



ETHICAL ISSUES IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION PROGRAMS

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Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada,

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INTRODUCTIONS

Speaker, Participants

(get ready to present yourself)

- Name
- Type of position (e.g. “Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences”)
- Your interests (and especially any interest in things you would like to hear about today’s topic.



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CHOICE OF A TOPIC

- Ethical Issues...
- Or NIDA Clinical Trials Network and its Western States Node.
- **ETHICAL ISSUES won** (my focus)
- and also the potential CRISM-CTN or Prairie Node – Western States Node connections
- Big picture: The choices we make define the quality of our lives as well as that of future generations.
- ...identify promising new directions for high-impact research

WHAT'S IN THIS PRESENTATION?

Topic	Time
Why important?	5 min
Setting the context	10 min
Ethical Issues in SUD Treatment and Harm Reduction Programs	10 min
Developing a Research Plan (your help will be appreciated)	20 min
Linking Prairie and Western States Nodes, linking CRISM and CTN	10 min

WHO CARES? WHY BOTHER WITH ETHICAL ISSUES?

Why should you?

- Patients'/clients' right to confidentiality
- Harm to the therapeutic relationship
- Stigma
- Risk of patients losing benefits (e.g. public housing, post-military benefits, worker's compensation, general assistance)
- Legal liability of your agency and you
- Continuing education needed!



CURRENT EVENTS: What's New—Legalization of Cannabis across Canada!

What you need to know a weed Wednesday unveils itself

Bill Kaufman --- Calgary Herald--- October 17, 2018 [DAY 1]

Management, players have the marijuana talk

Kristen Anderson --- Calgary Herald --- October 18, 2018 [DAY 2]

Girl guide sells out cookies at cannabis store queue.

Calgary Herald—October 19, 2018 [DAY 3]

What you need to know as weed Wednesday unveils itself 5

Calgary Herald 17 Oct 2018 +2 more BILL KAUFMANN

Two licensed Calgary stores will open Wednesday selling legalized recreational marijuana, with 15 others expected to debut throughout the province.

THE CALGARY STORES ARE:

Four20 Premium Market (#290 9737 Southland Dr. S.W.), and Nova Cannabis Willow Park (#252 10816 Macleod Tr. S.E.). Store hours (the maximum allowed under provincial law) are 10 a.m. - 2 a.m. Online sales from the Alberta Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis website was activated at midnight Oct. 17 — alberta-cannabis.org.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE AT SHOPS AND ONLINE:

Dried flower, milled (ground) flower, pre-rolled joints, edible cannabis oil (in bottle), edible cannabis oil (in capsule), seeds.

GENERAL DETAILS:



Recreational cannabis comes in two main strains, either Indica or Sativa.

Products including dried bud will be sold in pre-packaged form in one-gram and 3.5-gram quantities. Pre-rolled: Cannabis will also be avail-

able in single or five-joint packs. Number of licensed producers: 15. Age restrictions: 18 years and over. Minors are not allowed in stores,

even when accompanied by adults. Consumption is not allowed on cannabis shop premises but close viewing and smelling of product is allowed. Maximum allowable personal purchase amount: 30 grams. Price: Bottom end price is \$10/gram for flower.

CITY APPROVAL PROCESS AS OF MONDAY:

A total of 293 store applications were received, and 119 applications approved; 26 of those have been appealed and 90 have advanced beyond appeal possibility. A total of 116 applications were refused, 75 of those have been appealed, 58 applications are under review, 11 have been given city business licences.

KE KE · 11 days

So the first two stores to open in Calgary are for all intents and purposes next to each other.

FROLIK REBOUNDS AGAINST BRUINS 1

Flames winger scores two in win after being benched

[+16 more](#) KRISTEN ANDERSON [kanderson@postmedia.com](#) [Twitter.com/KDotAnderson](#)



Flames winger Michael Frolik celebrates with Mark Giordano after scoring his second goal of the night during Wednesday's 5-2 victory over the Bruins at the Scotiabank Saddledome.

[←](#) Continued from A1

Management, players have the marijuana talk

KRISTEN ANDERSON [kanderson@postmedia.com](#)

The Calgary Flames had an internal meeting with players earlier in the week to educate them regarding the laws and changes taking place as well as reinforce the team's approach to subst...



Edmonton Girl Guide sells out of cookies in cannabis store lineup

Posted on October 18, 2018



Edmonton girl guide sells out of cookies in front of cannabis store on first day

As Edmontonians lined up to buy legal cannabis from retail stores on Wednesday, Elina Childs saw a business opportunity.

<http://canadiannews.org/edmonton/2018/10/18/460702-edmonton-girl-guide-sells-out-of-cookies-in-cannabis-store-lineup.html>

Flying high: Airport reminds travellers not to bring cannabis across border

SAMMY HUDES Updated: October 16, 2018



A plane crosses over top of the airport tunnel at YYC Calgary International Airport. AL CHAREST / POSTMEDIA

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/flying-high-airport-reminds-travellers-not-to-bring-cannabis-across-border>



ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

Ethics: The process of determining right and wrong conduct.

Principles:

- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Fidelity
- Justice
- Nonmaleficence

Autonomy



- Respect self-determination
- Informed consent is based on this principle.
- **Example:** How do a counselor and client to handle recognizing each other in the community (if no agency policy)

Beneficence



- The responsibility of addiction counselors to improve and enhance clients' welfare
- Do good, help people.
- Your moral obligation is to act for the benefit of others.
- Example: Coming into your work site you see an injured person near the entrance to the emergency department. What do you do?

Fidelity

- “Faithful devotion to duty or to one’s obligations or vows” (Webster’s Dict.)
- Core principle of relationship between counselor and client
- Complicating factors:
 - Duty to Report vs. Confidentiality;
 - What are the laws, who’s affected?
 - What can a client tell say to you, Or do, without or with disclosure?

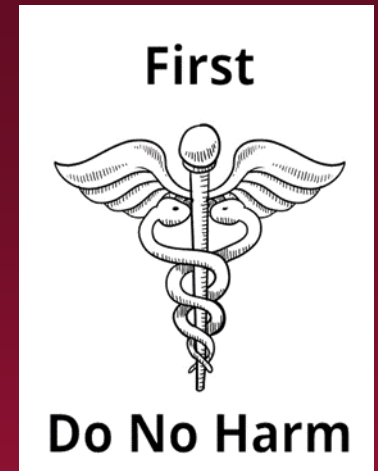


Justice

- Treat people impartially, despite your biases or preferences. Be fair.
- Mr. Spock: **"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one."**
- Illustration: A program sets rules for individuals, so everyone can benefit.



Nonmaleficence

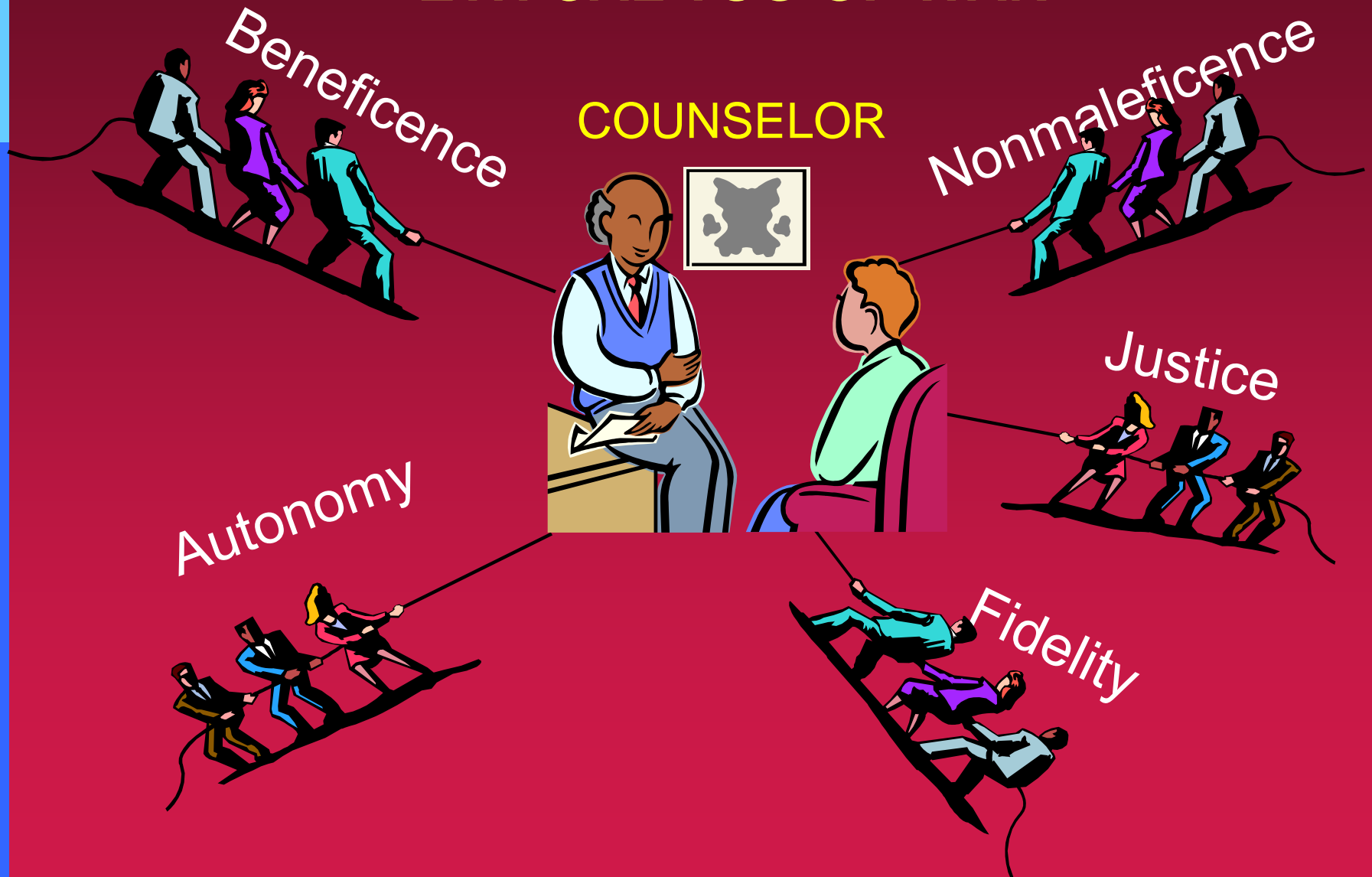


- 'Above all do no harm.' A critical principle.
- Don't abuse client.
- But..by whose definition is harm?

Illustration: You try to provide treatment that has few risks and many benefits.

Do you encourage a client to be in research, or discourage?

PRINCIPLES IN BALANCE: ETHICAL TUG OF WAR



ETHICAL FUNDAMENTALS

How to use the Principles:

- Most decisions are automatic and ethics hardly come up.
- You can use the principles to help people make a better decision.
- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Fidelity
- Justice
- Nonmaleficence



DEVELOPING A RESEARCH PLAN

- I want to focus down now on the ethical issues that confront staff.
- Identify ethical dilemmas facing line staff that can be addressed more effectively in addiction research and training.
- Developing this research plan is a main reason for my Fulbright experience.



Why Uncover Ethical Issues in SUD Treatment?

Please pardon the US examples today!)

- Addiction is costly
 - \$600 billion annually in US (NIDA, 2018)
 - 66,000 fatal overdoses in 2016 (Ahmad 2018)
 - [more than automobile fatalities]
- Services are Insufficient
 - 19.9 million in US need treatment,
 - 17.7 million do not get treatment (NSDUH).
 - Why people don't seek specialty care:
 - 1) don't think they need it
 - 2) can't afford it
 - 3) stigma of being a substance abuser
 - (Park-Lee 2016)



CREATE RESEARCH PLAN **(your thoughts appreciated** **THIS is why I a here.)**

Think through Issues

Gather Collaborators

Identify Broad Goals

Address the most important questions that research
can answer

Identify Suppliers (e.g. funders)

Identify Consumers Users (targets of dissemination)

Start small

Create room to grow



Ethical Issues Affect Treatment

What issues are important?

(open “mic”)

Confidentiality versus mandatory reporting
(Scott & White 2005)

Privacy vs. collaborative care (Manuel 2013)

Abstinence vs harm reduction goals
(McKeganey 2004)

Dual relationships (Hecksher 2007).

Stigma of substance use (Van Boekel 2017)

Mistrust of providers by drug users (Merrill 2002)

Whether or not to:

Treat a patient today who is inebriated

Discharge a patient who is chronically late

Proposed Study

Ethical issues in counseling people with substance use disorder (SUD)

Ethical dilemmas can sap the energy and enthusiasm of treatment staff, and counselors are often left to resolve relations without clear guidance. This pilot project will assess ethical issues facing substance use counselors and assess the degree that they align with field's ethical principles. We will use qualitative interviews to uncover ethical issues recalled by counselors, generating hypotheses about the most common and troubling ethical issues that counselors encounter. Results will have implications for training of the SUD treatment workforce as well as development of quantitative measurement of ethical issues in treatment settings



Linking Prairie And Western States Nodes, LINKING CRISM AND CTN

CTN Recent Changes

- Focus on SUD treatment in medical care
- Emphasis on opioids (HEAL initiative)
- Large studies that only CTN can do

WS Node Changes

- New co-director (Todd Korthuis)

CRISM

Prairie Node



LEARNING POINTS

- Ethical dilemmas are widespread
- Principles are guideposts
 - They point out ways clinicians can choose to go
- Some situations require mandatory reports
 - But rules are constantly in flux
 - Use the resources available to you

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THANK YOU!

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