Lecture 4.b  Practice Ethical Dilemmas

Scenario #1

You work for a private rehab agency. Last week, you completed a vocational evaluation report regarding a middle-aged man who became disabled as a result of a workplace accident. Today, you get a call from the insurance company who had sent the man to you for evaluation. As you are discussing the report, you get the sense that the case worker from the insurance company is asking you to re-write the report so that it strongly states that the man will be able to get a job in another field. You do not believe that this revision would be accurate.

Scenario #2

You are leaving your job to take a position at another agency. Because you are attached to three of your long-term clients, you want to hear about how they’re doing after you go to the new job.

Scenario #3

You have just referred a woman to a clerical training program. She has a psychiatric disability, and had been in a difficult relationship a year earlier. She had broken up with her abusive boyfriend, and had obtained a restraining order against him. Things finally calmed down, he stopped bothering her, and now the restraining order is no longer in force. To your surprise, however, the woman reports that she saw the ex-boyfriend in the computer training class at the clerical training program site.

Scenario #4

When you get yourself a cup of coffee after lunch, you realize that your co-worker, who is also getting coffee, has alcohol on his breath. Scenario #5

Scenario #5

It turns out that your new co-worker is someone who was your client when you worked for another agency. (Variation: Someone just referred to you was your high school classmate, but you don’t realize it until she comes in for the first meeting.)

Scenario #6

You just found out that a young man who is a VR agency client (who was recently evicted and now needs a place to live) was invited by your intern (a first year graduate student) to be his roommate, since the intern’s former roommate just moved out.

Scenario #7

You are working late at the state VR office and overhear a colleague. You realize that she is using the office after hours to see private clients for which she is paid fee-for-service.

Boston University, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation
PDP Online Seminar, Ethics in Psychiatric Rehabilitation