

Ethical Considerations in Clinical Supervision: Understanding the Power Differential

Program Description

This presentation utilizes material from the “Right Use of Power” to explore how the power differential impacts relationships, especially regarding clinical supervision. Beginning with our perceptions of power and exploring the differences between personal power and professional power, participants will learn how to prevent and reduce harm, resolve, and repair harm, empower people, and evolve situations, and promote well-being and serve the common good.

A multi-dimensional use of power includes being informed, being compassionate, being skillful, and being connected with assist the participant in having a holistic understanding of power. This presentation is both theoretical and experiential.

Program Objectives

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

1. Explain the power differential and how it relates to ethics.
2. Describe how shame impacts and impedes communication.
3. Examine one’s individual relationship to power.
4. Demonstrate new skills in using “up power” ethically.
5. Discuss how to repair relationships and empower people.

Target Audience

Clinicians, case managers, social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, psychologists, educators, advocates, health, human service practitioners, and anyone who has professional or personal power.

Contact Hours

6.0 contact hours

Program Agenda

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Introduction

- Exploring what we know about power
- Definitions
- The influence of power
- Power differential

10:30 AM to 10:45 AM - Break

10:45 AM to 12:00 NOON

- Dimension One- Being Compassionate
- Using your history
- Dimension Two- Being Informed
- Personal and role power

- The value of power differential
- 150% equation
- Client vulnerabilities

12:00 NOON to 1:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

- Understanding Shame and how to reduce it
- Dimension Three: Being Skillful
- Ethically pro-active
- Typical ethical violations
- Factors leading to misuse
- Barriers and challenges
- Responsibility

2:30 AM to 2:45 PM - Break

2:45 AM to 4:30 PM

- Dimension Four: Being Connected
- Resolving difficulties
- Signs of escalation
- Reframing conflict
- Successful resolutions, what do people need?
- Conclusion and wrapping up

4:30 PM – Adjourn

Faculty

Ellen Pallme, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS is a practicing licensed clinical social worker and addictions specialist. Since 1995, she has worked extensively with children and families of multicultural backgrounds, as a tutor, homeschooling consultant, and personal mentor. For many years, Ellen volunteered in her faith community to counsel and guide trauma survivors. In 2005, she began working as a crisis responder for sexual assault victims and trainer for new recruits. For five years she was an intensive in-home team supervisor. She was a supervisor for those seeking the LCAS credential and providing training to further education about substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. In 2015, Ellen became a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers. She worked in residential settings and currently works in private practice. Ellen has been a field instructor, task supervisor, and supervisor for MSW students at UNC SSW who are participating in the Substance Use Disorder Certificate Program.