

## **DSM-5: Ethical Implications**

### **Program description**

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) has always presented ethical challenges for mental health professionals. This four hour workshop will discuss some of the key ethical dilemmas inherent in the DSM and participants will examine several case examples to deepen understanding of these dilemmas. The workshop will also highlight possible future directions for the DSM, how they may impact practice, and how to enhance one's ethical awareness and diagnose in an ethical manner.

### **Program Objectives:**

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Discuss ethical challenges inherent in diagnosing and the key ethical issues posed by current Manual;
- Explain the historical development of the DSM and its basic premises;
- Define the main ethical dilemmas for therapists when using the DSM and recognize the manual's limitations in describing human behavior;
- Describe specific strategies for using the DSM in a manner which reinforces therapeutic values and ethics.

### **Target Audience**

This program is appropriate for mental health professionals including social workers, psychologists, counselors, marriage and family therapists, substance abuse professionals and all interested others.

### **Contact Hours**

4.0 hours

### **Program Agenda**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM  | Introduction and background information about DSM |
| 9:30 AM  | Traditional criticisms/concerns of DSM            |
| 10 AM    | Case examples and discussion                      |
| 10:45 AM | Break   |
| 11:00 AM | Case examples continued                           |
| 12:30 PM | Summary and guidelines for ethical diagnosing     |
| 1:15 PM  | Adjourn   |

### **Faculty**

**Marilyn Ghezzi, MSW, LCSW**, is a clinical assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Before joining the faculty in 2008, Ghezzi worked for 20 years as a clinical social worker in the public mental health system. She uses her practice experience and mental health expertise to enrich her teaching in the MSW program in courses that cover an array of mental health topics, including mental health theory and practice, group work, brief treatment, dialectical behavior therapy, and differential diagnosis. Ghezzi is also involved in research as a co-investigator on the Mental Health Specialty Probation study.

Ghezzi has won numerous awards for her teaching, including recognition as the "Most Outstanding Faculty Member" by the social work graduating classes of 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2019. In addition, Ghezzi was awarded the 2017 Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction —an

honor given to only four professors each year who are selected from the entire UNC-Chapel Hill system.