

Week 4 Class Activities

Topics: NASW Ethical Code, NOHS Code of Ethical Standards, ETHICS Decision-Making Model

Class 1: The ETHICS decision-making model

As a class, review each step of the ETHICS decision-making model:

1. E: Evaluate and define the problem. Examine relevant personal, societal, agency, client, and professional values. Gather information from all possible sources.
2. T: Think about which ethical standard applies, as well as relevant laws and agency rules. Brainstorm possible actions and decisions.
3. H: Hypothesize about the possible consequences of different actions.
4. I: Identify who will benefit and who will be harmed.
5. C: Consult with supervisor and colleagues about the most ethical choice.
6. S: Select an action. Implement the action. (Ling & Hauck, 2016)

Discuss the following questions:

- Which steps might be the most challenging to follow?
- How would you address these challenges?

Class 2: Small group work on dilemmas

In your small group, discuss your assigned dilemma using the ETHICS decision making model as a guide.

1. Dilemma One: Fundraising:

You work for an agency that serves middle school and high school aged youth. About $\frac{1}{3}$ of the youth identify somewhere in the LGBTQ+ community and the agency hosts a regular support group for these youth.

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It's time for the annual fundraiser, and your employer asks you to downplay any mention of the LGBTQ+ support because some of the big funders are opposed to supporting people with this social identity.

2. Dilemma Two: Pediatric Surgery

You are a medical social worker and a surgeon at a children's hospital strongly recommends that a child have surgery. The parents of the child refuse to consent to the surgery due to the complications and risks. The surgeon asks you to convince the parents to agree to let him operate regardless of the parents' concerns.

3. Dilemma Three: Work Expectations

You are a court advocate for clients. A regular client calls you for help at a scheduled court hearing that has been moved up an hour unexpectedly. You have promised your employer you would stay in the office to answer phones while the administrative assistant is at lunch.