

## **Supporting Children & Families Following an Overdose Death**

Name of the Facilitator: Emi Johnson

Qualifications: Clinical Program Manager

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Program Name: Supporting Children & Families Following an Overdose Death

Credit Hours: 3

### **Program Description**

The Kentucky Center for Grieving Children and Families is delighted to host the National Alliance for Children's Grief's annual National Conference & Webcast on March 21, 2023. This popular event will this year feature Eleanor Haley, MS, and Litsa Williams, MA, LCSW-C, co-founders of the online grief community What's Your Grief. Both the speakers and topic will appeal to a diverse audience, including professionals and volunteers from funeral service, hospice care, health care, education, mental health, child welfare, and bereavement support. Grief is the normal and natural reaction to any significant loss, whether that is a bereavement loss or a non-death loss. The opioid epidemic continues to surge in the US, with overdose deaths reaching 107,000 in 2021, a record in the US and an increase of nearly 20% over the previous annual high. Unfortunately, accompanying grief, the impacts on children and families isn't well-researched and often remain overshadowed and misunderstood. Family members of those living with substance use disorders often experience deep ambiguous grief. Children are often faced with navigating complex, unreliable relationships as a result of the disorder and are left to make sense of concepts far beyond their stages of moral development. The first half of this is designed to understand ambiguous loss in substance abuse and to provide strategies to support these children and families. This includes a framework for understanding a child's comprehension of addiction and developmental age, guidelines for talking to children, and creative activities for children and families. The second half of this program will assist professionals in responding to the unique grief following substance-related deaths. Drawing on existing research and program interventions, it will provide strategies for supporting those dealing with the most common complex issues of substance-related grief in children and adults, including disenfranchised grief, guilt, blame, anxiety and hypervigilance, relief, and introducing basic coping tools for individuals and support systems. Specific attention will be given to the needs of children and tools for assisting caregivers who are supporting children grieving substance-related deaths. CE Total: The NACG has applied for three (3) CEs for webcast attendees. These will be available at a cost of \$45 per person. Target Audience: Counselors, Social workers, Bereavement support professionals Instructional Level: Basic Format: Live event in Baltimore; Live Non-Interactive Webinar for those attending a webcast

### **Objectives of Program**

Objectives: By the end of this presentation, participants will be able to: 1. Describe commonalities in the

grief of children and adults both before and after a death to overdose or other substance-related cause.2. Identify key indicators of ambiguous grief and apply relevant therapeutic and psychoeducational interventions to ease the stress of ambiguous grief for families with loved one(s) with substance use disorders.3. Develop treatment plans and programming that addresses the pervasive disenfranchised experience of children and families who have lost a loved one to addiction.4. Identify challenges faced by children in families with substance misuse based on developmental age/stage, while considering the need for flexibility in applying these expectations.5. Assess the unique needs of children grieving family members with substance misuse, with focus on both meeting needs directly, as well as engaging caregivers and other family in providing a supportive environment for grieving in the home.

**Additional Tags:**

**Grade Level:**

- High (9 - 12), Intermediate (3 - 5), Middle (6 - 8), Pre-School (Pre - K), Primary (K - 2)

**Audience:**

- Classified, Counselor/School Psychologist, District Personnel, Other Professional, Principal, Teacher

**Discipline:**

**Personnel Evaluation Measures:**

- Environment, Instruction

**Aligned to Kentucky Professional Learning Standards:**

- Leadership, Learning Communities, Outcomes, Resources

**Session Type: Single Session**

**Face to Face:**

Date: 03/21/2023

Address 644 North Broadway, LEXINGTON, KY, 40508

**Registration Deadline:**

03/20/2023

**Link or directions to register:**

<https://forms.gle/qUFRwS12bnemRBcGA>

**Arrangements Required: Yes**

Parking is available but we ask that you try to carpool if there are multiple attendees from the same site/agency. Welcome remarks begin at 12:45 pm EST; webcast from 1-4 pm; interagency discussion of community supports and partnerships from 4-5 pm Registration: Attendance is free. If you wish to

purchase 3 CEUs from the NACG for \$45, you may do so by credit card at the site after the training.

**Services provided(Follow-up, support, etc.): No**

**Possible costs(Participation, materials, etc.): Yes**

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**EILA Program:**

**EILA Status:**