Ethics – Who Needs Them Anyway?

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Outline for Tonight
- Why are ethics important?
- Key Terms and definitions
- The 5 (plus 1) fundamental moral principles
- Ethical decision-making model
- Ethical transgressions

So why are Ethics Important?
- To protect the ________________
- To guide the appropriate use of interventions
- To keep yourself ________________

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Ethical Decision Making: Key Terms

- Values
- Morality
- Law
- Community Standards
- Mandatory Ethics
- Virtue Ethics
- Professionalism
- Ethics
- Ethical Conduct
- Aspirational Ethics
- Principle Ethics
- Standards of Practice

Definitions

- _____ – defines the minimum standards society will tolerate and is enforced by government
- _____ – represents the ideal standards set and is enforced by professional associations
- ________ – refer to the highest professional standards of conduct to which counselors can aspire
- __________ - focuses on moral issues with the goal of solving a particular dilemma
- __________ - focuses on character traits of the counselor and non-obligatory ideals

The 5 (plus 1) Fundamental Moral Principles

- __________ - freedom of choice and action
- __________ - “above all, do no harm”
- __________ - act in the best interest of the client
- __________ - loyalty to client, fulfilling obligations, (includes confidentiality and trust)
- __________ - equality and fairness among clients
- __________ - being truthful
**Ethical Decision-Making Model**

- **__________** - objectively and specifically gather all the facts
  - Keep opinions, hypotheses, assumptions out of the picture
  - Determine if it is an ethical, legal, professional, or clinical problem
- **Apply the ____________ - is it addressed?**
  - What course of action is suggested?
- **Determine the ________________ of the dilemma**

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**Ethical Decision-Making Model**

- Consider ___________________________ and determine course of action
  - Based on the information, code of ethics, and moral principles
  - Ponder the implications
    - For __________
    - For __________
    - For __________
- **Evaluate ________________ - review it and apply three tests**
  - Test of ________________ - would you treat others similarly?
  - Test of ________________ - would you like to see this on Channel 10?
  - Test of ________________ - would you recommend this?
- **Implement course of action - ____________ and do it**
  - Follow-up
  - Document ____________________

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**Ethical Transgressions**

- Gross Forms of Misconduct
  - Sexual impropriety
  - Breach of confidentiality
  - Incompetence
  - Negligence
  - Malpractice
Ethical Transgressions

Not-as-gross (Kopp, 1972; Kottler & Blau, 1989)

- Inappropriate ____________ with clients
- Deliberately ____________ to save face (and getting caught)
- Acting ____________
- Accepting clients who cannot really be helped
- Blaming the client when things go wrong
- Persisting in a course of action out of convenience
- Being ____________ in the ways we respond to

Little “White Lies” (Kottler, 1994)

- “No pressure will be put on you to participate unless you want to.”
- “__________________.”
- “I neither like nor dislike you; you’re a client.”
- “I bet you mother was a meticulous housekeeper.”
- “I remember a time when...”

More little “White Lies”

- “I know that I can help you.”
- “I wonder what would happen if I tried...”
- “What I think does not matter.”
- “If you work hard enough, ____________ when you grow up.”