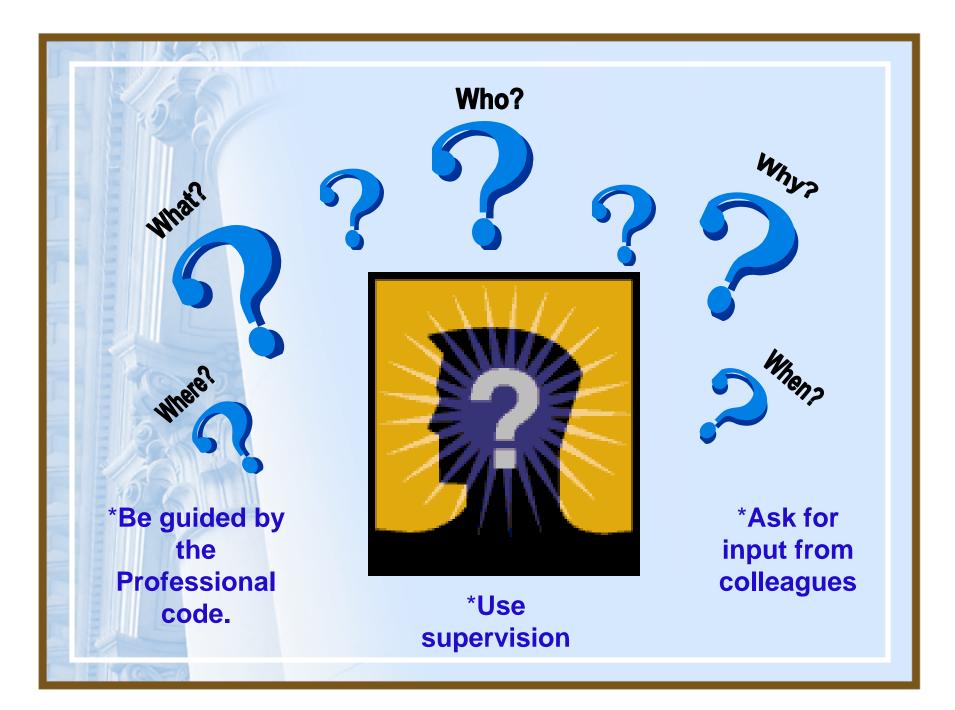


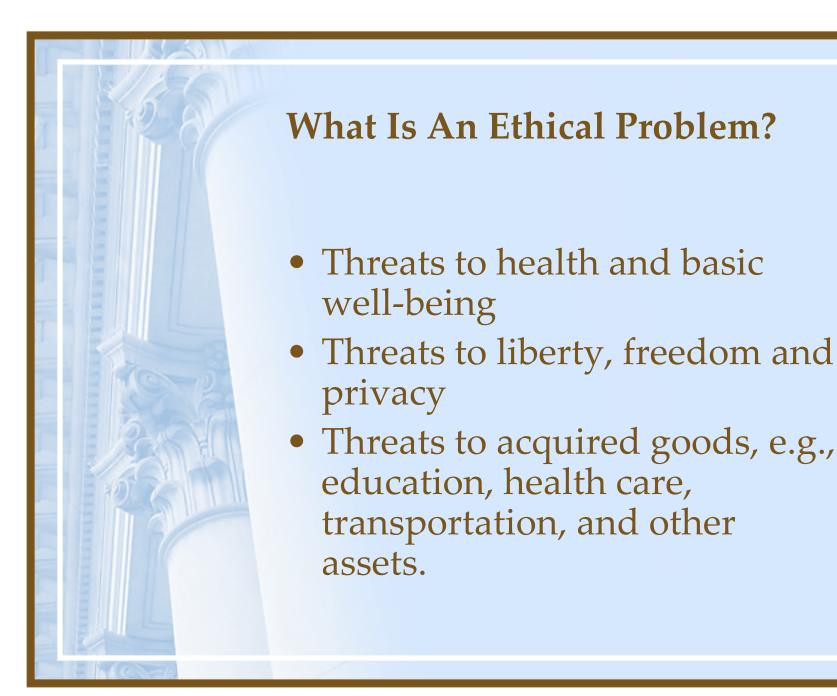
A Workshop Presented to
The Staff of the Community Shelter Board
Columbus, Ohio
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by

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## Workshop Objectives

- Review and learn the nature and types of ethical problems in service to homeless persons
- Examine values, theories and ethical codes that guide practice
- Learn a procedure for analyzing ethical problems
- Apply the above to cases







## **Ethical Issues in Human Service Practice**

- When to warn and protect?
- Confidentiality and its limits
- Reporting violence against client's wishes
- Mandatory reporting to authorities
- Clients who return to batterers
- Worker safety
- Use of coercion (both verbal and physical
- Agency policies which limit service



#### ISSUES PECULIAR TO CSB

- Protecting confidentiality when using electronic media
- Cite NASW code (107m) and Licensing Board rule (4757-5-02 (D) 4
- Reasonable and appropriate precautions and procedures

# PROTECTED PERSONAL & HEALTH INFORMATION

- What is protected personal information (PPI) and protected health information(PHI)?
- What is the authority behind each?
- How is this information different and the same?



#### HIPAA PRIVACY RULE

- Purpose
- Individually Identifiable HI
- PHI may be disclosed without consent for 12 "national priority purposes" including public health and law enforcement purposes
- Discuss these 2 purposes and CSB policy statement on privacy





## Beyond Values: More Foundation For Ethical Professional Practice

- Ethics Law: Statutes that define legal limits on ethical behavior and enforced by courts, commissions, and licensing boards
- Ethical Codes: The minimum standards set by professional associations and/or licensing boards
- Aspiration Ethics: The highest level of the standard to which a professional can aspire to in relation to one's practice.
- Virtue Ethics: Focus is on the character traits of the professional practitioner rather than his/her professional practice obligations.



#### **Metaethics**

- What do we mean by "right and wrong"?
- What criteria would we use to judge unethical conduct?
- Are there principles which lead to a "good" life?

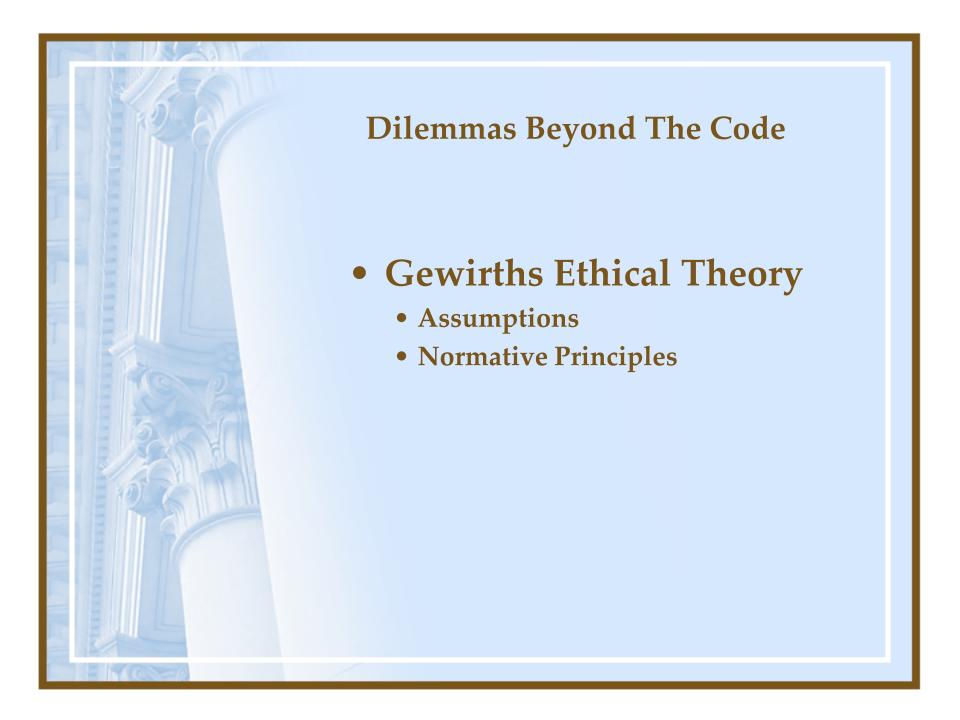


#### **Normative or Applied Ethics**

- Three major theories:
- Deontological (Greek <u>deonotos</u>: of the obligatory) AKA Rule or Principle Ethics)
- Teleological (Greek <u>teleios</u>: brought to its end or purpose )AKA Utilitarianism or Consequentialism
- Virtue Ethics which emphasizes following the highest principles and values



Code of Ethics of the Ohio
Counselor, Social Worker and
Family Therapist
Licensing Board
NASW Code
Other Codes





• In order to realize our rights to freedom and well-being we need these kinds of resources (called "goods") that affect our ability to engage in purposeful action.

• First, we need life itself, as well as health, food, shelter, and mental equilibrium. These are the "basic goods" and they take precedence over all other resources.

• Second, we need to be told the truth, treated fairly, not victimized, not subjected to deprivations-emotional or physical – not subjected to harsh labor. These are "justice goods" in the sense they have to do with fairness and balance. They are second in importance and termed "non-subtractive goods."

• Third, these are resources that will enhance our abilities to pursue purposeful action, e.g., knowledge, material wealth, education, positive social relations, self-esteem, recreation and leisure-time resources. These are third in importance and called "additive goods."



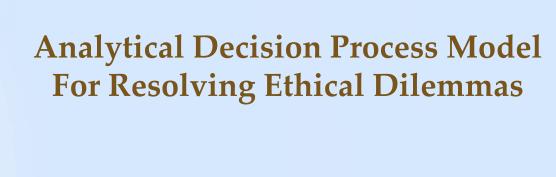
- 1. Threats or harm against well-being take precedence over truth-telling, not keeping one's promise, acting harshly or coercively.
- 2. One person's right to freedom of action is subordinate to another's right to well-being and freedom.

A person's basic right to freedom of action takes precedence over his or her own basic rights to wellbeing, even though the act will be injurious to the person, as long as it is voluntary and will not be injurious to others

4. When a person enters into a social contract with a voluntary association or party, one accepts the obligation to obey the terms of the contract and all laws, rules, and regulations to which one has freely assented.

5. However, one's right to well-being – physical or mental – may become a basis for disputing or breaking the rules of a voluntary association in cases of conflict.

Our basic rights to freedom and well-being carry a responsibility to promote "additive goods" for all and, as such, we are morally required to share our property with others through voluntary action, beneficence and taxation.



1. Identify the ethical issues and underlying value conflicts in the problem situation. State who the parties are who are immediately affected by the situation under examination.

## **Analytical Decision Process**

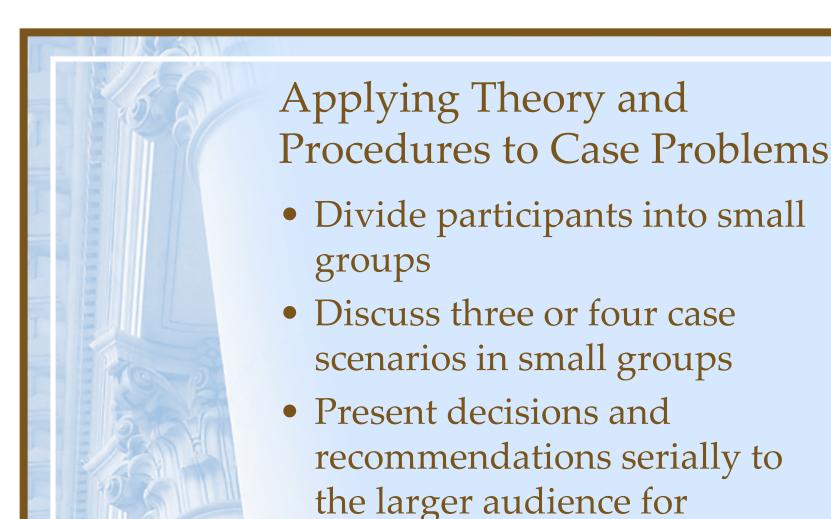
2. What specific articles of the applicable Code of Ethics are implicated by this case or problem? What other ethical frameworks, laws, or precedents may be relevant?



- 3. Specify all possible courses of action relevant to this problem or case.
- 4. Evaluate (pro/con; degree of risk; degree of intrusion, etc.) each possible action in terms of its effects upon each party to the conflict.

## Analytical Decision Process

5. What is your decision?
Provide a rationale in terms of the ethics and values involved. State how you would monitor the effects of this decision.



discussion



#### The ETHICAL Model

- E: Examine relevant personal, societal, agency, client and professional values
- T: Think about which ethical standard of the professional code (NASW; ANA; Ohio Licensing Board) applies to the social worker as well as laws and case decision
- H: Hypothesize about the consequences of difference decisions
- I: Identify who will benefit and who will be harmed by acting or not acting
- C: Consult with supervisors and colleagues
- D: Act
- E: evaLuate

