



Hospice Northwest Presents

*Die*alogues

*Conversations on
Life and Death*

A Guide to Help You Host
Your Own Event

Table of Contents



- 3** Letter of Introduction
- 4** About Hospice Northwest
- 5** Manual and Event Purpose
- 6** History of Event
- 7** Defining the Event
- 8** Planning Your Event: Objectives
- 9** Planning Your Event: Topic
- 10** Planning Your Event: Event Host and Event Speaker
- 11** Planning Your Event: Table Facilitators and Training/Preparing Table Facilitators
- 12** Planning Your Event: Aiding Conversation and Event Volunteers
- 13** Planning Your Event: Venue and Ambiance
- 14** Planning Your Event: Length of Event and Event Fees
- 15** Planning Your Event: Event Registration
- 16** Planning Your Event: Guest List and Participant Feedback
- 17** Planning Your Event: Expected Costs and Partner and Sponsorships
- 18** Common Challenges
- 19** Pop-up Events
- 20** Similar Events and Concepts
- 21** Contact Info

Letter of Introduction



To our partners in palliative care,

Thank you for considering hosting a Die-alogues event in your community. We at Hospice Northwest feel that you will find it a very rewarding experience, and a wonderful way to encourage your community to open up a powerful conversation about things that matter. As you are aware, we live in a death denying culture, and yet death is the ultimate reality for us all. Increasing education and awareness on the subject of death, encouraging open, easy and respectful conversation about everything related to end-of-life issues and building a community that accepts death as a natural and inevitable part of life is one of the main goals Hospice Northwest aspires to. The challenge we face as a hospice organization is to encourage our community to embrace all of life, from its beginning to its end.

Hospice Northwest believes that by educating the community on the difficult subjects of advance care planning, final wishes, estate planning and services available to individuals and their loved ones at end-of-life, our organization can assist our community members in making the most of their lives. Almost all of us try to avoid thinking about death until the moment we come face to face with it. But only when we are able to find the courage to accept our mortality, and to discuss it openly and easily, will we be able to live our lives to the fullest without fear. That challenge was the impetus for the development of the Die-alogues series.

Conversations about life and death are important. They help people to not only come to terms with end of life, but further, they help them to understand the process. When death is embraced as a natural part of life and becomes an acceptable topic to discuss, it allows individuals and their families to learn about the services that are available to them, and ultimately provides them with quality of life in the time that remains. End of life is a stressful time for all individuals involved, and unfortunately for many, it becomes even more stressful as the family is overwhelmed with information and decisions that need to be made—information on DNAR (Do Not Attempt Resuscitation) orders, wills, funeral arrangements, services available in home, hospital and long term care, and so much more. If families can initiate these conversations before illness strikes, it can help to make a stressful time so much easier. Those who are terminally ill can then put their energy into living out their final days as peacefully as possible, knowing that their decisions on end of life care have been communicated.

Thank you for considering taking on the task of hosting a Die-alogues event in your community. We believe you will find it a very meaningful, worthwhile and successful experience.

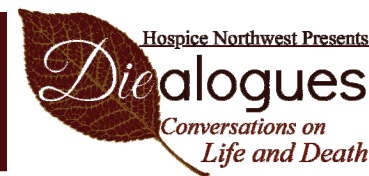
Sincerely,

Joan Williams

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joan Williams", written in a cursive style.

Executive Director, Hospice Northwest

Hospice Northwest



Mission Statement

Hospice Northwest is a community volunteer organization that delivers, compliments and enhances care at the end of life, including grief and bereavement services. The mission of HNW is to foster a compassionate community response around dying and death.

Vision Statement

As a community volunteer organization in the City and District of Thunder Bay, Hospice Northwest will be a leader in education and advocacy on end of life issues. We will provide compassionate companionship and support for individuals who are chronically ill, dying, their caregivers and the bereaved, fostering hope, healing and dialogue around death.

Our Values

- **Courageous:** HNW provides care in areas that are challenging, underserved, under-resourced and sometimes forgotten. We aim to be leaders in providing volunteers in areas that are sometimes avoided by others such as Dementia care and LTC.
- **Community:** HNW responds to the needs of the community. Our grassroots organization strives to promote normalization of dying and death in our community and region.
- **Quality care:** HNW provides a high quality service and is accredited utilizing specially trained and well supported volunteers from a variety of backgrounds.

History

The word "hospice" dates back to medieval times. It was originally defined as a place of shelter for travelers on a difficult journey. Today we define hospice as a philosophy of care rather than a place, although the original meaning of the word - shelter from a difficult journey - is still appropriate.

Hospice Northwest was incorporated in 1986 as Thunder Bay Community Palliative Care Volunteers. The name *Via Vitae*, Latin for Life's Way, was adopted in 1990, with a final name change made in 2002 to Hospice Northwest. This not-for-profit charity is governed by a volunteer board of directors and operated by a staff consisting of an Executive Director, a Communications Coordinator, a Volunteer Coordinator and a Support Group Facilitator.

District programs are administered by coordinators from regional offices located in Geraldton, Terrace Bay/Schreiber, Marathon, Manitouwadge, and Nipigon.

Hospice Northwest is accredited through Hospice Palliative Care Ontario and is a member of the Northwest End of Life Care Network, the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, and Hospice Palliative Care Ontario.

Purpose



The purpose of this manual is to provide you with information you might find useful when hosting a Die-alogues event. We also want to encourage you to share your experiences with us on our website, so that we can let others know what worked for you and what didn't. All we ask in return is that you acknowledge Die-alogues as a Hospice Northwest initiative in your promotional material.



Die-alogues: Conversations on Life and Death is a new initiative for Hospice Northwest, designed to encourage individuals in our community to start talking about death and end-of-life issues. So far we've been thrilled with the positive feedback we've received. We felt that it was important to share the experience we've gained, in order to encourage others to open up their own Die-alogues. Together we can help shape the way our society faces death and dying.

History of Event



In the summer of 2013, Hospice Northwest began to explore the idea of developing and hosting Thunder Bay's first community discussion series centered on the topic of death and dying. We were interested in creating an initiative based on the Death Café model. Death Café's are events that have been rising in popularity around the world in the last couple of years. The first Death Café was founded in the UK in 2011 and was based on the work of Swiss sociologist and anthropologist Bernard Crettaz. Since their inception, over 200 such events have been held across England, Wales, the U.S., Canada, Australia and Italy with 1000's of people in attendance. Similar types of death themed social gatherings have also sprung up around the world.

At these events, people come together in a relaxed and safe setting to discuss death, usually over some type of refreshment. Hospice Northwest was able to draw upon the experiences and resources established by other successful death-themed events and introduce the concept of Die-alogues to the community of Thunder Bay. At our inaugural Die-alogues event, which was held on May 29, 2014 and which had a topic of 'Bucket Lists', we were able to incorporate ideas from the various models that we researched, and create an event that worked well for our organization and our community. We are pleased to announce that our first Die-alogues was a great success, and was the spring board for several additionally successful events since.



What a Die-alogues is:



- Inclusive and accessible – regardless of age, gender, nationality, religion, etc. While some topics tend to lend themselves better to specific groups, all participants must be made to feel welcome in order for conversation to be genuine and beneficial to the community
- Thought provoking—the goal is to get the conversation on end-of-life issues started through the use of challenging and engaging topics or themes
- A reflection of palliative care philosophies and principles
- An opportunity to educate the public on end-of-life issues- this includes available services, concepts, principles, laws, etc
- Adaptable – Die-alogues can take on many forms, involve many topics, include many different people; A Die-alogues event can be whatever the community most needs it to be

What a Die-alogues isn't:

- A Die-alogues event is not a therapeutic intervention, though we recognize that the event could draw people who have recently been bereaved after an experience with end-of-life, or are facing a diagnosis themselves. For this reason we recommend that a qualified support person (may include hospice volunteers) are available to take a distraught individual to a different location for a private discussion, so as not to impede the table conversation.
- An opportunity to endorse a specific political or religious ideology
- A teaching opportunity; though some may be more knowledgeable on a specific topic, we ask that all participants leave their professional hats at the door, and participate as their personal selves
- “Owned” by any one organization—the purpose of Die-alogues is to engage the community; therefore it should be created and operated in a way that is open to collaboration, partnerships and inclusion. Topics should reflect this principle and speakers should be encouraged to prepare their presentations free of bias

Planning Your Event



Though there are many forms a Die-alogues event can take, the most popular is an evening gathering, with a special guest and a host, followed by open table conversations. Over the next few pages we will outline some important aspects about hosting your own event. Pay attention to the gold boxes for ideas from our very first event, "Bucket Lists".



Also, watch out for the grey boxes at the bottom of the pages. They provide information about the Die-alogues Starter Kit. Starter Kits will be available in August 2015 for a small fee. They will include a printed copy of this manual and an assortment of Die-alogues templates, forms, and activities including planning documents, topic ideas, facilitator handouts, volunteer roles, conversation starter cards, evaluation forms and Die-alogues Jeopardy, Word Search and Euphemism Challenge. In addition, we will have our Die-alogues t-shirts, notebooks and coffee mugs available for purchase.

Check out our website www.hospicenorthwest.ca in August 2015 for more details.

Die-alogues Objectives

- To increase awareness of dying and death
- To provide a safe space for people to share their thoughts and feelings about dying and death
- To provide opportunity for people to learn about different aspects pertaining to dying and death
- To begin to normalize dying and death as a part of our living
- To begin to create a compassionate community that includes dying and death

STARTER KIT INCLUDES: 3 month outline planning document to help you along the process of planning your first event.

Topics

In order to get the most out of your event, we encourage setting each Die-alogue with a theme or topic of interest. This topic will lead the discussion and offer the attendees a starting point to get the conversation flowing. Also, you can easily use different themes to engage various demographic groups within the community. At some events you may opt to select “heavier” topics such as DNARs, living wills, hospice units, etc in order to help participants become more educated about these important issues. Other events might have “lighter” topics such as Bucket Lists, Euphemisms, or Death in Pop Culture, which are intended to ease people into discussing death, in a more light-hearted manner (perfect for groups new to Die-alogues).

POSSIBLE TOPICS

Bucket Lists

A look at bucket lists, the reasons we make them, and how to make the most of our lives in the time we have

The Adult Orphan

A Die-alogue on life after our parents pass away, from an adult’s perspective

Death and the Internet

A Die-alogue on how social media affects death in our society

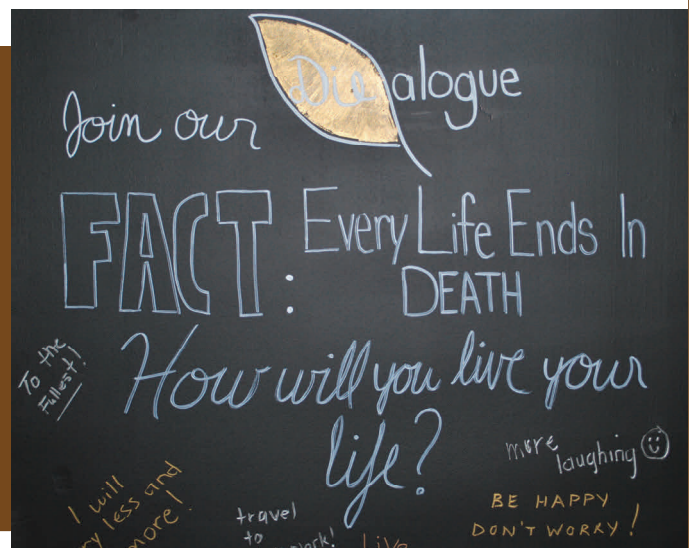
Near Death Experiences

An exploration of our feelings and beliefs about what lies beyond death and whether people have come back to share what they saw

Talking to Children

A Die-alogue to help individuals discuss how best to approach the topic of death with young children

For our first Die-alogues event, we decided to use the theme of Bucket Lists. We chose this topic because we felt it might provoke an interesting discussion on the ways our participants could live fully in the present, fulfilling their dreams actively each day, rather than saving them up in a ‘bucket list’ of expectations that might never be realized.



Event Host

An event host is a helpful individual whose role is to keep the event running smoothly. His or her job is to publicly welcome individuals to the event, introduce the speaker of the evening, present the topic, and help to keep the timing of the evening on schedule. When selecting your host, you could choose someone from your planning committee, or invite a speaker from outside your group. By utilizing a host who also has personal insight into the evening's topic of interest, you may be able to more fully engage your audience. The host and the event speaker might be able to both offer thought provoking points, but from two unique viewpoints, and thus give your participants new ways to think about and later discuss the evening's theme.

Our first event was hosted by a local radio personality. The individual had gone through a life changing experience when her mother was diagnosed with a terminal illness and she and her family took a few months to travel the world and to embrace life in order to live more fully.

Event Speaker

Guest speakers are an essential part of a Dialogue event. They are individuals who have expertise on the theme for the evening, either through their own personal experiences or through their professional knowledge. After your host has welcomed everyone, we suggest you begin your event with a 10-15 minute speech by your guest speaker. His/her presentation will help to set the tone for the evening and generate ideas or starting points for the guests' conversations, which will occur later in the evening.

Speakers should be engaging, well informed, thought provoking, and easy to relate to. When planning your event, select a topic first, then choose your speaker based on his/her ability to represent the topic and engage your audience. Consider local celebrities, health care professionals, public speakers, or anyone who can speak knowledgeably on your chosen topic. Make sure to prepare a one-page background sheet for your speakers, in order to provide them with a good understanding of the purpose of your event and how it relates to your organization, so as to ensure consistent messaging.

Our speaker for our inaugural event was an experienced public speaker, with a background in organizational development consulting, education and safety training. As an individual who faced his own mortality after a cancer diagnosis, he was able to speak on a personal level about the importance of living life fully each day with a positive attitude.

Table Facilitators

Table Facilitators are important volunteers at a Die-alogues event. In order to keep the table discussions meaningful, we recommend Die-alogues guests be seated in groups of 8-10. This small group setting will allow everyone an opportunity to take part in the conversation. A table facilitator is assigned to each table, to maintain order and to facilitate the easy flow of conversation. It's their job to ensure that participants are being respectful and respected, are engaged in the conversations, and are comfortable with the topic. When a lull occurs, or the discussion veers off topic, the table facilitators' goal is to rejuvenate the dialogue as needed. We encourage our facilitators to join in the discussions, but to avoid attempting to lead the conversation too much.

Our Table Facilitators were all Hospice Northwest Volunteers. As current volunteers they were not only used to discussing end-of-life issues, but they were knowledgeable about our organization and could answer any questions that attendees had.

Training/Preparing Table Facilitators

In order for table facilitators to do their job, they should be familiar with the agenda for the evening. In the week leading up the event, volunteers should be invited to a training session, where they can receive as much information as possible, including the following:

- A timeline of the evening
- Some conversation starter ideas
- A synopsis of the key note speaker's topic
- A copy of the 'after event' evaluation
- A walk-through of the evening
- The expectations of their participation and role at the event

By providing them with information and training, your volunteers will feel comfortable and prepared for your Die-alogues event. They should then have the confidence needed to best facilitate their table's conversation.

We hosted a training session a week prior to our event to help our facilitators feel comfortable with their role. We provided them with instructions for the event and did some practice questions to get them used to facilitating conversations and help them understand the topic.

Aiding Conversation

While the end goal of a Die-alogues event is to get individuals talking about issues pertaining to death and dying, it may take baby steps to get them there. It's a difficult subject that your guests may not be used to talking about. Many people may be reluctant to share their personal thoughts.

Remember, you'll likely have a tableful of strangers sitting together so it might be difficult for them to start off speaking candidly. Table facilitators are a very important part of individual conversations. Also, it's always a great idea to provide the facilitators with a set of prompting cards with thought provoking questions and quotes to prevent lulls in the conversation, or to help find a new angle for the conversation, in order to better suit the personalities at their table.

In preparation for our Bucket List event, we created 30 conversation cards to help the facilitators flow the conversations. These conversation cards included quotes, questions, statements that related to not only Bucket Lists and living life fully, but also other aspects of end-of-life care.

STARTER KIT INCLUDES—Conversation Prompt Cards from First Event

Event Volunteers

Volunteers are an important part of any event. To assist with planning and organizing a Die-alogues event, consider having a small planning committee to help sort out the details. At the event, it is helpful to have volunteers assigned to greet your guests, help them find seats, and be on hand to answer questions. Some of your guests may have questions about various aspects of end-of-life care that relate to your evening's topic or about your organization's programs and services. Knowledgeable volunteers are a real asset in their ability to answer those kinds of inquiries.

We were fortunate to have a local leadership class plan our first Die-alogues event as a volunteer project. In addition, our volunteers at the event were all individuals involved in our organization who were able to speak about our organization, and answer any questions that arose from guests.

STARTER KIT INCLUDES— Volunteer Roles at Event

Venue

Selecting the venue is an important step in planning your event, as it will determine your event capacity, as well as help to set the tone of the event. Also, if you're unable to attain a free or inexpensive space, it could potentially be your largest expense. When selecting your venue, keep your guests comfort in mind. Also, be sure to consider lighting, acoustics, and seating options when choosing your event location. If you don't have a spot in mind, you might consider some of the following: museums, art galleries, community centers, conference centers, coffee houses, libraries, etc. In order to ensure the largest number of participants attend your event, the location should be centrally and conveniently located.

For our first Die-alogues was hosted in an art gallery loft. We had also considered a museum and a meeting room in a local library. Acoustics did cause some issues at our chosen venue.

Ambiance

In order to encourage active conversation, you'll want to make sure that the event has a comfortable and engaging atmosphere. In your budget, consider leaving room for refreshments, such as desserts, coffee and tea. Again, since conversations concerning death can be difficult, every effort should be made to ensure attendees feel as relaxed as possible. Other aspects of ambiance to consider are comfortable chairs, attractive table decorations, and room decorations; just be sure these aspects are indeed adding to the event rather than detracting from it. Don't forget to consider whether a microphone and sound system are required to ensure that your speaker and host are heard by all participants.

We also provided all of our participants with a gift of a Die-alogues notebook and a Hospice Northwest pen, so that they could take notes during the event. This gift proved to be a popular idea; many participants used their note-



We provided a dessert tray for each table, and made coffee and tea available. Decorated buckets were used as centerpieces. We also decorated the room with artwork created by a local youth program. The multimedia pieces were based on the question "What do I want to do before I die?"

Length of Event

Typically a Die-alogues event runs between 1 and 2 hours. Use your host at the event to help gauge how engaged the attendees are, so as to help keep the timing of activities flowing smoothly. Have your host announce that the event will be closing 10-15 prior to the end in order to allow tables to wrap up their conversations nicely.

The timeline of our first event went as follows:

6:30pm Doors Open

7:00pm Event Begins, Host to stage

7:10pm Event Speaker to Stage

7:30pm Event Host to Introduce Table Discussion

7:40pm Table Discussions

8:30pm Host to Stage for 10 Minute Warning

8:40pm Host to Stage for Thank You and Closings

Event Fees



There are no rules as to whether or not you can or should charge individuals for attending an event. If an entrance fee is charged, we encourage that the ticket price be kept to a minimal amount so as to encourage as many individuals to attend as possible. Since there is almost always some cost involved in hosting such an event, it does seem fair to request a \$5-\$15 ticket price to help cover costs. Alternatively, you can encourage your guest to make donations to help defray expenses, help fund future events, and/or support the work of your organization.

At our first event, we did not charge a ticket price but rather encouraged donations. We believe a small ticket price is a completely feasible and acceptable practice.

Event Registration

With an event like this you'll want to monitor and control your guest list leading up the event so as to ensure you are prepared for the number of participants. Having both too few and too many participants attend can interfere with the smooth running of the event in different ways. In order to best control this, we recommend you keep a guest list for participants leading up the event. Once participants indicate their interest in attending, provide them with an email thanking them for registering and any relevant details for the event. A day or two before your Diealogues, send out a reminder email. You may also consider keeping a wait list for interested attendees once your event is full. This is helpful in case some of your registered guests cancel at the last minute. It's also nice to have a list of people eager to be notified of your next event. The other option to a guest list would be to provide tickets. By selling tickets for a small fee, your guests will have a vested interest in attending and may be less likely to forget the date. Either way, ensure you provide a contact phone number for interested participants who might have questions about the event and what to expect.



Hospice Northwest Presents

Diealogues

Conversations on Life and Death

Thank you for your interest in our event! This email is a confirmation of your RSVP.

DATE Thursday, May 29th, 2014

TIME Doors Open at 6:30pm, event starts at 7:00pm

LOCATION Baggage Building Arts Centre at Marina Park

PRICE No price to attend, however, donations graciously accepted for continuation of future events

TOPIC BUCKET LISTS Every life ends in death, this evenings topic will challenge participants to face this fact and encourage them to live their life in a way which makes them happy

We're so excited to have you join our community event! Please come prepared to share and listen in our respectful environment. If you have any questions please contact Caitlyn at 626-5570, ext 5571.

HOSPICE NORTHWEST
Offering Companionship & Support

Hospice Northwest is a local not-for-profit organization that aims to provide better access to quality end-of-life care in Thunder Bay and the surrounding region. All of our services are offered free of charge based on client needs. We are funded through the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN), The United Way of Thunder Bay, and the generous support of community donors.

For our first event, we kept a guest list. Individuals had to call in to reserve their seat for the event. When they called to confirm we collected their names, number of guests attending, phone numbers and email addresses. We used their email addresses to send an immediate email thanking them for registering and providing information about the event. A few days prior to the event we sent a follow up reminder with directions to the venue. Following the event we sent a thank you email with a link to donate to our cause. Our event filled up quickly, and with a waitlist we were able to ensure all seats were full. To the left you can see the email 'ticket' we used to confirm guests' registration.

Guest List

Who is welcome at a Die-alogues event? Absolutely anyone! The only stipulation is that they must be open to engaging in some great conversation. In order to build your guest list, consider reaching out to other groups in your community who might have an interest in your topic: at hospitals, health agencies, support groups, schools, etc. It may seem counter intuitive to invite individuals involved in the medical field to attend your event, but in fact it's a great place to start as many will be open to the idea of promoting such a discussion in the community. Also reach out to the larger population through community calendars, social media, and whatever other means you have available to you.

For our Bucket List event, our venue capacity was only 70 people. We had such a great response to our promotion, we ended up with a waitlist of 10 individuals who were unable to attend due to space restrictions.

STARTER KIT- Sample guest list tracking sheet

Participant Feedback

Since Die-alogue events are designed to help individuals in our community feel more comfortable discussing difficult topics, we want to make sure that we are hosting events that the public wants to attend. Getting feed back from the attendees is a great way to continue to grow your event. Make sure to include questions about all aspects of the Die-alogues they just attended, as well as suggestions for future events. Feel free to provide a spot to include their name and number in case anyone would be interested in helping to plan the next event.

As an incentive to complete the survey we offered a small door prize. Guests received their ballot to win only after they handed in their evaluation form.

STARTER KIT— Participant Evaluation form

Expected Costs



As with any event, there are costs associated with hosting a Die-alogues. The most common costs to be expected are:

- Venue
- Refreshments
- Honorarium for speakers
- Rental for tables/chairs
- Media/marketing costs
- Cost of printed tickets/programs
- Decorations for room and tables

In order to offset costs, consider seeking out sponsorships, or create partnerships with other organizations.

STARTER KIT– Budget Template

Partners and Sponsorships

Forming partnerships is a great way to grow your event. Partnerships with other like-minded organizations can help to cover costs, spread the word about the event, or to gain better additional information about your topic of choice. For instance, if your topic is about Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia, you may consider partnering with a local Alzheimer's group who may be able to provide a knowledgeable speaker, as well as access to their mailing lists.

Partnerships may also help you arrange free or discounted resources such as venues, food, decorations, volunteers, etc.

Sponsorships can help cover some or all of the event costs. Be selective when approaching a sponsor—they should be a good fit for your topic and organization their product or service.

At our Bucket Lists event, we were fortunate to receive the assistance of several community partners:

- LEADERSHIP THUNDER BAY: a local leadership development group whose members take on the coordination of a community project in collaboration with the host organization
- TBAYTEL: A local telephone company provided funds to sponsor the event
- COMMUNITY ARTS AND HERITAGE EDUCATION PROJECT: a local youth art group who provided artwork for decorations

Promotion



When it comes to an event like Die-alogues, developing a good promotional strategy is extremely important. Make sure to consider your target audience and match appropriate promotional tactics to your event. Once you have a poster created, you might want to use some of the following ideas to promote your Die-alogues:

- Paid Ads– if you have the funds, consider purchasing paid ad space in local newspapers. You could also approach your local newspaper for an advertising donation.
- Social Media- take advantage of your organization’s social media to help promote your event and get the Die-alogue started early! Consider creating an event page on Facebook and have interested participants “attend” and invite their friends.
- Reach out to other groups– think of groups within your community who may have an interest in your event and topic; think of clubs, classes through local colleges/universities, support groups, community centres, clinics, etc Send them posters as well as an email telling them about the event and asking for their help in sharing information with their members.
- Community Calendars – Be sure to take advantage of free, local community calendars where you can post your event, such as city website event calendars, Kijiji, etc
- Prior to the event consider reaching out to local media to see if any are interested in covering your initiative
- Public Displays – Consider setting up a public information display at busy city centres, malls, community centres, etc to help spread the word
- Don’t forget about your current contacts! Clients, volunteers, and community partners, both past and present may be very interested in the event you have to offer, take advantage of this.

At our first event, we set up an information display at our local mall and surprised food court patrons with a flash mob featuring the Trooper’s song “We’re Here for A Good Time, Not a Long Time”

Common Challenges



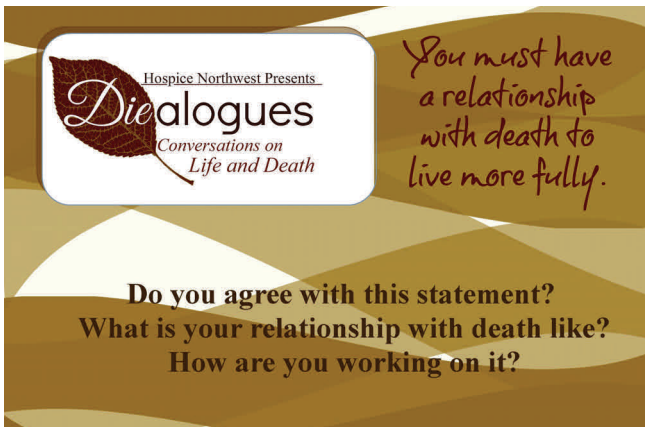
Based on our past experiences, here are some common challenges that might arise at a Die-alogues event:

- Venue acoustics were probably the biggest issue at several of our Die-alogues events. Some guests reported having a difficult time hearing their table mates when engaging in round table discussions. Possible solution: try to select a venue that is large enough to allow sufficient space between table, and that offers good acoustics.
- Advice may be sought from participants with professional backgrounds directly related to the topic being discussed, but due to the philosophy of Die-alogues, we encourage everyone to interact as peers, exploring and reflecting on their mortality, together. The speaker should discreetly make this point, and table facilitators be prepared to reinforce it
- Preparation for the event should include a plan for responding respectfully to a participant who becomes distraught, with a qualified support person and a location which can be used for a private conversation. It may be helpful for planners to have contact information for community resources available to participants
- Topics and discussions should be appropriate for a wide variety of possible participants, including age range, gender, class, etc



Die-alogues Pop-Up Events

Another format of Die-alogues is a “Pop-Up” Die-ologue. This format may be an option when time, space or participation is a concern. Some ideas for “Pop-Up” Die-alogues that we have used include:



- Conversation starters at tables for meetings or conferences
- A word search with dying and death related words as a handout
- A death euphemism challenges where small groups of people try to list as many euphemisms for dying and death as possible in a short period of time ie) 60 seconds. Prizes are popular!
- A death and dying Jeopardy game made using a variety of questions pertaining to dying and death and a PowerPoint program.
- A short (15 min) talk on a death related topic ie) death anxiety, why dying matters etc.



Die-alogues Word Search

P	D	D	U	Y	F	S	F	J	E	F	E	D	F	G
D	A	A	E	E	E	O	N	V	E	J	C	I	U	N
E	E	L	I	B	R	N	O	A	D	B	N	S	N	I
N	P	R	L	G	H	L	R	E	L	U	E	C	E	L
I	G	L	I	I	A	T	V	U	N	P	S	U	R	A
A	W	V	I	U	A	A	A	K	O	B	E	S	A	E
L	E	C	T	G	E	T	O	E	U	J	R	S	L	H
F	M	I	U	R	I	W	I	C	D	P	P	I	U	S
C	R	O	E	I	N	V	K	V	S	Z	F	O	C	S
F	O	B	U	F	U	E	P	C	E	M	T	N	I	O
G	A	M	S	R	T	H	O	S	P	I	C	E	D	L
N	H	M	F	L	N	O	I	S	S	A	P	M	O	C
I	B	O	I	O	Z	H	Y	T	I	N	G	I	D	H
Y	X	S	P	L	R	Z	V	F	F	O	R	G	E	T
D	T	T	S	E	Y	T	Y	R	R	O	W	B	J	W

BEREAVED
COMPASSION
DIGNITY
FAMILY
FORGIVE
HEALING
JOURNEY
LUCID
PLANS
UNKNOWN

BUCKETLIST
DEATHBED
DISCUSSION
FEAR
FUNERAL
HOPE
LOSS
MOURN
PRESENCE
VIGIL

COMFORT
DENIAL
DYING
FORGET
GRIEF
HOSPICE
LOVE
PALLIATIVE
RITUAL
WORRY

STARTER KIT WILL INCLUDE— Copies of the Die-alogues Word Search, Jeopardy Game, Conversation Starter Cards, Euphemism Challenge

Similar Events and Concepts

Looking for inspiration?

Check out some of these other great events and resources on death and dying. We created our concept of Die-a-logues to suit the needs of our clients and community; these ideas can help you do the same.



deathcafe.com



deathoverdinner.org



deathwise.org



thegroundswellproject.com



advancedcareplanning.ca

Join Our Die-alogue!

For more information on Die-alogues, guidance with your own event, or to register to host a Die-algoues in your community, please contact:

Kathleen Buso
Communications Coordinator, Hospice Northwest
kathleen@hospicenorthwest.ca
807-626-5570, ext. 5573
www.hospicenorthwest.ca

We ask that when you plan your own event, you email us with your event details and summary so we can post it on our website! Please fill out the following form, then don't forget to fill out the summary form after the event to tell us how it went and provide feedback to help other organizers. By posting all of the Die-alogue events in one place, we can grow the initiative and resources available to us.

Interested in planning your own event but need some help? Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming Starter Kit to help you plan your event. Starter Kits will be available on our website www.hospicenorthwest.ca in August 2015.

Follow Our Upcoming Die-a-Blog!
We'll be posting about our events, your events, new ideas, and more!
Together let's start a Die-alogue!

Our Upcoming Event

ORGANIZATION NAME:

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK NAME:

LOCATION:

CONTACT NAME:

CONTACT NUMBER

CONTACT EMAIL:

DATE OF EVENT:

VENUE:

TOPIC:

EXPECTED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

TICKET PRICE/EVENT FEE:

EVENT BUDGET:

COMMENTS:

Please send completed form to the following address to be a part of our Die-alogues community:

Kathleen Buso, Communications Coordinator, Hospice Northwest

kathleen@hospicenorthwest.ca

(p) 807-626-5570

(f)807-626-5574

OUR EVENT SUMMARY

ORGANIZATION NAME:

LOCATION:

CONTACT NAME:

CONTACT NUMBER

CONTACT EMAIL:

DATE OF EVENT:

FINAL BUDGET:

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS:

REACTION TO TOPIC:

MEDIA SOURCES USED TO PROMOTE EVENT:

ISSUES:

OVERALL COMMENTS:

ONE THING TO CHANGE FOR NEXT TIME:

Please send completed for to the following address to be a part of our Die-alogues community:

Kathleen Buso, Communications Coordinator, Hospice Northwest

kathleen@hospicenorthwest.ca

(p) 807-626-5570

(f)807-626-5574