

Addressing ethical dilemmas in an era of complex practice issues: HIV/AIDS as a case study

Abstract:

Scarce resources, confidentiality protections, end of life issues, mandatory reporting requirements, as well as clients' issues such as homelessness, substance use and abuse, and challenges presented by adherence to medical treatments, often confront social workers with difficult decisions. All of these issues can raise ethical questions or dilemmas for the practitioner - both at the micro and macro level of practice.

Through the use of case studies, **Addressing Ethical Dilemmas in an Era of Complex Practice Issues** seeks to help social workers and allied health and mental health providers to better respond to ethical dilemmas that arise in providing services across fields of practice.

Using HIV/AIDS as case study content, the workshop will explore legal and ethical issues, individual and institutional attitudes that may affect services, opportunities to provide culturally competent services, and a framework or model for ethical decision making. It is intended for practitioners in both direct services and administrative roles in a variety of practice settings, working with diverse groups of clients/consumers.

Through the use of case studies, group discussion, brief exercises, and lecture participants will build knowledge and skills in their ability to:

1. Identify five principles involved in making an ethical decision.
2. Consider ethical dilemmas in terms of the Code of Ethics and the five principles.
3. Understand culturally competent practice throughout the process
4. Review a model for addressing ethical issues in social work practice
5. Understand the role of consultation and documentation.

This workshop is 3 hour presentation. This workshop can be adapted/modified to 4 or 6 hours.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The *NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project* strives to provide the necessary HIV and mental health practice skills for people working in social work, mental health, and substance abuse fields to enhance and promote culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS. The target audience includes social workers, allied mental health care providers, and students in schools of social work. The curriculum is presented via knowledge-focused training that addresses mental health and HIV/AIDS within a strengths-based bio-psychosocial-spiritual perspective.

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