Title of Workshop:

Community Capacity Building: Addressing Children’s Grief through Collaboration

Submitted by (Main Contact Name):

Carly Nichols, LMSW

Organization:

CareFirst

Organization Mailing Address:

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# of Additional Presenters

1

Name(s) of Additional Presenter(s):

Chelsea Ambrose, LMSW, CT, ACHP-SW

Type Workshop Summary Here:

This workshop will focus on guiding participants to explore opportunities for collaboration to enhance the children bereavement services within their organization. The workshop will allow attendees to identify preventative-approaches to teaching children how to cope with grief and possibilities for collaboration within their community. Presenters will facilitate discussion in these areas while also reviewing one hospice agency’s approach to partnering with local organizations provide summer youth programming, and other bereavement services beyond traditional approaches to grief and loss.

Over the last four years, CareFirst has been a partner in providing summer programming, focusing on bringing art, cultural, science, and emotional based learning, to children in Steuben County. Through collaboration with multiple community partners, CareFirst has had the opportunity build presence in the community and expand beyond traditional grief and loss education. Through the use of creative and alternative teaching approaches, preventative action has been taken in regard to preparing children and adolescents for the losses they may experience. In addition, CareFirst has also been involved in other collaborative projects to further enhance their bereavement services.

Supporting Study or Journal Article (Please cite here if available electronically)


# of Workshop Objectives

3

Objective #1

Educate about benefits of collaboration and community engagement in hospice bereavement

Content

- Introductions/descriptions of presenter roles within organization
- Overview of various collaborative efforts to further expand grief services within the community
- Specifically discussing Garden of Fire collaborative project including origin, mission and partnership capacity
- Review of numerical impact within community

Time Frame

10 minutes

Content Expert(s)
**Carly and Chelsea**

**Teaching Strategies**  
Lecture, PowerPoint

**Objective #2**  
Assist attendees in identifying alternative approaches to teaching children and youth about grief and loss.

**Content**
- Assist attendees in identifying barriers to educating children and adolescents and effective strategies that can be used to enhance engagement
- Discussion of grief-related programming provided over the last four years through Garden of Fire partnership, as well as other community engagement and education opportunities.
- Review of how involvement in collaborative efforts allowed for innovative and preventative bereavement education opportunities, specific to children and adolescents

**Time Frame**
20 Minutes

**Content Expert(s)**  
Carly and Chelsea

**Teaching Strategies**  
Lecture, PowerPoint, Facilitated Group Discussion

**Objective #3**  
Attendees will identify potential collaborations within their communities

**Content**
- Facilitate break out groups aimed to encourage attendees to discuss current barriers to bereavement education with children and youth
- Utilize both small and large group discussions to promote alternative perspectives and brainstorming

**Time Frame**
20 Minutes

**Content Expert(s)**  
Carly and Chelsea

**Teaching Strategies**  
Facilitated group and break out session discussion

**Name (with degrees and credentials):**  
Carly Nichols, LMSW

**Organization:**  
CareFirst

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**Presenters - Describe your expertise in this topic:**
Carly started her career in the field of hospice and palliative care in 2014 when completing practicum hours required for her master’s degree and in 2016 accepted a position as Grief Services Coordinator at CareFirst. She holds a Master of Social Work degree and is currently working towards pursuing her Certification in Thanatology and clinical licensure. Prior to her work with CareFirst, she was the Director of Youth Services at a local non-profit and has over eight years of experience working with children and youth. She continues to work and grow in providing quality grief service programming in hospice and palliative care.

Chelsea has been working in the field of hospice and palliative care since 2010. She holds a Master of Social Work degree as well as Certification in Thanatology, the study of death dying and bereavement, and is an Advanced Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Social Worker. She started her career in Hospice with CareFirst as a bereavement counselor; however, her position has developed over the years taking on a number of different roles related to their Grief Services Department. Chelsea is currently the Director of Counseling Services which includes Grief Services. She has led her department in developing alternative ways to reach out to the community and build collaborative partnerships and innovative grief programs.