



EVERMORE

Better Together

Shaping Tomorrow's Bereavement Care Research

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Eaton Hotel, 1201 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20005

This is a *working meeting* designed to help shape priorities and funding recommendations for the future of bereavement research and care in community and healthcare settings (there will be no recording or virtual option). At its center are the perspectives of people with lived experience, who too often have not had a meaningful role in determining what questions are studied, which outcomes matter, or where research investments are made. Evermore is convening people with lived experience, researchers, clinicians, health systems, purchasers, and policymakers to advise PCORI — one of the nation's leading funders of healthcare research — on future research investments in bereavement.

7:30 – 8:30 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Welcome Setting the Course for Meaningful Bereavement Care Welcome: Joyal Mulheron, Evermore — Greg Martin, PCORI — Thomas Weiser, MD, Evermore — Rene Harrell, Evermore This opening session sets the charge for the day: why bereavement is a consequential health experience, why lived experience must help shape the research enterprise, and what we hope to accomplish together.
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Why Do We Care and Why It Matters? The Reach and Impact of Bereavement in America Moderated by Adrienne Stith*, American Psychological Association — Emily Smith-Greenaway, University of Southern California — Demography — Christine Denckla, Harvard University — Public Health — Emmanuel Drabo, Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management — Economics — Jack Chapel, University of Southern California — Healthcare Economics This session builds a shared understanding of the scale and distribution of bereavement in America and its consequences for health, healthcare use, and economic well-being, providing the foundation for determining where better evidence is most urgently needed.
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:30 AM	What We Know, What We Don't, and Why Patient-Centered CER Matters Moderated by Michelle Johnston-Fleece, PCORI — Sangeeta Ahluwalia, Associate Director, RAND Health — Mary-Frances O'Connor, University of Arizona — Neuroscience — Donna Schuurman, The Dougy Center This session takes stock of the current evidence, identifies important gaps and unresolved questions, and considers where patient-centered comparative effectiveness research could meaningfully advance bereavement care.

*Participating in this program in her personal and professional capacity and not as a representative of the American Psychological Association (APA). Any viewpoints expressed are solely those of Dr. Stith and do not represent the official views, policies, positions, or endorsements of APA.

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Learning from Communities: Actively Advancing Bereavement Care Moderated by Keisha Ward, The Gathering Place Wellness & Counseling Center — Kelly Michelson, Lurie Children’s Hospital — Sean McCabe, University of Michigan — Eric Hulsey, Institute for Research, Education & Training in Addiction This session examines how bereavement needs and services are being identified, studied, and addressed in real-world settings—and what these efforts can teach us about promising approaches, implementation challenges, and questions that remain unanswered.
12:15 – 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 – 2:15 PM	Making the Case: Bereavement Across Healthcare, Coverage, and Policy Moderated by Elizabeth Cope, AcademyHealth — Christina Summerville, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions — Keisha White Makinde, American Academy of Pediatrics — Dylan Landers-Nelson, Business Group on Health — Julie Miller, AARP Building on the morning’s discussion, leaders from healthcare, purchasers, pediatrics, aging, and policy will examine where bereavement currently appears — or is absent — in care delivery, coverage, benefits, and policy. The discussion will identify practical barriers, opportunities for change, and the evidence decision-makers would need to act.
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Break
2:30 – 3:15 PM	From Coverage to Care: Seeing the Whole Bereavement Ecosystem Moderated by Thomas Weiser, MD, Evermore — Representative Matt Longjohn, MD — Michigan State Elected Official — Laudan Aron, Urban Institute Using the Diabetes Prevention Program as one example of how evidence can lead to coverage and reimbursement, this session asks a larger set of questions about the future of bereavement care. What should sit within healthcare—and what should not? What happens when access depends on diagnosis, billing, or eligibility? What roles should community organizations, faith-based providers, employers, schools, human services, and health systems play? And what evidence, infrastructure, financing, and outcomes will be needed to build a system that improves people’s lives without narrowing bereavement to a clinical condition?
3:15 – 4:15 PM	From What Matters to What We Study: Building a Patient-Centered Research Agenda — Facilitated by Ellen Schultz and Lisa Stewart Working together, participants will translate the day’s discussions into priority questions for patient-centered comparative effectiveness research in bereavement care, with particular attention to the questions, comparisons, and outcomes that matter most to people with lived experience.
4:15 – 4:45 PM	What Makes a Topic Ready for Comparative Effectiveness Research — Lora Reineck, M.D., M.S. — Program Director, Clinical Research, PCORI PCORI will reflect on the questions generated by participants and help “stress test” them against the elements of a researchable comparative effectiveness question: a meaningful evidence gap, clear comparators and populations, and outcomes that matter to patients and other partners. The discussion will also identify which priorities may be ready for CER now and which require additional foundational work.
4:45 – 5:00 PM	Closing From Today's Conversation to a Shared Research Agenda — Joyal Mulheron, Evermore A synthesis of the day's priorities, how they will be refined and shared after the meeting, and opportunities for participants to remain engaged in advancing the field.

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Grief is universal; our responses should be too.
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