCFR).