

Lisa Caraway Oliver, EdD

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traumagriefconsultants.com

Expert in the psychosocial impact of traumatic loss and death. Adult educator and ACPE-trained chaplain with experience supporting patients and families in adult and pediatric trauma hospitals through serious illness, traumatic injury, bereavement, and end-of-life decisions. Experienced grief support group facilitator, speaker, and author on grief and end-of-life issues, with doctoral research examining the informal learning of hospice care professionals.

Grief, Trauma, and End-of-Life Professional Experience

Founder and Principal | Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia | 2026-Present

Practice focus: The psychosocial impact of traumatic loss, including wrongful death and catastrophic injury. Services offered include case consultation, medical and psychosocial record review, psychosocial impact analysis, written reports, attorney education, and deposition and trial testimony.

Adult Educator, Speaker, and Facilitator | Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC
Atlanta, Georgia | 2017-Present

Develops and facilitates learning experiences addressing grief, trauma, death, serious illness, caregiving, advance care planning, and significant life transitions, including the Life Transitions Education Series, Death Cafés, Grief Cafés, and recorded public education.

Chaplain Resident | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Arthur M. Blank Hospital
Atlanta, Georgia | 2025-2026

Provided spiritual and emotional support to pediatric patients and families facing serious illness, traumatic injury, and end-of-life decisions. Served in pediatric intensive care and emergency care settings; supported families during crisis and bereavement. Collaborated with interdisciplinary care teams and used interpreters when needed to support communication with families.

Chaplain Intern | Grady Healthcare

Atlanta, Georgia | 2022-2023

Provided spiritual and emotional support in an adult hospital and trauma care setting.

Education

Doctor of Education in Adult Education | University of Georgia (2017)

> Research focus: death and dying, emotion work, and informal learning
> Dissertation: How Do Caregivers Learn, Exploring the Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals.

Master of Science in Instructional Technology | Georgia State University (2005)

Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering | Howard University (1991)

Educational Programs and Facilitation

Life Transitions Education Series

Develops and offers practical education to help individuals and families prepare for serious illness, end-of-life decisions, grief, and trauma. Programs address what to ask, how to communicate preferences, and actions participants can take before a crisis. Sessions 2-4 are designed as one-hour offerings; estate planning, funeral planning, grief, and trauma sessions are designed for approximately two hours.

Death Cafés

Facilitates relaxed, participatory, group-led conversations about death, dying, grief, legacy, and what matters in life. Gatherings typically include coffee or tea and cake and emphasize openness, respect, and compassion. The objective is to increase awareness of death to help participants make the most of their finite lives; discussions have no prescribed agenda, objectives, or themes and are discussion forums rather than grief counseling or support sessions.
Presented at public libraries and churches since 2017.

Grief Cafés

Offers a welcoming space for participants to learn, reflect, and connect through shared experiences of loss. The format begins with the interactive presentation Eleven Things to Know About Grief, followed by Name Your Grief: participants may share their name, the person or situation they are grieving, and something they want others to understand about that loss. A simple group toast recognizes each person,

relationship, or life circumstance being honored. Participation is voluntary and at each person's comfort level, whether the loss is recent or longstanding; gatherings include coffee, cake, and light refreshments. Presented at public libraries since 2024.

On-Demand Presentations

Self-paced educational resources that learners can revisit as needed.

Dr. Lisa Talks About Grief That May Be Experienced by Caregivers

Presentation on the distinct forms of grief experienced by caregivers, featured in the *Caregiving While Black* educational series.

The Grief You May Experience as You Grieve the Loss of a Loved One

Educational reflection on forms of grief experienced following the death of her sister on January 5, 2021, at age 52.

Advance Directives: Who Is Going to Speak for You When You Cannot Speak for Yourself? The Need for Advance Directives

Recorded introduction to advance directives, naming a healthcare agent, communicating end-of-life wishes, and the advantages, limitations, and authority of these documents.

GRIEF: What It Is | What It Feels Like | Its Components

Seminar exploring grief beyond the death of a person or pet, the distinction between grief and grieving, and different forms of grief.

Research and Publications

Dissertation Research

Oliver, L.C. (2017). How Do Caregivers Learn, Exploring the Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals. University of Georgia.

Dissertation Research with Hospice Staff

Harbor Grace Hospice | 2015-2017

Conducted dissertation research examining informal learning practices among hospice staff, including discussions with the interdisciplinary team about burnout and practices emerging from informal learning.

Doctoral Research Project — Clergy Outreach Initiative

Visiting Nurse Health System Hospice Atlanta and Georgia Baptist School of Nursing at Mercer University | 2010-2014

Collaborated with faculty advisors and organizational partners on an initial doctoral research project involving the design, development, implementation, and facilitation of four two-hour seminars to help clergy support congregants facing life-limiting illness, end-of-life concerns, and grief.

Books

1. Oliver, L.C. (2022). Final Wishes, A Workbook for Planning a Funeral, 2nd Ed. ISBN 978-0578366753.

2. Oliver, L.C. (2018). Final Wishes: A Workbook for Planning a Funeral. ISBN 978-1730874192.

Public Education Articles

1. Oliver, Lisa. The Hidden Losses After Catastrophic Injury. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. September 25, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

2. Oliver, Lisa. When a Sibling Is Always in the Hospital. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. September 19, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

3. Oliver, Lisa. Trauma and Grief: Understanding the Difference. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. September 18, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

4. Oliver, Lisa. When Everyone Else Goes Home: Supporting Parents After the Death. August 7, 2026. Published in *Articles and Insights*, Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC (drlisaoliver.com), and *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC (traumagriefconsultants.com).

5. Oliver, Lisa. When a Child Dies: Understanding Parental Bereavement. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. August 7, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

6. Oliver, Lisa. Choosing the Wrong Person for the Right Reason. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. July 3, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

7. Oliver, Lisa. Five Benefits of Having an Advance Care Plan. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. July 3, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

8. Oliver, Lisa. When a Child Dies: Why Grief Does Not Follow a Timeline. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. July 3, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

9. Oliver, Lisa. When Assumptions Replace Science: Five Myths About Grief. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. June 22, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

10. Oliver, Lisa. Why Don't We Talk About Death? *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. June 21, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

11. Oliver, Lisa. Advance Directive vs. POLST: Understanding the Difference. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. June 14, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

12. Oliver, Lisa. The Other Patient in the Room. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. June 12, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

13. Oliver, Lisa. Standing Watch: Lessons from Families in a Level I Trauma Center. *Articles and Insights*. Dr. Lisa Oliver, LLC. June 12, 2026. drlisaoliver.com.

14. Oliver, Lisa. The Family-System Impact of Wrongful Death. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. June 10, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

15. Oliver, Lisa. How Violent and Traumatic Death Differs. *Insights*, Trauma & Grief Consultants, LLC. June 10, 2026. traumagriefconsultants.com.

Public Education Podcast

Co-host

Dr. Death and The Humorist, with Jerry Drye | 2018

Discussed death, dying, and bereavement to encourage public conversation about these topics.

Presentations and Speaking Engagements

Date	Presentation	Host or Venue
October 2026	“A Moment of Silence” *Invited Remarks* Grief, self-care, and community support	Atlanta Technical College Atlanta, Georgia
October 2026	A Death Café, Reimagined: A Guided Conversation About Mortality, Meaning, and Legacy	Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) Conference, Gainesville, Florida
July 2026	The Many Faces of Grief	Grady Professional Advisory Group (PAG); presentation to Grady Healthcare’s 2026 cohort of chaplain interns, Atlanta, Georgia
July 2026	Life Transitions Education Series	Fulton County Library System, Adamsville–Collier Heights Branch, Atlanta, Georgia
April 2025	Community Game Day: Using an End-of-Life Conversation Game to Encourage Advance Care Planning	Fulton County Government, Department of Senior Services, Atlanta, Georgia; nationwide initiative developed by the Hospice Foundation of America and Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
January 2025	Advance Care Planning and End of Life Decision Making	Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Date	Presentation	Host or Venue
Summer 2024	Death and Dying: Not Only for People, Pets, and Plants	Guest lecturer, Sociology of Death and Dying, Florida State University; remote
October 2019	Why We Should Talk About Death and Dying	Dementia Caregiver Support Group, Lou Walker Senior Center, Lithonia, Georgia
August 2019	Why We Should Talk About Death and Dying	End of Life Seminar, New Horizon Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
March 2019	Understanding Dementia: Death and Dying	Faith Village Connections, Fairburn, Georgia
January and February 2019	Death and Dying: Peace and Possibilities, Parts 1 and 2	Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Georgia
January 2019	What?! Why Would I Want to Attend a Seminar on DEATH?!	Wesley Woods Towers, Atlanta, Georgia
2016	The Informal Learning of Hospice Care Professionals	38th Annual Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counseling, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Grief and End of Life Education and Facilitation

Facilitator
Life Transitions Education Ministry, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Georgia | January 2019-Present
Design and facilitate education on advance care planning, funeral planning, and end-of-life preparation. Co-facilitates the ministry with Sharyn M. Hailey, MSW.

Program Presenter
Atlanta-Fulton County Library System | November 2017 - April 2020, July 2026
Designed and delivered a Life Transition Series addressing palliative and hospice care, advance directives, and funeral planning.
Facilitated discussions to help participants prepare for end-of-life decisions and communicate their wishes.

Death Café Facilitator
Community and faith settings | November 2017 - Present
Facilitates conversations about death and dying to increase awareness and encourage participants to make the most of their lives.

Walking the Mourner's Path Facilitator
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, Georgia | 2019, 2022
Facilitated an eight-week, Christ-centered grief workshop.
Assessed participant readiness and adapted activities to participants' needs.

Grief Support Group Facilitator
St. Paul's Episcopal Church | 2024
Facilitated monthly grief support discussions.

Program Management Experience			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Program Coordinator	Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA	October 1997 - June 2002
Administrative Assistant	Georgia Institute of Technology	Atlanta, GA	June 1997 - September 1997

Selected Projects and Contributions

Coordinated engineering program operations: Managed the Morehouse College's Dual Degree Engineering Program's coordination activities, advised students, and communicated program requirements and information about partner engineering institutions (1997-2002).

Guided prospective students and families: Met with prospective Morehouse College students and parents to explain program requirements and pathways to partner engineering institutions (1997-2002).

Managed multimedia classroom development: Designed and project managed the conversion of classrooms into multimedia learning spaces and trained faculty to use the equipment at Morehouse College (2000-2002).

Developed faculty development infrastructure: Authored a successful grant proposal and served as the technical lead in developing and implementing a Morehouse College Faculty Development Center to support technology integration into instruction; the department chairman submitted the proposal and served as principal investigator (2000-2002).

Led a summer program through completion: Initially hired as an Administrative Assistant for a NASA scholars summer program at Georgia Tech, assumed program management responsibilities midway through the program when the program manager became ill and managed it through completion (1997).

Instructional Design Experience

Corporate			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Associate Vice President, Instructional Design	Regions Bank	Birmingham, AL	2021-2025
Senior Instructional Designer	Advocate Aurora Health	Milwaukee, WI	2021
Freelance Instructional Designer	Beyond the Sky, Inc	Vancouver, BC	2019-2020
Contract Instructional Designer	IMERYS Minerals	Roswell, GA	2019

Corporate			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Principal and Senior Instructional Designer	The Caraway Seed Company, LLC, supporting AT&T through TrainingPros	Atlanta, GA	2015-2016
Instructional Designer	Precedence, Inc.	Houston, TX	2007-2008
Instructional Designer	Computer Task Group – Assigned to IBM's BP Oil and Gas Project	Houston, TX	2007
Instructional Designer	Adecco NA – Assigned to UPS	Atlanta, GA	2007
Instructional Designer	Global Consultants Intl. – Assigned to IBM's Merck Pharmaceutical Project	Whitehouse Station, NJ	2006-2007
Instructional Designer	Global Consultants International supporting AT&T	Atlanta, GA	2006
Instructional Designer	NovoLogic, Inc	Lawrenceville, GA	2004-2005
Instructional Designer, Intern	United Parcel Service	Atlanta, GA	2004

Selected Projects and Contributions

Advanced healthcare workforce education: Developed Epic electronic health record curricula for Advocate Aurora Health, applying adult education principles, process improvement, and change management expertise in collaboration with teams across departments and disciplines (2021).

Led development of a comprehensive learning series: Spearheaded the Canadian Red Cross's Gender Equality & Social Inclusion learning series, for the hiring agency Beyond the Sky, creating eBooks, eLearning modules, and virtual classes addressing organizational commitments, policies, terminology, and power dynamics (2019-2020).

Prepared employees for organizational change: Redesigned training materials for Imerys' Performance Minerals Americas group to align with "Market to Mine" learning objectives and support a reorganization, coordinating stakeholder interviews and weekly content reviews (2019).
Supported large-scale organizational integration: Conducted needs assessments and developed training to support approximately 30,000 employees following AT&T's acquisition of DIRECTV, including compliance, customer service, and integrated services training (2015-2016).
Developed enterprise systems training: Designed web-based and instructor-led SAP implementation training for British Petroleum and Merck Pharmaceuticals (2006-2007).

Government			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Senior Instructional Designer	Cherokee Nation Assurance, supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Atlanta, GA	2016-2018
Senior Instructional Designer	Chenega Government Consulting, LLC, supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Atlanta, GA	2016
Senior Instructional Designer	Chenega Government Consulting, LLC, supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Atlanta, GA	2014-2015
Senior Instructional Designer	AMTIS, Inc., supporting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Atlanta, GA	2013-2014
Instructional Designer	Georgia Quick Start	Atlanta, GA	2005-2006

Selected Projects and Contributions

Developed foundational public health education: Developed the *Public Health 101* series, collaborating with scientific subject matter experts to create nine instructor-led and e-learning courses introducing essential public health sciences and shared terminology for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013-2014).

Updated specialized vaccination education: Revised the Yellow Fever Vaccination course for the Traveler's Health Branch for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support public health training (2015).
Advanced laboratory workforce training: Developed e-learning for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Training and Workforce Development Branch, Division for Laboratory Services, collaborating with subject matter experts and multimedia specialists to review scientific content, graphics, and video (2016).
Supported dissemination and implementation education: Developed instructor-led and e-learning materials for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Community Guide Branch's Dissemination and Implementation Team, aligning content with adult learning principles and public health competencies (2016-2018).

Position

Higher Education			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Instruction Content Developer	Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University	Atlanta, GA	2010-2013
Instructional Designer	Morehouse College	Atlanta, GA	2009-2010
Instructional Designer	Art Institute Online	Pittsburgh, PA	2004-2005

Selected Projects and Contributions

Expanded international public health education: Developed a distance education program at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health connecting Emory with Tbilisi State Medical University in the country of Georgia (2010).
Strengthened faculty instructional design practices: Coached Morehouse College faculty in applying systematic instructional design, developing measurable learning objectives, and creating criterion-referenced assessments. (2009-2010).
Supported practicum administration and accreditation requirements: At Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, collaborated with faculty, technical subject matter experts, and career services personnel to develop processes and a portal for enrolling and tracking students in practicum experiences, supporting the school's accreditation requirements for experiential learning (2012-2013).
Developed applied public health curricula: At Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, developed an implementation science case study course and instructional materials for continuing education and degree programs (2010-2013).

Engineering Experience			
Position	**Organization**	**Location**	**Dates**
Project Engineer	Schwan's Bakery, Inc.	Atlanta, GA	2003-2004
Systems Engineer	MDCS Systems Integration	Atlanta, GA	1996-1997
Process Engineer	Ben & Jerry's Homemade	Springfield, VT	1994-1996
Process Engineer	Kraft General Foods	Northbrook, IL / Springfield, MO	1991-1994

Selected Projects and Contributions

Led a $1.5 million plant modernization project: Managed structural modifications, clean-in-place piping and controls upgrades, and two new product introductions at Ben & Jerry's Homemade (1995-1996).
Led product launches and plant capacity planning: Managed the launch of four new products within 90 days for a national restaurant chain and a capacity planning project spanning two Schwan's Bakery manufacturing facilities (2003-2004).
Upgraded runway lighting controls: Served as project engineer at MDCS, Inc. for a Dobbins Air Reserve Base runway lighting project undertaken for the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta, converting an on/off system to a five-level lighting system (1996).
Supported workplace safety and process improvement: Facilitated a material handling improvement team at Ben & Jerry's Homemade focused on reducing lost-time accidents. The team's work informed scheduling changes and equipment purchases to reduce physical demands on employees (1994).
Managed capital project finances and contracting: Across engineering roles, managed project cash flow and prepared statements of work, requests for quotations, contractor scopes, and project deliverables (1991-1996, 2003-2004).
Coordinated environmental compliance activities: Served as a plant liaison at Kraft General Foods, addressing corporate, municipal, state, and federal environmental requirements and preparing government reports (1992-1994).
Developed manufacturing automation controls: Programmed programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for manufacturing environments at Kraft General Foods and MDCS (1992-1994, 1996).

Leadership and Community Service
Board Member and Advance Care Planning Task Force Leader
Georgians for End of Life Options | 2023-2025

Free Hugs Event Organizer
Black Atlanta Pride and Atlanta Pride | Atlanta, Georgia | 2019-Present
Organizes Free Hugs events that offer encouragement, connection, and affirmation to Pride attendees.

Professional Websites

TraumaGriefConsultants.com | 2026-Present
Expert witness services and consultation on how traumatic loss affects individuals and families.

DrLisaOliver.com | 2018-Present
Speaking, consulting, and life transitions education, featuring Death Cafés, Grief Cafés, and resources for grief and end-of-life planning.

DyingandDeath.com | 2010-2018
Former blog exploring death, dying, grief, and bereavement through articles that encouraged understanding and open conversation.

Website Management and Technology Support
Mary Lin Elementary School | marylin.atlantapublicschools.us
Atlanta, Georgia | 2005-2011
Developed and administered the Mary Lin Elementary School website and provided departmental network administration, workstation security, and technical support for Windows and Mac systems.