

Presenter: Reese Bozak

Session & Time: Oral I

Room/Time: GUZ 202 / 10:40-11:00

Discipline: Business Administration

Faculty Mentor: Sarah Lee

Digital Portfolio URL:

Title: Ethical Leadership in Crisis: Analyzing Gavin Newsomâ€™s Approach to Public Health Issues

Abstract:

This paper examines Gavin Newsomâ€™s leadership and his administrationâ€™s approach to addressing homelessness and public health issues in California. The central ethical issue focuses on the tension between respecting individual autonomy and implementing state intervention to address homelessness. Some of the key initiatives being implemented include CARE Court, supportive housing programs, and increased state funding aimed to provide structure and support, but they also raise concerns about personal freedom, equity, and the role of government in the lives of vulnerable populations. Key stakeholders include individuals experiencing homelessness, local governments, healthcare providers, and taxpayers. This issue goes beyond a basic management problem and instead reflects deeper ethical questions about human dignity, fairness, and the responsible use of leadership power. This paper uses specific course concepts to analyze Newsomâ€™s leadership, including transformational versus

transactional leadership, ethical decision-making frameworks, and the use of power and influence. Drawing on Jill Robinsonâ€™s textbook, â€œLeadership Development: Beginning the Journey,â€ the analysis explores how leadership values, assumptions, and systems shaped both the design and implementation of these policies. While these initiatives show a clear commitment to addressing a complex and ongoing crisis, their different outcomes highlight a gap between intended goals and real world results. This topic is important because it demonstrates the role of accountability, flexibility, and cooperation as key factors in ethical leadership. Readers will gain a better understanding of how leadership decisions affect vulnerable populations, why aligning values with actions is important, and how ethical leadership can be applied to improve outcomes in complex, real world situations.