

Managing Risk through Ethical Practice

Program Description

Ethical practice has received increased attention in the past decade as a result of concerns about managing malpractice risk, assuring quality service delivery and demonstrating professional competence to the satisfaction of funders and regulatory bodies. Paralleling this sensitivity is the concern that ethical vulnerability has also skyrocketed - cases are increasingly complex and multidimensional, the "stakes" of bad decisions are high, and the available resources to address client needs are shrinking while pressures for efficiency are rising. This workshop will review some of these ethical pressures and the strategies to effectively deal with them.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program participants will be able to:

1. Name the major tenets in the NASW Code of Ethics;
2. Explain various options by which ethical infractions are examined and adjudicated and the results of recent research on adjudication;
3. Outline a framework for examining ethical dilemmas;
4. Apply the code to at least three cases drawn from different fields of practice and different levels of intervention;
5. List resources for further information on ethics.

Target Audience

Psychologists, social workers, counselors, substance abuse professionals, and all other mental health and human services professionals

Contact Hours

3.0 – 6.0 hours

Program Agenda (SAMPLE – agenda will be tailored to the AHECs training needs)

15 minutes – Introductions and overview

30 minutes – Understanding the codes

45 minutes – Understanding adjudications and risk – findings from research

15 minutes – break

30 minutes – Options for addressing ethical dilemmas

Resources

Dialogic process

Applying the dialogic process

60 – 120 minutes – Review and apply ethical standards

Self Determination

Informed Consent
Conflicts of Interest
Confidentiality and Privacy
Sexual Relationships
Termination
Group-generated dilemmas
15 minutes - Check out and evaluation

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.