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Louis D. Brown Peace Institute Burial Guide Training

Funded by American Sociological Association

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Summary/Abstract

The Community Action Research Initiative (CARI) involves the dissemination and implementation of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) "Burial and Resource Guide" and a corresponding evaluation. The burial guide is a "step-by-step" manual with sections including: *notification and correspondence* with family, friends, funeral homes, officials, services and insurance companies; *writing guidelines* for obituaries and media statements; and *tracking and contacts* with police, medical examiners, and victim advocates after the murder of a loved one. The guide also includes *exercises and resources* for healing/coping. This is possibly the first specialized guide for survivors of homicide.



Goals and Objectives

The goal of the CARI is to formalize a partnership between UMass Boston and the LDBPI by achieving the project objectives. The objectives of the project are (1) developing a burial guide training for front line service providers; (2) implementing the training; (3) conducting a pre and post test evaluation of providers response before and after burial guide training and implementation; and (4) helping the LDBPI position the burial guide as a tool for development of a standard protocol for responding to families of homicide victims.

Approaches and Methods

The CARI research team aims at achieving its goal using the Addiction Technology Transfer Center's (ATTC) model of technology transfer to transform the practical knowledge compiled in the burial guide to standard professional practice in the field of crisis response

Relating Goals to LDBPI

The LDBPI's targets its efforts with family members of homicide victims and crisis response providers. Objectives include supporting survivors of homicide with concrete knowledge/tools and building the capacity and capabilities of the community and providers to respond to homicide survivors. The CARI project goal is to employ sociological expertise and technical assistance in the dissemination and implementation of the burial guide through training and a comprehensive and iterative evaluation. The evaluation includes (a) a process evaluation of the burial guide dissemination; and (b) pre and post test survey of provider activities and experiences before and after burial guide implementation. Data from the evaluation will inform the potential of the burial guide as a standard tool and position the LDBPI as a leader in the development of a standard protocol for responding to families of homicide victims. Additionally, the project necessitates a dialogue between researchers, the LDBPI, and front-line/crisis service providers. It provides an opportunity to survey the field--the resources and environments in which the providers operate --while also addressing immediate needs of survivors of homicide through the dissemination and implementation of a routine practice.



Conclusion

The CARI research team recently concluded a Burial Guide Training Seminar at the LDBPI and determined the following

- Almost 60% of the survivors reach out to LDBPI for grief counseling
- 79% of surviving families reach out to LDBPI for assistance with Finding Resources
- 57% of the families reach out to LDBPI for Health/Mental Health Services
- 42.9% of agencies similar to LDBPI have not used the Burial guide, because they have access to it.

Post training, the participating staff and volunteers indicated the following about the training seminar

- 69.2% of staff and employees indicated that they learnt about specific resources through the training
- 53.8% of staff and employees indicated that they were very eager to guide families with LDBPI burial guide
- 48.7% of staff and employees indicated that they now have increased knowledge of grief exercises.

Additionally

- 70% of staff and employees indicated that the burial guide was most useful in providing information on survivor reality
- 75% of staff and employees indicated that the burial guide was most useful in providing information on Trauma and Need for coordinated response and survivor based resources.