

**National Center for Death Education at Mount Ida College  
2012 Summer Institute Workshop Evaluation**

**Friday, July 27, 2012**

**Exercising Our Therapeutic Imaginations:  
Techniques for Reflective Practice and Renewal Using the Arts  
*Sandra Bertman, Ph.D., FT and Joy Berger, FT, DMA, CC, MT-BC***

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. Content was related to both the program goals and specific session objectives.	26	2	
2. Teaching methods enhanced session.	26	1	
3. The site for this session was conducive to learning.	24	3	1
4. Presentation met my personal objective for attending and satisfied my learning need related to topic.	28		

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES MET**

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree
1. Demonstrate making meaningful connections through music and the arts with dying and/or bereaved persons, within the scope of one's professional role and relationship with the deceased.	28		
2. Apply basic musical and visual metaphors for composing life out of loss, utilizing themes and counter-themes of life stories, harmonies and dissonance of healing and best practices.	27	1	
3. VTS (Visual Thinking Strategies) and Expressive Therapies as resources and techniques readily accessible and immediately adaptable for clinical, academic and public settings are experienced and explored.	28		

**COMMENTS** (28 evaluations submitted; names used with permission)

1. **Please suggest any changes you believe would improve this program:**

Allow "pause" to experience what has transpired (ex: Just before break – image exercise, 1-10. Write/optional reading. Take break then come back to process, continue. Gives time/space for those who need to absorb quietly to do so as well as giving opportunity to those who prefer to talk about it outside of room. Then everyone is ready to briefly discuss when they return. Not sure if this would help/hinder time management!).  
(Karen Flood)

The afternoon dragged by except for Sunny the fish and the amazing Sheila the Cantor!

None

It was awesome!

Would love to have the final presentation: Reflection on Wholeness available for distribution. It is very moving and evocative and I can imagine how useful it would be in many settings. Thank you. (Christine Linnehan, LCPC, BC-DMF, FT)

Would have liked to go through more of the activities – felt first lecture was not concrete enough to be able to use techniques on our own. Loved second lecture.

It would be nice to have the PowerPoint printouts (for both sessions) with 3 slides per page and a place for writing notes next to them. I would have likes to have all slides from Sandra.

First speaker – Try to present in a more organized style and speak in a consistent volume. (Hard to hear parts of sentences.)

“Film and Literature healing therapies” OR Suggested Resource list! – as another vehicle to exercise imagination and promote healing. (Lisa Seltzer)

Practical application to information shared was so helpful and beneficial.

Sandy had great material but presentation was disorganized, also very soft-spoken especially second half. Joy – great material and teaching style.

Keep inviting the terrific speakers that inspire and renew our depleted caregiver souls! (Deirdre O'Hare, RN, Nurse Clinical Coordinator)

Can't say longer but I would love to stay more days. Thank you for everything: Dianne, Bernadette, Divine and Bryan. Thank you so much for your trust, assistance and friendship. (Ana)

It was excellent – AM and PM.

Very well prepared presentation – great slides and encouraging

I would just like for Sandy to stand out from behind the built-in computer stand. Maybe using the podium we'd used other days. (Marilyn J. Ladin, Cantor & Psychotherapist in Palliative Care & in Private Practice)

## 2. Please suggest any topics you would like to see addressed in the future:

1. More on how the arts can be helpful in bereavement with children and adults after traumatic loss. 2. Integration of the arts in the healing process – movement, music, visual art, poetry, drama. (Christine Linnehan, LCPC, BC-DMF, FT)

Would love if there could be a journaling/music/art group for students/practitioners who live locally.

The use of the Internet for grief support

1) GLBT issues 2) Strategies for caring for the most challenging patients (Deirdre O'Hare, RN, Nurse Clinical Coordinator)

Any that Sandra wants to do. She is a joy and a fine jewel. (Ana)

Miscarriage, stillborn, young infant loss; grief in special needs children

### Comments:

Any chance of creating/allocating a “quiet room” for participants throughout the week – time/space away from conversation, etc.? (Karen Flood)

Sandy was great. Joy needs a more specialized audience.

Delightful – wonderful – thought-provoking and insightful

Wonderful, inspiring presentation – an in-depth view of how these art forms care powerful and effective in many aspects of grief and loss (for our clients and ourselves). Loved all the visual and auditory examples of the healing power of the arts!! (from (illegible) a coffin to grieving a goldfish – all so poignant.) (Christine Linnehan, LCPC, BC-DMF, FT)

Amazing, both presenters speak from the soul and approach therapy from a direction that touches you, absorbs you and empowers you. (Dan Shea, Executive Director AHSI/Student NEI/NCDE)

This last day was a perfect ending. I am honored to have been a part of this enlightening week. (Devine El, Student)

Second speaker was great – great energy.

As Always – a wonderful inter/intrapersonal educational workshop

Excellent

Wonderful program. Thanks so much!

Great ideas that I will use at the Somerville Home with my group

Great, great, great program!!! (Deirdre O'Hare, RN, Nurse Clinical Coordinator)

Re: Learning Objectives #3 – All of Sandra – Would have appreciated more materials from Joy Berger. (Ana)

See you next year! Love, Ana

Wonderful!!!

Thank you!

So divine! (Marilyn J. Ladin, Cantor & Psychotherapist in Palliative Care & in Private Practice)