

# **The Ethics of Attraction**

## **Program Description**

While the helping professions have clear prohibitions on sexual involvement with clients, there is less guidance about the phenomena that can lead to such transgressions. How can clinicians assure that the warmth, trust and positive regard that are hallmarks of the helping relationship do not become distorted and destructive and that nascent feelings of attraction are not ignored or mishandled?

In this session, the presenter squarely addresses how to respond to and handle such feelings in an ethical manner. To illustrate these points, clinical dilemmas and boundary issues that most often arise in the therapeutic encounter, and strategies to identify and treat them effectively and judiciously will be presented.

## **Learning Objectives**

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

1. Identify the clinical signs of client attraction;
2. Understand the red flags that precede sexual impropriety;
3. Understand the skills and strategies clinicians and supervisors can use to effectively manage client attraction;
4. Apply the knowledge and skills for risk assessment and management to case examples;
5. Be familiar with the resources for learning more about dilemmas in this domain of practice.

## **Target Audience**

Clinicians, case managers, social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, educators, advocates, health and human service practitioners

## **Contact Hours**

Up to 4 hours

## **Program Agenda**

Available upon request.

## **Faculty**

Dr. Kim Strom is the Smith P. Theimann, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Professional Practice at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Dr. Strom teaches in the areas of direct practice, education, and human resource management. Her scholarly interests involve ethics, moral courage, and social work education. She is the former chair of the National Association of Social Workers' National Committee on Inquiry and is active in training, consultation and research on ethics and social work practice. She has written over 60 articles, monographs and chapters on ethics and practice. She is the author of *Straight Talk about Professional Ethics* and *The Ethics of Practice with Minors: High Stakes and Hard Choices* and the forthcoming text *Cultivating Courage*. Dr. Strom-Gottfried is also the co-author of the texts *Best of Boards*, *Direct Social Work Practice* and *Teaching Social Work Values and Ethics: A Curriculum Resource*. Dr.

Strom also held an appointment as the UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities Associate Director for the Academic Leadership Program, which helps prepare and support the next generation of academic leaders. Currently, she serves as Principal Investigator of the UNC School of Social Work behavioral healthcare contract, and has been recently appointed by the chancellor to serve as Director of the UNC - Chapel Hill Office of Ethics Education and Policy Management.