EMS personnel frequently perform death notification, which is challenging & associated with burnout.

The Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute (PTI) provides very limited death notification training, consistent with national research.

Training is needed for paramedic students to competently & confidently perform death notification.

### Problem Identification

- EMS personnel frequently perform death notification, which is challenging & associated with burnout.
- The Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute (PTI) provides very limited death notification training, consistent with national research.
- Training is needed for paramedic students to competently & confidently perform death notification.

### Needs Assessment

- An anonymous survey was sent via distribution lists to EMS providers, coordinators, educators, and medical directors in our county to determine death notification perceptions and opportunities for improvement.
- Of sixty-two (62) responses received (undetermined overall response rate): 65% never received death notification training at any time in their career; 80% belonged to agencies or institutions with no ongoing (or minimal) training, and only 50% were very–or extremely–confident in death notification.

### Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the paramedic student should be able to:

- Describe the components of an organized approach to death notification.
- Demonstrate a respectful and effective death notification to survivors.
- Advocate for an empathic death notification, and utilize support resources to assist survivors.

### Educational Strategies

- Didactic: to learn basic concepts
  - Asynchronous – to teach a structured approach
  - Lecture – core concept review
  - Case-based Discussions: EMS run tapes to facilitate group discussions
  - Role-play Assessment: For standardized evaluation by trained faculty
  - Simulation: Spaced repetition practice within commonly-encountered EMS cases (e.g., termination of resuscitation)

### Implementation

- Train-the-trainer program: for PTI staff to familiarize themselves with the structured teaching approach and perform a standardized student evaluation.
- Online module: basic concepts & paramedic interviews
- Didactic training: use of the structured approach (the GRIEV_ING mnemonic)
- Cases for discussion: adapted from nationally-available training material
- EMS death notification integration into current longitudinal simulation program (e.g., adult and pediatric cardiac arrest, trauma)

### Evaluation

- Self-efficacy surveys and didactic evaluations will assess reaction and learning levels of the Kirkpatrick model before and after the didactic and role-play sessions.
- Behavior level will be assessed using a standardized proctored assessment.
- Results level assessment will be tracked by performance frequency and consistency of competent death notifications performed during specific simulations.

### Data Tracking Upon Course Implementation (PROJECTED JAN 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>% of Trainees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-assessment scores demonstrating mostly or completely confident in death notification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students passing standardized assessment on 1st attempt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students performing death notification when indicated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students adhering to structured approach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Survey data from didactic evaluations and self-efficacy surveys will also be collected and tracked over time.