Yes

No

Using an

Ethical Principle Screen and Decision Making

Spring 2026 Week 06 of SOWK 587

Jacob Campbell, Ph.D. LICSW at Heritage University

Week Six

Agenda

Plan for the week

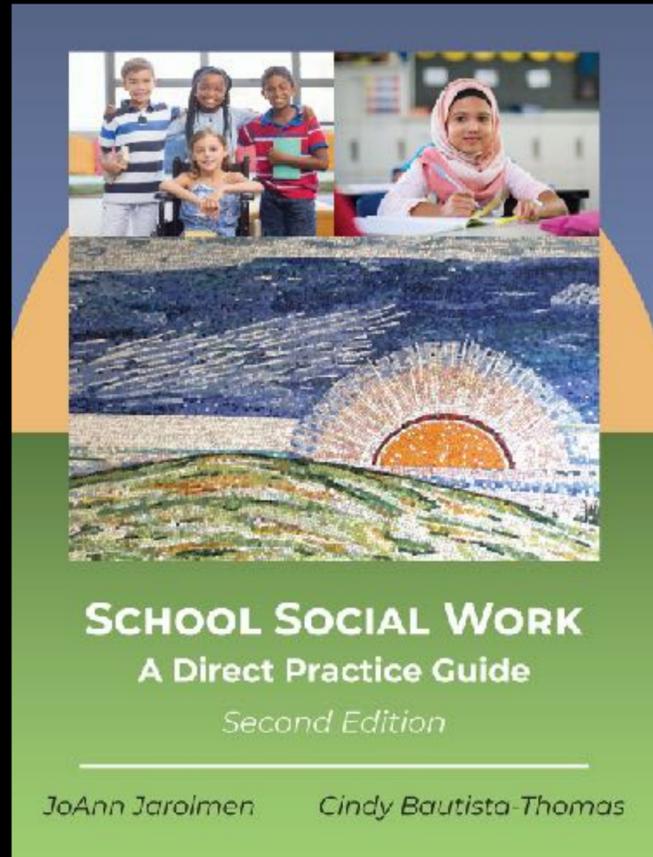Ethical principle screen

Steps in decision making

Case example

Learning Objectives

- Define and describe the Ethical Principle Screen (EPS) and its hierarchical ranking of ethical principles.
- Examine a case study using steps in decision making

Activities for Week Six
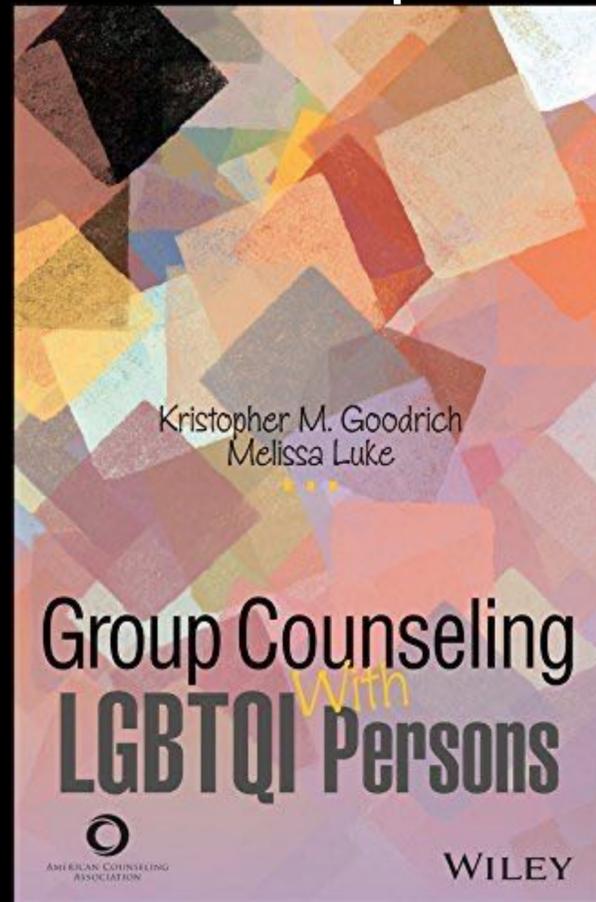## What You Should Be Doing

Read Chapter 6

Ethical Dilemmas

Groups in Context: School, Community Outpatient, and Residential Settings

Read Chapter 8

Make Three Replies in the Forums

- Reflecting on the Unique Challenges Faced by LGBTQI
- FERPA and Confidentiality and Ethics
- Sharing Example Ethical Dilemmas
- Reflection on Content From Chapter Six

Submit A-02: Ethical Decision-Making Video Presentation

Ethical Principles Screen
Key Ethical Assessment Tool

Protection of Life
Social Justice
Self Determination, Autonomy, and Freedom
Least Harm
Quality of Life
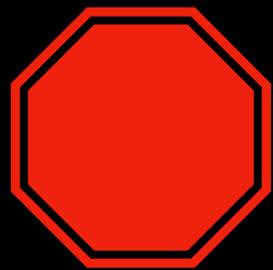Privacy and Confidentiality
Truthfulness and Full Disclosure

(Dolgoff et al., 2012)

Ethical Principles Screen
How We Conceptualize The EPS

Is protection of
life of concern?

Dilemma
involves
multiple
principles

a higher-order principle
takes precedence over
the satisfaction of a
lower-order principle

Consider Before
Taking Action:

○ Impartiality

○ Generalization

○ Justifiability

(Dolgoff et al., 2012)

Using an   EPS
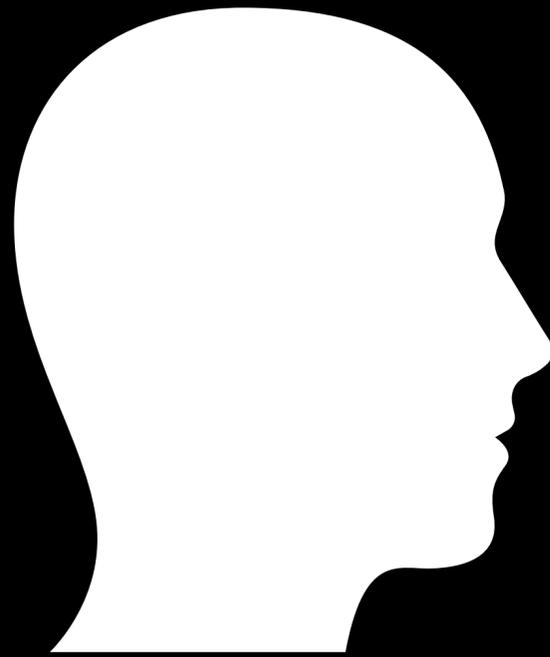
Decision Making
Steps to Take

- Determine the issue in quesiton and gather information

- Separate practice issues from the ethics of the case in question

- Identify the conflicting values

- Get help

- Identify alternatives

- Evaluate the costs and benefits to the stakeholders

- Clarify and examine your own values

- Decide which priority to make first and be able to rationally support your choice

- Record the decision in your case notes

Client Example

Gerold

Bridges Program, IEP eligible in ares of reading, writing, math, social/emotional, behavior and communication under the category of health impaired

Diagnosis of ADHD

Delimma: Transition planning goals beyond perceived capacity