

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: The Role of Clinical Social Work in Bioethics

Instructor:

Residency: March 2018

Date:

Module Description:

This module explores the foundational concepts of bioethics in healthcare environments, introducing students to the seminal role of social workers in the process of case consultation, conception, mediation, and deliberation. Students explore the history of bioethics as a research and clinical discipline, learning about the key issues and cases that have defined the field to-date. Through exposure to sample case examples, students engage in a simulated process of bioethical decision-making with special attention to how social workers can serve as clinical liaisons to the multiple professional and lay stakeholders involved.

Module Objectives:

1. Students will recount the criteria that define an ethical dilemma.
2. Students will summarize and verbalize key components of Principlism.
3. Students will explore the key features of Principlism by using the “four box method” of Jonsen, Siegler, and Winslade (2015) as applied to real-life case study examples.
4. Students will appreciate the unique role of social workers on interdisciplinary bioethics committees.

Required Readings (1-3):

1. Brazg, T., Dotolo, D., & Blacksher, E. (2014). Finding a seat at the table together: Recommendations for improving collaboration between social work and bioethics. *Bioethics*, 29(5), 362-368.
2. Chooljian, D.M., Hallenbeck, J., Ezeji-Okoye, S.C., Sebesta, R., Iqbal, H., & Kushner, W.G. (2016). Emotional support for health care professionals: A therapeutic role for the hospital ethics committee. *Journal of Social Work in End-of-Life & Palliative Care*, 12(3), 277-288.
3. Fine, R.T. (2005). From Quinlan to Schiavo: Medical, ethical, and legal issues in severe brain injury. *Baylor University Medical Center Proceedings*, 18, 303-310.

Recommended Readings:

1. Fantus, S., Greenberg, R.A., Muskat, B., & Katz, D. (2017). Exploring moral distress for hospital social workers. *British Journal of Social Work*, 47, 2273-2290.
2. McCarthy, J. (2003). Principlism or narrative ethics: Must we choose between them? *Medical Humanities*, 29, 65-71.

3. Jonsen, A.R., Siegler, M., & Winslade, W.J. *Clinical ethics: A practical approach to ethical decisions in clinical medicine*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.