Part of culturally competent and ethical social work practice is being able to practice with persons across the lifespan, including older adults. Older adults with advanced chronic illnesses face many medical decisions related to the amount and type of medical care available and desired. When an older adult has dementia (cognitive impairment)—eventually others will be called upon to make decisions related to care, including settings for care (nursing home, hospice, assisted living, etc.). Social workers should be prepared to provide information and support to individuals and families facing medical decision-making.

Mercedes Bern-Klug is an associate professor in the University of Iowa School of Social Work and serves as Director of the UI Aging Studies Program. She specializes in social work with older adults and family members. She is the editor of the book, “Transforming Palliative Care in Nursing Homes: The Social Work Role,” and a regular presenter at the American Society on Aging and the Gerontological Society of America annual meetings. She is a reviewer for the Journal of Gerontological Social Work and the Journal of Social Work in End of Life and Palliative Care. She continues to be involved in community work related to advance care planning and served as an Alzheimer support group leader for 12 years. This year she initiated a national webinar series to provide education to nursing home social workers.

This workshop has been designed to address the Iowa Rules of Conduct for Social Workers as well as the NASW Code of Ethics. According to the code “Social workers should obtain education about and seek to understand the nature of social diversity and oppression with respect to race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical disability.” This workshop will enable participants to:

1. Compare and contrast dementia, delirium, and depression and their impact on the ability of older adults to ethically participate in medical decision making, especially in regard to informed consent.
2. Distinguish the process of advance care planning from advance directives (including: health care directives, living wills, durable powers of attorney for health care, and the new I-POST).
3. Develop competence in working with older adults and their family members (or other surrogate) wanting to practice ethical medical decision-making.
4. Communicate with other professionals in an ethical and competent manner about advance care planning.

The cost of the workshop is $35 by July 22nd and $45 after that date. Three contact hours of social work ethics continuing education credit is provided for those completing the workshop. Enrollment is limited to 75 participants.

University of Iowa School of Social Work students, practicum supervisors, mentors and adjunct instructors attend free of charge. Briar Cliff University students also attend at no cost. Registrations that do not require payment should be faxed to 319-335-1711 by July 22nd. Please no phone or email registrations.

Checks should be made out to The UI School of Social Work and be paid by July 22nd. No refunds are available after that date. Checks should mailed to:

Attn: Jefri Palermo
The University of Iowa
School of Social Work
308 North Hall
Iowa City, IA 52242

We cannot accept credit card payments. You will receive confirmation of your registration by email.

If you have questions, please email jefri-palermo@uiowa.edu or call 319-335-3750 during business hours.

Every effort has been made to assure that the workshop meets the criteria for the Iowa Board social work ethics re-licensure requirement. Participants should retain all workshop materials in case of an audit.
Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Social Work Ethics & Aging

Name _______________________________ Degree MSW MA BA BASW PhD

Street Address __________________________________________________________

City __________ State _______ Zip __________ Phone # ______________________

Email Address- please print! ______________________________________________

Agency/Organization _____________________________________________________

Are you:   UI School of Social Work Mentor ○ U Iowa Current student ○ Current UI Adjunct ○

Current Practicum Supervisor ○ Briar Cliff student ○

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