The Challenges and Rewards of End of Life Issues/End of Life Care

25th Annual Elder Rights Conference
Carolyn A. Peck, Ph.D.
University Illinois Springfield
OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce the reality that working with an older adult population increases our encounters with end of life care
- Specific identification of the challenges and rewards that accompany these encounters
- Encouragement for all of us to revisit our own losses and how this empowers us to be present for others
Challenges and Rewards of Signs and Symptoms

Focus is on our own family and our clients and their caregivers

- Nutrition and Hydration
- Changes in Sensory Abilities
- Releasing the dying
- Presence of those who are deceased
- Dying alone and in pain
Kubler-Ross

Challenges/Rewards

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance
Anticipatory Grief/Tasks of Dying Person

CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
Importance of Dying on Time

CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
Grief Following Death

CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
Revisiting Our Own Losses

- Challenges - acknowledgement of pain and loss
- Rewards keeping their presence with us
- Challenges of Reinvesting
- Rewards of being present for others