

Supervision and Ethics in the Electronic Age

Program Description

The emergence of online networking through sites such as Twitter and Facebook creates unique challenges in the application of familiar ethical and managerial concepts. Client privacy, public relations and marketing, worker self-disclosure, conflicts of interest and informed consent all take on new form and complexity in light of technological advances. This workshop introduces the features of social networking and explores the risks and rewards of conscious use of networking sites in social work practice.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of this program participants should be able to:

1. Describe the features, controls, uses, and misuses of Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, blogging and other online networking mechanisms.
2. Explain the ways in which online networking may be used to advance personal, professional, organizational, and therapeutic goals.
3. Outline practical and ethical considerations in boundary setting, self-disclosure, confidentiality, and professional integrity.
4. Describe the imbedded hazards in access to clients' sites, workers' sites, and in linkages between the two.
5. Illustrative case examples

Program Agenda

Sample Outline 15 minutes – Introductions and overview

30 minutes – Why do people participate in social networking?

30 minutes - History and features of social networking sites – Review of related principles and standards: conflicts of interest, boundaries and dual relationships

15 minutes – break

30 minutes – Review of related principles and standards: confidentiality, purposeful use of self, and self disclosure.

45-105 minutes – Case discussions: Critical thinking about decisions to social network, content selection, links with current and former clients and strategies for declining links.

15 minutes – Resources, wrap-up, and evaluation

Target audience

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

Contact Hours

2-4 contact hours

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.