

2010 NASW WI ADVANCED ETHICS & BOUNDARIES

Program Descriptions and Presenter Bios

Religion, Spirituality and Ethics - Nicholas P. Smiar, Ph.D., ACSW, CISW: The workshop explores the roles and functions of personal values and religious/spiritual beliefs in three dimensions of ethical practice: responsibilities to the client, to the practice setting, and of the professional by using scenarios from practice and a model for ethical problem solving, seeking a balance among respect for diversity, personal freedom and professional autonomy, and the duty to care. Participants are encouraged to bring their own examples of ethical dilemmas in practice, related to religion and spirituality and to engage in critical thinking and problem solving in a very controversial area of social work practice.

Nicholas P. Smiar, Ph.D., ACSW, CISW, is Professor Emeritus of Social Work, at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. His MSW specialization was group work and casework, with a focus on psychiatric social work, and his Ph.D. specialization was social welfare and public policy. He is also a graduate of the Divinity School of The University of Chicago. Prior to his twenty-three years in social work education, Dr. Smiar worked in residential treatment, child welfare, and psychiatric hospital settings, and was executive director of a multi-service child and family welfare agency in Illinois for five years. He is a past board member of the Wisconsin Chapter of NASW and was recently elected Vice President of the same Board. He is also currently President of the Board for Bolton Refuge House (Eau Claire) and a board member for the Professional Association of Treatment Homes (PATH, Inc.) and for Anu Family Services. He works in Germany and South Africa on a regular basis, doing instruction in risk management and safety enhancement for persons who work with volatile and potentially assaultive clients. Dr. Smiar has been doing ethics workshops for the past eleven years.

Reconsidering Ethical Dilemmas Experienced by Seasoned Social Work Practitioners - LaVonne Cornell-Swanson, MSW, PhD: This workshop is designed to: provide opportunities for participants to increase self awareness of the intersections between personal values and professional values and behavior; enable participants to increasingly recognize and embrace the role of diversity and social justice in understanding ethical dilemmas; engage participants in recognizing ethical dilemmas through enhanced use of critical thinking skills; engage participants in applying ethical decision making frameworks and protocols to ethical dilemmas from their own practice environments.

LaVonne Cornell-Swanson, MSW, PhD, is the Interim Director of the Office of Professional and Instructional Development for University of Wisconsin System Administration. Previously she was an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she taught Ethnic Sensitive Social Work Practice, Child Welfare and Social Work Practice with Families and Groups. She serves as the Social Work Faculty Supervisor for UW - Eau Claire's Human Development Center. Dr. Cornell-Swanson has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma and a Ph.D. in Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; she is also a licensed clinical social worker in Wisconsin. Dr. Cornell-Swanson is the recipient of numerous awards for teaching, scholarship and service.

Ethics in Management and Supervision - Joan Groessl, MSW, LCSW: This workshop is designed to provide a forum for individuals to examine ethical issues in the context of practice within agency settings. Particular attention to the layers of responsibility typically experienced by social workers in supervisory and management positions will be highlighted.

Joan Groessl, MSW, LCSW, earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from UW-Milwaukee. She spent twenty years in the County Mental Health Services as both direct and administrative staff. Joan is currently a lecturer and MSW Field Coordinator for the Collaborative MSW Program for UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh. One of the courses she teaches is Ethical Issues in Contemporary Social Work. Joan has been an active member of NASW-Wisconsin serving in the past as Northeast Branch Representative, Secretary and President from 2006- 2008. Joan was able to participate in Delegate Assembly on three occasions. She is the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee. Joan has been active in her local community and was formerly on the Algoma City Council, elected Chair by fellow council members and also served on the Planning Committee. Joan is married and the mother of three adult sons.

Ethics and Boundaries for Clinical Social Workers - Pamela Phillips Olson, LCSW: This workshop examines how ethical issues and professional boundaries are experienced by clinical social workers. This workshop provides a lively overview of the issues, numerous examples of dilemmas experienced by clinicians and extensive small group discussion.

Pamela Phillips Olson, LCSW is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 35 years of experience. She received her BA from Hunter College and her Masters from Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, both in NYC. She has certification in Trauma Counseling and in Corporate Counseling from UW-Milwaukee. She has worked in community mental health centers, an inner-city high school, as the director of an early intervention program, and as leader of a statewide parent-professional work group. She has expertise in working with children and trauma survivors, as well as individuals with learning differences, employment issues, marital concerns and bereavement. Currently she is working in private practice with Midwest Center for Psychotherapy, where she serves people through the life span. She has presented workshops on a variety of topics to community agencies, including the Victim Witness Unit of the DA's office, Dane County Human Services, Waisman Center Community Training Programs, Hospicecare, Inc. Madison, Verona Schools, the clinical network of NASW, and other professional organizations.