

UNIFIED COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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Unified Community Solutions owner **Franklin Cook** is an independent consultant who speaks and trains nationally on peer support for people bereaved by suicide. He is an inspirational speaker on his own grief recovery after losing his father to suicide, and he customizes practical presentations for local communities and organizations specifically on peer support services and generally on meeting the needs of survivors. Presentations can be organized as a keynote address, conference learning session, or half-day or full-day workshop. Franklin's work as a consultant also includes developing and managing projects focused on community-based support for people bereaved by suicide.

Examples of Franklin's recent presentations and workshops:

- *Healing after Suicide Loss: It's Never Too Late:* Presented a personal talk focused on post-traumatic growth at the [American Association of Death Education and Counseling](#) conference
- *Incorporating Suicide Loss Survivor Stories into Prevention: Meeting Both Survivor and Audience Goals:* Facilitated an audience discussion at the [American Association of Suicidology](#) (AAS) conference
- *Exploring Crisis Centers' Interactions with People Bereaved by Suicide:* Also at AAS's conference, facilitated a discussion on crisis centers' work with survivors
- *Suicide Bereavement: Personal Meanings:* Facilitated an interactive "meaning making" workshop at [The Compassionate Friends](#) conference, in which survivors explored how they have tried to "make sense" of their loss to suicide
- *Supporting the Suicide Bereaved: Lessons Learned from Peer Helpers:* Presented a half-day workshop at the [Texas Suicide Prevention](#) Symposium on the evidence-based principles and practices of peer support
- *Essential Resources for Suicide Bereavement Care:* Also at the Texas Symposium, presented a session on the [Suicide Grief Support Quick Reference](#)
- *Peer Sharing Circles for Suicide Grief Support:* Presented a full-day workshop at the [TAPS](#) National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar on applying the principles and practices of talking circles to peer-led suicide bereavement support groups

Examples of Franklin's current and recent project work:

- [Suicide Survivor and Bereavement Leadership Summit](#): Facilitation of a two-day summit involving 20 national experts and leaders in suicide bereavement
- [Leadership Dialogue on Suicide Bereavement Support Groups](#): Facilitation of a dialogue involving more than 30 national and international suicide grief support experts, on how to develop survivor support groups as a system of care
- *Suicide Grief Support Quick Reference:* Chaired a work group for the Consumer Survivor Subcommittee of the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) that developed an online directory of resources for suicide survivors, at sg.sg/griefreference
- [Friends for Survival](#) Support Group Manual: Authored a chapter about online resources for survivors of suicide loss and a section on evaluating outcomes of suicide survivor support groups
- *Recommended Guiding Principles for Effective Suicide Bereavement Support Groups:* Served on an [American Association of Suicidology](#) work group that developed basic guiding principles for support groups
- [Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force](#): Serving as a member of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention task force that is

developing national guidelines for comprehensive support programs for survivors of suicide loss in the U.S.

- *Men's Volunteer Suicide Prevention Advocacy Team:* Managing a project for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, involving a small group of male survivors of suicide who are working on men's suicide prevention in the state