

Ethics conversation with NWESD prevention and mental health providers

Ethical management of human interactions falls to everyone every day

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October 14, 2016

Professional ethical obligations follow from the power differential between provider and client, doctor and patient, teacher and student, boss and employee.

Given the complexity of human capacities, abilities, emotions, and personal histories, relationships with troubled souls can easily go awry, especially if you are trying to help.

So here are a few tips and guidelines for staying in bounds in helping relationships:

Operate from a No Fault platform. Blame doesn't give us useful leverage for positive change. Instead we assume that people are doing the best they can with the resources and experiences they have accumulated. Our task is to understand what's missing or distorting or blocking the help we're offering.

Start with the assumptions that:

- We are all precious gifts of creation
- No one chooses to be evil without provocation
- Everyone is potentially redeemable
- We CAN understand what drives addiction/cruelty/stealing/assault
- We don't heal people - we provide tools and knowledge to help them heal themselves
- It's unlikely we will save everyone we meet from their own demons

Qualities of a competent mental health provider - integrity, creativity, humility, heart

Respect your level of training - stay within the bounds of what you know and be open about approaching your limits of knowledge and skill

Get consultation and supervision enough that you feel comfortable within your specialty

Scope of practice/level of professional training: Credentials - Standard of practice - Experience -
Colleagues

Confidentiality/need to know: Release of information

Diagnosis/3 domains: Biological/inherited, toxins, trauma

Error management: To err is human - Honesty - Apology - Remediation - Restitution

Institutional culture: To err is human - Acknowledgment - Honesty - Apology - Remediation - Restitution - Reassignment - Retraining

Personal risks: Physical and emotional safety for all parties - if you're not feeling safe, then the other won't feel safe either. Address these issues right away and stay attuned to them.

Personal histories/personal therapy: We all have our own stories - know your own/share only what you believe will enhance a healing alliance - err on the side of not disclosing personal information/understand their interest/ask how your personal information will help them heal

Resilience: Looking for the other's healthy capacities to heal, learn, change - Rebelliousness - Independence - Sense of humor - Self-awareness - Emotional savvy - Level of education - Life experience - Curiosity - Quality of strongest relationships - Positive attitude - Desire for change

Stop Arguing and Start Understanding: Eight Steps to Solving Family Conflicts, David C Hall, MD, Montlake Family Press, 2001
(Sold out - available from resellers, or free download PDF at www.FamilyHealing.com/resources.html - use Full Screen mode