

ABSTRACTS

Matching bereavement services to level of need

Walsh-Burke K. *The Hospice Journal* 2000; 15(1): 77-86

The establishment of hospices in the USA has resulted in an increase in bereavement services available to clients experiencing loss, since these resources are an integral part of hospice care. Most hospices are staffed to provide services such as follow-up contacts and bereavement groups. However, few are able to provide more intensive help in the form of grief therapy and psychotherapy. This article discusses the importance of assessment for complicated grief to ensure that appropriate services are offered to those at risk, and proposes a method of assessing risk and for matching service to the level of need.

Dismantling the boundaries between life and death

Howarth G. *Mortality* 2000; 5(2): 127-38

This article explores some of the ways in which the conceptual boundaries between the living and the dead - once

assumed to be as stark and solid as the walls around an asylum or prison - are becoming blurred and breaking down. The writer argues that the continuing relationships between bereaved people and their dead relatives and friends have been marginalised by modern practices. She discusses some of the mechanisms used by survivors to maintain their bonds with the dead, such as talking about them, anniversaries, self-help groups and the construction of biographies. The dying may also find ways of 'reconstituting' themselves after death, by making home videos, for instance, or by writing letters to be read after they have died.

Effects of a program of intervention on parental distress following infant death

Murray JA, Terry DJ, Vance JC, Battistutta D, Connolly Y. *Death Studies* 2000; 24(4): 275-305

A longitudinal study of 144 parents was carried out in the area of Brisbane, Australia, to evaluate the effectiveness of a programme of intervention in relieving the distress of parents affected by infant death. Participants were assessed in terms of their psychiatric disturbance, depression, anxiety, physical symptoms,

dyadic adjustment in the parents' relationship and coping strategies. They were divided into an experimental group, who were offered a programme involving the use of specially designed resources and contact with a trained grief worker, and a control group who were given routine community care. It was found that the intervention was effective in reducing the distress of parents, particularly those assessed as being at high risk of developing mourning difficulties.

This article is extremely dense, with many statistics, but the project was worked out with meticulous care, and for those contemplating a comparable programme it may well offer useful guidelines.

Using the Solution Focused Brief Therapy model with bereavement groups in rural communities: resiliency at its best

Gray SW, Zide MR, Wilker H. *The Hospice Journal* 2000; 15(3): 13-30

This article describes how the Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) model, which has been developed during the last 15 years and successfully adapted to different problem areas, can be used to help bereavement groups in a rural

setting. SFBT involves a focus on strengths, resources and mutual aid rather than on problems, deficiencies and pathology. It provides the structure for group members to begin working through their grief issues. The authors provide examples of techniques useful for laying the foundations of bereavement group work in rural communities.

The presence of the dead: an empirical study

Bennett G, Bennett KM. *Mortality* 2000; 5(2): 139-157

It is very common for bereaved people to feel that they are still in touch with their dead spouse. A post-bereavement experience that encapsulates this conviction is the sense of the dead person's presence - a phenomenon that in the past 50 years has become well documented in medical, counselling and psychological literature. This article, based on two empirical studies undertaken roughly 15 years apart, challenges some of the assumptions found in this literature, such as the claim that these experiences are illusory. The authors argue, on the other hand, that the phenomenon can be seen as 'real' and 'natural', evidence of the possibility of continuing links with the dead. **BK**

Sheila Hodges and John Bush

INDEX TO BEREAVEMENT CARE

Volume 19 Spring 2000-Winter 2000

Key: A = article No.1 = Spring issue
Ab = abstract No.2 = Summer issue
R = review No.3 = Winter issue

Adolescents and parental AIDS death: the role of social support (Ab); 19, No 2: 32
Art Therapy in Palliative Care: The creative response (R); 19, No 1: 13

Bereaved children's questions to a doctor (Ab); No 2: 32
Bereavement (R); No 3: 47
Bereavement and shattered dreams (A); No 1: 3-5

Bernard P (R); No 1: 15
Bertman S (R); No 1: 13
Black D (A); No 2: 21
Blumenfeld K (video) (R); No 2: 31
Bowman T (A); No 1: 3-5
Boyle F (R); No 3: 46
Breaking the silence: work with puppets (A); No 1: 12

Bremner I (A); No 1: 6-8
Brown E (R); No 1: 15
Bryan E (R); No 3: 47

Callis S (R); No 1: 14
Case management and client care for solicitors and their clients litigating PTSD claims arising from fatalities and disasters (Ab); No 1: 16

Child Bereavement Trust (R); No 3: 47
Children, adolescents and death (Ab); No 1: 16
Children and bereavement, who cares? (report); No 2: 29

Children, Bereavement and Trauma: Nurturing resilience (R); No 1: 15
Children, spirituality and loss (Ab); No 2: 32
Connell C (R); No 1: 13

Coping with Loss (R); No 1: 12
Counselling bereaved people - help or harm? (A); No 2: 19-21

Crossley D (booklet)(R); No 2: 31
Dalzell R (report); No 2: 29

Davidson K (A); No 2: 25-27
Death of a parent in childhood, The: a family account (Ab); No 2: 32

Death Talk (R); No 2: 31
Developing services for bereaved children (Ab); No 2: 32

Disappearance, The (R); No 2: 30
Discussing death in the classroom (Ab); No 1: 16

Dismantling the boundaries between life and death (Ab); No 3: 48
Does it hurt to die? A description of bereavement work to help a group of people with learning difficulties who have suffered multiple, major losses (Ab); No 1: 16

Ebner-Landy J (A); No 2: 22-24
Edgeworth S (report); No 3: 45-46

Eedle S (A); No 2: 28
Effects of a child's death on the marital relationship: a review (Ab); No 1: 16

Effects of a program of intervention on parental distress following infant death (Ab); No 3: 48
Elsegood J (R); No 1: 15

Faulkner A (R); No 1: 15
'Filling the void': grief and loneliness in older adults (Ab); No 1: 16

Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths (R); No 3: 47
Fredman G (R); No 2: 31

Gender, age and widowhood (A); No 2: 25-27
Goodbye, God Bless: A child's grief observed (video and booklet)(R); No 2: 31

Grief and the Healing Arts: (R); No 1: 13
Grieving After the Death of Your Baby (R); No 3: 47

Hallett F (R); No 3: 47
Hill E (A); No 1: 12
Hunt J (A); No 1: 10-11

Including the parents: reacting creatively to parental concerns (A); No 3: 44
Internet support for bereaved people (A); No 3: 38-40

Jacobs S (R); No 2: 31

Jurgensen G (R); No 2: 30
Kershaw H (A); No 3: 44

Kolner N (R); No 3: 46-47
Leftwich A (R); No 3: 46-47

Letting go the reins: group therapy with bereaved teenagers (A); No 2: 28
Life, Psychotherapy and Death: The end of our exploring (R); No 2: 31

Lindsay B (R); No 1: 15
Loss and bereavement in people with learning difficulties (Ab); No 1: 16

Loss, Bereavement and Grief: A guide to effective caring (R); No 1: 14
Loss, Change and Grief (R); No 1: 15

Mackenzie M (O); No 2: 27-28
Marcus A (R); No 1: 12

Martin D (A); No 3: 38-40
Matching bereavement services to the level of need (Ab); No 3: 48

Memories (R); No 3: 47
Morland I (R); No 1: 15

Mothers Bereaved by Stillbirth, Neonatal Death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (R); No 3: 46

Moulder C (R); 19, No 3: 46
Mourning the loss of a companion animal (A); No 1: 8-10

My Book about Our Baby Who Died (R); No 3: 47
Myth of the replacement child (Ab); No 2: 32

Nagy J (R); No 1: 15
Orbach A (R); No 2: 31

Parents talking in the present tense about their dead child (A); No 3: 35-38
Parkes CM (R); No 1: 12

Parkes CM (A); No 2: 19-21
Parkes CM (report); No 3: 45-46
Picasso's *Science and Charity* (A); No 2: 21

Pratt M (R); No 1: 13
Pregnancy Loss: Perspectives and issues in care (R); No 3: 46
Pregnancy Loss and the Death of a Baby: A training pack for professionals; Guidelines for professionals (R); No 3: 46-47

Presence of the dead, The: an empirical study (Ab); No 3: 48

Radestad I (R); No 3: 47
Response to the death of a pupil, A: a school counsellor's perspective (A); No 2: 22-24

Researching the bereaved: an investigator's experience (A); No 3: 40-43
Revival of Death, The (R); No 1: 13-14

Role of policy in creating a supportive social context for the management of loss experiences and critical incidents in school communities (Ab); No 1: 16

Rosenblatt PC (A); No 3: 35-38
Shannon P (report); No 3: 45-46

Sixth International Conference on Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society (report); No 3: 45-46

Something Understood: Art therapy in cancer care (R); No 1: 13
Spall B (R); No 1: 14

Sque M (A); No 3: 40-43
Stokes J (booklet)(R); No 2: 31

Thomas J (R); No 3: 47
Trafford P (video)(R); No 2: 31

Traumatic Grief: Diagnosis, treatment and prevention (R); No 2: 31

Using the Solution Focused Brief Therapy model with bereavement groups in rural communities (Ab); No 3: 48

Walter T (R); No 1: 13-14
Weiss L (R); No 3: 47

When a Baby Dies Suddenly and Unexpectedly (R); No 3: 47
When a Meeting is Also Farewell (R); No 3: 47

Winston's Wish (activity worksheets)(R); No 2: 31-32
Wood M (R); No 1: 13

Woods T (A); No 1: 8-10
Working with adolescents (A); No 1: 6-8
Working with Bereaved People (R); No 1: 15
Working with Children in Grief and Loss (R); No 1: 15
Zimbabwe children's homes project (A); No 1: 10-11