

MCSW AGM & EDUCATION EVENT

PRESENTATION

ETHICAL DECISION-MAKING IN SOCIAL WORK

Summary

Ethical decision-making is a common and integral part of social work practice. Social workers are confronted with ethical dilemmas that require thoughtful reflection and critical thinking, yet the resolution to such moral problems is rarely black and white.

Ethical decisions made by social workers are influenced by many factors, including situational context, personal values, professional obligations and organizational policies, to name a few. As professionals, social workers are educated to exercise judgement in the face of complex and competing interests. It is through reflexive self-awareness that individual social workers identify with their unique value preferences and become alerted to ways in which competing values and ethical principles become prioritized within themselves. This workshop will review these concepts and how the Manitoba College of Social Workers Code of Ethics can be used to guide ethical decision-making in social work practice.

Biography



Richard Lavoie is the newest member of the MCSW team. Richard holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree and is in the final stages of completing his Master of Social Work degree. His academic focus is dedicated to conceptualizing moral distress from within a Social Work context.

Richard has 12 years of experience in clinical social work practice within hospital settings. He also was the Manager of Ethics Projects/Education with the WRHA and co-chair of the Manitoba Provincial Health Ethics Network. Richard brings knowledge and experience in ethics education, ethical consultation, resource planning and workshop development and delivery.