



# Social Work Ethics and Boundaries

4 hour Continuing Education Course

Presented for the Wisconsin Nursing Home Social Workers Association, Inc.

Friday, April 30, 2021



WISCONSIN NURSING HOME  
SOCIAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

# Presented by....

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# The plan for today 😊

- 1) Practicing from a Social Justice perspective
- 2) Social Work Boundaries



- 3) Ethics in Communication: Delivering Bad News
- 4) Coping with the News: Resilience and self-care

# Ethics: Practicing from a Social Justice perspective in 2020 - 2021

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# Objectives

- At the conclusion of this presentation, attendees will be able to:

1) Describe the ethical responsibility of social justice as a social worker and case manager.

2) Apply a social justice perspective to practice... advocating access to goods, opportunities, fair treatment, encouraging voice, and promoting safety.



# 2020



An uncommon year...



# Social Justice

- Located in the preamble, values, ethical principles, and standards for practice in the NASW code of ethics.
  - [www.socialworkers.org](http://www.socialworkers.org)
- It is an **ideal condition** in which all members of a society have the same basic rights, protection, opportunities, obligations, and social benefits.
- We have an ethical responsibility to promote social justice and combat social injustice.



# The Ideal Equalities of Social Justice

- Equal distribution of goods
- Equal opportunity
- Equal treatment
- Equal voice
- Equal security

## Social Justice...

- **Social justice** refers to the concept of a just society, where "justice" refers to more than just the administration of laws. It is based on the idea of a society which gives individuals and groups fair treatment and a just share of the benefits of society.



# Goods



- Fair allocation of costs and rewards
- Resources are distributed equally
- Individuals receive what they need which supports self-determination
- Practice “**case advocacy**”: advocate, voice, connect clients to resources to meet needs

# Opportunity

- Equal or fair opportunity supports the notion of self-determination, ability to realize ones vision for themselves.
- Fair options for health or mental health care, housing, employment, education



# Treatment

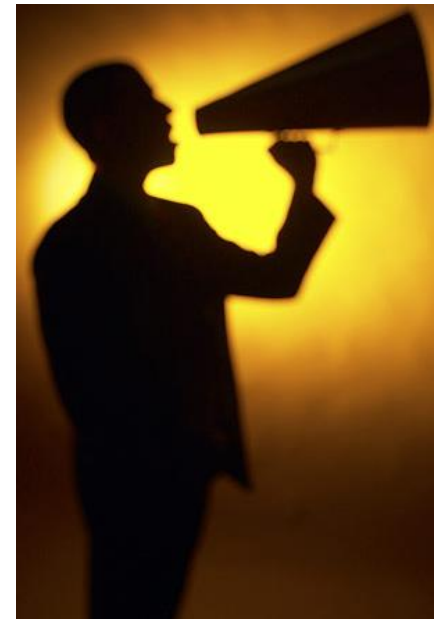
Treating all clients equally and fairly.



- ~ commitment to clients
- ~ practice free of prejudice
  - ~ fight discrimination
  - ~ cultural competence
- ~ dignity and worth of the person

# Voice

- Idea that all individuals affected by a decision have a voice in that decision.
- Encourage client participation in care
- Voice disparities, encourage activism
- take “case advocacy” and up it to **“cause advocacy”**



# Security

- All members of society are safe and secure.
- Safe environment (physical and social).
- Free from the worry and burden of violence.
- Security in receiving goods and services if needed.
- Emergency preparedness



# Daily Challenge ☺

- Ask yourself daily, when working with clients, families, other professionals, **what can I do to promote social justice?**
- Do I promote the equality of goods, opportunity, treatment, voice, and/or **security?**



# Shared Learning ideas...

- 1) How has the pandemic and racism movement influenced or changed your practice? Think of lessons learned along the way...
- 2) What are examples of how you promote social justice in your daily practice?

