Understanding “Homegoing:” African American Funeral Experiences

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Level of Instruction: Intermediate

Presentation Summary: Clinicians and other caregivers frequently assume that funerals exact a high economic burden on families of color but these characterizations often fail to consider the value ascribed to end-of-life rituals. This presentation will introduce funeral choices made by African American families and provide some of the values that underlie those choices. As caregivers better understand the choices often made by families, they will be able to provide more effective support that is culturally competent, rather than superimposing dominant culture values of economic efficiency on non-dominant cultural groups.

Upon completion of this lecture, the participant will be able to:
• Explain common qualities found in African American funerals
• Articulate values expressed by families that transcend economic efficiency
• Apply theory and research to provide culturally-competent support to families

References: