

2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development : The Agenda

Pre- and Post- Conference Skills Training Workshop

Workshop Title: Loss of parent(s) during childhood: Social Workers help those suffering from UBS, the Unfinished Business Syndrome

Time: 14.30 – 17:30

Date: 9 June, 2010 (Wednesday)

Fee: US\$50 / HK\$400

Venue: Duke of Windsor Service Building Hong Kong

Speakers: Herman de Mönnink

Private Practice & Lecturer School of Social Work, Hanze University Groningen, The Netherlands; member of IWG, International Workgroup on Death Dying and Bereavement

Workshop description

The loss of a parent during childhood is a profound life-event that influences a child forever. The long-term effects of grieving children have often been ignored and underestimated. The statistics of parental-loss would justify more attention from social workers for the **Unfinished Business Syndrome (UBS)**, which is often a result of unresolved parental-loss: how many children are suffering from unresolved losses and traumas from parental-loss? Parental loss is defined as loss of parents through death, through divorce, through absence, through abuse, through adoption, through missed parents, etcetera? And: how can social workers help grieving clients come to terms with this parental-loss by the Multi-Method-Grief Counseling Approach (MMGC)?

In this workshop, social workers are supported to identify the needs of grieving clients following the loss of parent(s). UBS is presented as a Syndrome frequently seen but not acknowledged as such in the Social Work Practice. The workshop helps social workers to work with UBS in children who have lost a parent but also UBS in adults who still suffer from parental-loss as a child: help them to reflect on their unique experience, understand its impact and help them to heal. Which resources do social workers have to help children and adults who have lost their parents?

MM-GC will be presented as an effective approach to unresolved effects of parental loss in childhood; insights will be offered in the assessment and approach to different levels of Unfinished Business: existential, practical, cognitive, physical, behavioural, expressive, traumatic, ritual and systemic level. Also **the UBS-screening-list** will be presented consisted of 4 characteristics: unexplained complaints (biopsychosocial), trigger-effect, unresolved life-events, multiplier-effect.

In this workshop, the MM-GC-model will be presented in a case-study-format and audio-visual material. With the Multi-Method-practice toolbox, Social Workers are supported to help clients cope with Losing a parent at a young age and empower the supporting network around the client. At last, in the workshop also the Dutch prevention project for families with dying parent(s) will be explained '*Remember Me When I Am Gone*'.

Target audience: Social work professionals and students in clinical practice settings

Maximum capacity: 45

*) Mönnink, H.J. de (2010) *The social workers' toolbox: the Client Centered Multi Method Social Work*. Publisher