# Hot Topics in Ethics – 2017
## Bioethical Services of Virginia, Inc.

## The Ethics of Social Networking and Electronic Communication

Description: This highly interactive seminar will consider a series of ethical issues that emerge when clients and providers communicate by electronic means and engage social networking technologies. We will examine this topic as it relates to considerations of provider-recipient trust, boundaries, confidentiality and responsiveness. Participants will have the opportunity to analyze the impact of modern communication and record keeping technologies on ethical assumptions.

Objectives:
1. Review basic concepts of confidentiality and apply those concepts to new information and documentation technologies.
2. Define the concept of inappropriate dual relationships and apply that concept to social networking interactions.
3. Identify conditions under which breaches of confidentiality are ethically permissible or obligatory.
4. Examine ethical issues associated with new systems of clinical record keeping and client access.

## The Ethics of Gender, Sex and Sexuality

Description: This highly interactive session will review a series of ethical issues surrounding gender, sex and sexuality. We will discuss ethical concepts and study specific case studies involving topics such as placement issues, truthfulness issues, autonomy issues, staff member's personal values and comfort, and new challenges presented by recent legal changes regarding same sex couples.

Objectives:
1. To discuss the ethical implications posed by services that are offered to gay, lesbian and transgender patients.
2. To examine the ethical demands that are placed on the provider-recipient relationship when dealing with sexuality.
3. To consider the ethics of sexuality activity as it relates to mental health services.

## Telehealth: Ethical Issues in Provider-Recipient Interactions

**Description:** This highly interactive session will consider a series of ethical issues that are currently emerging as modes of communication and service provision change to embrace therapeutic encounters between physically separated individuals. We will examine a variety of ethical issues beginning with simple matters such as safety, licensing and billing, but then delve more deeply into the ethical implications of fundamental changes in how people communicate and interact. We will discuss boundary issues and social media and consider how acceptance of new modes of relationship building may impact clinical interactions.

## Ethical Issues in I.D. and Autism Spectrum Services

Description: This highly interactive session will provide attendees with an opportunity to discuss a variety of ethical issues related to providing services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. Case studies will cover topics such as balancing the demands of a variety of provider agencies, families and individuals served. We will consider the ethical implications of individual choice, the demands of school systems and satisfying payer expectations.

Objectives:
1. To examine the ethics of individual choice, person-centered planning and pragmatic organizational demands.
2. To investigate the relationship between capacity and the dignity of risk.
3. To provide an ethical framework for adjudicating disagreements among individuals, their family members and providers.

## Leadership Ethics and Moral Management

Description: This highly interactive session will provide an introduction to leadership and business ethics issues. After discussing basic concepts of leadership ethics, and reviewing the most common sources of ethical confusion, we will review strategies for creating an organizational environment of ethics.

Objectives:
1. To examine the source of ethical obligation within an organizational structure.
2. To review the process by which leadership ethics issues can be identified, analyzed and resolved.
3. To discuss, specifically, the role of managers within an organizational structure by considering the potential ethical conflicts between duty to the organization and the duty to support supervisees.

## Budgeting Ethics

Description:  This highly-interactive seminar will provide an introduction to some of the most interesting and difficult ethical issues in the provision of services in an environment of scarce financial resources. We will demonstrate a practical approach to ethical reasoning that can be applied to a variety of sub-topics including prioritization and micro-allocation, macro-allocation and budgeting across service areas. This session will provide a case-based discussion of relevant moral issues.

Objectives:
1. To identify the key ethical values that impact decisions about the distribution of scarce resources.
2. To demonstrate a practical algorithm for making allocation decisions.
3. To define the ethical implications of individual choice and responsibility.


## Ethics in the Workplace

This seminar is designed to provide attendees with the tools they need to resolve ethical issues that develop in the workplace. The session will be highly interactive, and it will consider topics such as ethical issues in the supervisor-supervisee relationship, managing collegial relationships and the ethics of balancing tension between 1) personal values vs. professional obligations, 2) duties to employers vs. duties to customers and the public good, and 3) confidentiality vs. whistleblowing.