



## Continuing Education Information

**Event Title:** Grief and Loss: Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities at the End of Life and Other Difficult Transitions

**Event description:**

This full day workshop will look at strategies for supporting adults with developmental disabilities at the end of their lives, their friends, families, and staff and also at other times of loss and transition. It will include the fundamentals of grief theory, end of life care, and resources and practical tips for supporting those facing death, loss, and grief.

**Target Audience:** Social Workers, Clinicians, Grief Counselors, and Pastoral Counselors

**Level of Course Information:**

Beginner      Intermediate     Advanced

**Relevance to social work:**

Social workers are employed in the human services and disabilities fields as clinicians, case managers, direct support professionals, pastoral counselors, and other titles. In these roles, social workers are responsible for supporting people with disabilities, their families, and service organizations in aging and end of life transitions.

**Trainer (s):**

Rev. Bill Gaventa, M.Div.

Rev Alice Walsh, M.Div.

**Number of clock hours requested minus lunch and breaks: 5**

**Timed Outline:**

Agenda for Day

9:30 Introductions, Purpose of Workshop  
Naming the Questions and Issues regarding Grief and Loss faced in the lives of the participants

10:00 Coping with Aging and End of Life Issues:  
Challenges for agencies, people with developmental disabilities, and ourselves

11:00 Grieving: What Does it Look Like? A Review

12:00 Lunch

1:00 End of Life Care: Thinking about a "Good" death

2:00 Supports for times of loss by adults with developmental disabilities

2:45 Discussion re: Questions and Issues

3:15 Evaluation and follow up

3:30 Adjourn

**Goals and Objectives**

**Goal:**

To understand end of life issues faced by people in general, but with an emphasis on people with developmental disabilities, including the concepts and realities that lead to inadequate supports, such as disenfranchised grief and understanding behavioral manifestations of grief; To identify key challenges to caregivers and organizations in developmental disabilities around end of life issues in a system that is oriented to supports for development and growth; and To identify and explore understandings of spirituality, and five basic spiritual tasks as people face experiences of loss, aging and/or end of life.

**Objectives:**

1. Participants will be able to discuss and analyze ways that grief and loss are expressed in services with people with developmental disabilities and key barriers that hinder the development of effective supports.
2. Participants will be able to describe (1) key definitions of grief and loss, and explore different theories, including ways that loss occurs throughout the lifespan of persons with developmental disabilities, (2) how to assess needs, and (3) offer support.
3. Participants will be able to outline (1) key tasks that all humans face as they age and face end of life experiences, and how those tasks can be supported in the service system for and with people with developmental disabilities and (2) policies, procedures and resources that can support both staff and consumers who are dealing with grief and loss.