Dr. Kenneth J. Doka is a Professor of Gerontology at the Graduate School of The College of New Rochelle and Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America. A prolific author, Dr. Doka has written more than 34 books. In addition to these books, he has published over 100 articles and book chapters. Dr. Doka is editor of both Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying and Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement. He has an ongoing blog for Psychology Today entitled Good Mourning.

Dr. Doka was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling in 1993. In 1995, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and served as chair from 1997-1999. The Association for Death Education and Counseling presented him with an Award for Outstanding Contributions in the Field of Death Education in 1998 and Significant Contributions to the Field of Thanatology in 2014. In 2000 Scott and White presented him an award for Outstanding Contributions to Thanatology and Hospice. His Alma Mater Concordia College presented him with their first Distinguished Alumnus Award. He is a recipient of the Caring Hands Award as well as the Dr. Robert Fulton CDEB Founder’s Award. In 2006, Dr. Doka was grandfathered in as a Mental Health Counselor under NY State’s first licensure of counselors.

Dr. Doka has keynoted conferences throughout North America, as well as Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He participates in the annual Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference and has appeared on CNN and Nightline. In addition he has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, funeral service and hospice organizations as well as businesses and educational and social service agencies. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran minister.

Web Page: http://www.drkendoka.com/
Purpose

This presentation describes disenfranchised grief as grief that is not openly acknowledged, socially sanctioned, or publicly mourned. The presentation explores the contexts and causes of disenfranchised grief as well as complications arising from disenfranchisement. The seminar emphasizes the cultural factors that can disenfranchise grief. A strong emphasis of the presentation is on interventive strategies that can enfranchise grief.

CE hours will be awarded at the completion of the conference following submission of your evaluation form.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Define disenfranchised grief, discuss causes of disenfranchisement, and describe five contexts of disenfranchised grief.
   A. Disenfranchised Grief – Definition
   B. Causes of Disenfranchised Grief
      (1) rationality and grieving rules
      (2) primacy of family
      (3) rite and right
      (4) social approval
   C. Circumstances that Lead to Disenfranchised Grief
      (1) the relationship is not recognized
      (2) the loss is not acknowledged
      (3) the griever is not recognized
      (4) disenfranchised deaths
      (5) culture and grieving styles

2. Discuss the cultural context of disenfranchised grief.
   A. Culture as a Disenfranchising Factor
      (1) culture determines attachment
      (2) culture and grieving rules
      (3) culture and ritual
   B. Culture and Gender Roles

3. Discuss ways that disenfranchisement complicates the process of mourning;
   A. Complicating Factors
      (1) disenfranchised grief exacerbates grief reactions
      (2) social support is limited
      (3) ritual is unavailable
      (4) there are often concurrent crises
   B. Disenfranchised Grief Is Likely to Result in Complicated Grief Reactions

4. Describe interventive strategies that are effective with disenfranchised grievers;
   A. Interventive Strategies for Disenfranchised Grief
   B. Assessing Empathic Failure
   C. Countering Empathic Ritual
      (1) counseling approaches
      (2) support groups
      (3) therapeutic ritual
      (a) therapeutic funerals
      (b) other rituals

5. Discuss the cost of enfranchising disenfranchised grievers
   A. Individual costs
   B. Organizational costs
   C. Social costs
      (1) counseling approaches
      (2) other

Who Should Attend?

This program is designed for Hospice Personnel, Educators, Social Workers, Counselors, Therapists, Psychologists, Physicians, Nurses, Clergy, Chaplains, Lay Ministers, and others caring for the bereaved.

Directions to the Fowler Center:

From US 63 turn north onto Red Wolf Blvd. Stay on Red Wolf Blvd. until you reach Aggie Rd. Turn left onto Aggie Rd. Make the first right onto Olympic Drive. Arrive at the Fowler Center on your left.

From US 49 North (Stadium Blvd) Stay on Red Wolf Blvd. until you reach Aggie Road. Turn west onto Aggie road. Make the first right onto Olympic Drive. Arrive at the Fowler Center on your left.

Continuing Education:

CEUs are pending for all programs noted below.

Nurses -- Contact hours will be provided
Arkansas State University is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Long Term Care - 4.5 contact hours
Social Work -- 4.5 contact hours
Physical Therapy – 4.5 contact hours
Counseling – 4.5 contact hours

Families, Inc. Counseling Services and Arkansas State University-College of Nursing and Health Professions are cosponsors of this program. This cosponsorship has been approved by NBCC. Families, Inc. Counseling Services is an NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 6221. The ACEP solely is responsible for this program, including the awarding of NBCC credit.