Ethics Consultation & Beyond: A Primer for Health Care Ethics Committee Members

Sponsored by the Harbor Hospital Ethics Committee
In Partnership with
the Maryland Healthcare Ethics Committee Network
at the University of Maryland School of Law
and the Center for Ethics at Washington Hospital Center

Wednesday, June 29, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Harbor Hospital
3001 S. Hanover St., Baltimore, MD, 21225
Ethics Consultation & Beyond:
A Primer for Health Care Ethics Committee Members

This one-day workshop will give health care ethics committee members practical experience addressing ethical issues at their organization, from handling ethics case consultation requests to addressing systemic problems that contribute to ethical questions, conflicts, and concerns, and moral distress among staff. Attendees will learn quality improvement methods for ethics committee functions, and methods of gaining institutional support for the work of the committee. Attendees will apply concepts presented throughout the workshop to two paradigm cases included below. Attendees may also bring a case from their own institution to discuss at the afternoon case consultation practicum.

CASE STUDY #1 – End-of-life decision-making
Mr. Jones is a 75 year old patient admitted to the ICU 2 weeks ago for advanced heart failure. He has a history of congestive heart failure, diabetes, and high blood pressure. He has no advance directive and is currently unconscious, on mechanical ventilation (without paralytics). His wife died 3 years ago, and he has 4 adult children and 9 grandchildren. The ICU staff has tried to talk with Mr. Jones’ children to explain that Mr. Jones’ medical condition is worsening—he is developing kidney failure and his heart failure is worsening. He cannot be weaned off the ventilator and his kidneys may soon shut down. The staff have recommended a switch to “comfort care” that would focus on keeping Mr. Jones as comfortable as possible and providing emotional support to the family. Three of Mr. Jones’ children insist that “everything be done” to keep him alive, including ventilator support, kidney dialysis, and CPR attempts were his heart to stop. The ICU staff calls for an ethics consultation to intervene.

CASE STUDY #2 – HIV Disclosure
Ms. C, who is HIV positive, delivers a full term baby boy. Neonatology treats the infant with antiretroviral (ARV) therapy and teaches Ms. C about her son’s ARV regimen. Ms. C agrees to give her son the ARV drugs prescribed, but states that she will not be taking ARV drugs herself, for fear her boyfriend will find out about her HIV positive status. The medical team is concerned because the baby’s grandmother will be the primary caregiver during the day, and the clinical team thinks that if the grandmother doesn’t understand why treatment is needed, this may diminish adherence to appropriate ARV drug administration. When the team attempts to persuade Ms. C to disclose her HIV status to her mother, Ms. C declines emphatically, stating, “It is my right to keep this information private, and it would be a violation of my confidentiality if you told her. I will sue you and the hospital for a violation of my privacy if you tell.” Although the physician continues to try to impress upon Ms. C the importance of disclosure to her mother to strengthen the possibility of optimal treatment of her infant, of taking ARV medications herself, and of telling her boyfriend so that he can be tested and (if needed) treated, Ms. C adamantly refuses to disclose. The physician requests an ethics consultation for guidance on how to proceed.
AGENDA

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.  Registration & Continental breakfast

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.  Introductory remarks
Diane E. Hoffmann, JD, MS

8:45 – 9:15 a.m.  Responding to the Ethics Consultation Request–Nuts & Bolts
Anita J. Tarzian, PhD, RN

9:15 – 9:45 a.m.  Running an Effective Formal Meeting: Focus on Mediation
Carolyn Rodis, JD, MA

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.  Discussion/Q&A

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.  BREAK

10:15 – 10:45 a.m.  Addressing Recurring Ethical Issues to Bring About Needed Change
Carol Taylor, PhD, RN

10:45 – 11:00 a.m.  Discussion/Q&A

11:00 – 12:15 p.m.  Proactive Ethics Applied (panel)
Brian Childs, PhD
Evan DeRenzo, PhD
Robert B. Shabanowitz, PhD, HCLD
Virginia Brown, MA (moderator)

12:15 – 1:00 p.m.  Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  Concurrent Session 1

Ethics Committee Functions & Quality Improvement
Barbara Mitchell, RN, MSN & Nneka Mokwunye, PhD

Strategies for Training Ethics Committee Members
David Perlman, PhD

Case Consultation Practicum
Moderators: Renee Boss, MD, Brian Childs, PhD, Helen Gordon, MD, Anna Moretti, RN, JD

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.  Transition Between Sessions

2:15 – 3:15 p.m.  Concurrent Session 2

Mediation Skills Practicum
Carolyn Rodis, JD, MA

Strategies for Training Ethics Committee Members
David Perlman, PhD

Case Consultation Practicum
Moderators: Renee Boss, MD, Virginia Brown, MA, Evan DeRenzo, PhD, Anita Tarzian, PhD, RN
3:15 – 3:30 p.m.  Break
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.  “Selling” Ethics: Finding Institutional Support in Economic Hard Times
MaryLou Lewis, MD
4:15 p.m.  Adjournment

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

Renee D. Boss, M.D., M.H.S., Assistant Professor, Division of Neonatology, Department of Pediatrics, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Virginia A. Brown, MA, Bioethicist, Center for Ethics, Washington Hospital Center.

Brian Childs, PhD, Director of Ethics, Shore Health System, Easton, Maryland, part of the University of Maryland Medical System.

Evan DeRenzo, PhD, Bioethicist, Center for Ethics, Washington Hospital Center.

Helen Gordon, MD, FACP, Faculty I Medical Residency Program; Director of Medicine; Ethics Committee Co-Chair, Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

Diane E. Hoffmann, JD, MS, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, Director of the Law & Health Care Program, and Professor of Law, University of Maryland School of Law.

MaryLou Lewis, MD, Nephrologist, Clinical Ethicist, Charleston Area Medical Center (CAMC); Member, CAMC Medical Ethics Advisory Group.

Barbara M. Mitchell, RN, MSN, CPHQ, Director, Quality Resources, Washington Hospital Center.

Anna Moretti, RN, JD, ANP-C, Director of Medicine & Palliative Care Services, Palliative Care Consultants.

Nneka Mokwunye, PhD, Director of the Bioethics and Spiritual Care Departments, Center for Ethics, Washington Hospital Center.

David Perlman, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Penn Nursing; Associate, Penn Center for Bioethics; Visiting Professor and Fellow, University of the Sciences, Department of Health Policy and Public Health; President & Founder of E4 - Eclipse Ethics Education Enterprises, LLC.

Carolyn J. Rodis, JD, Principal, Rodis & Henick, L.L.C; Certified mediator with focus on elder mediation.

Robert E. Shabanowitz, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Director, ART/Andrology Laboratory; Chairman, Bioethics Review & Advisory Committee, Geisinger Medical Center.

Carol Taylor, PhD, RN, Professor of Medicine and Nursing, Director, Center for Clinical Bioethics, Georgetown University.

Anita J. Tarzian, PhD, RN, Ethics & Research Consultant, Baltimore, MD; MHECN Program Coordinator, Law & Health Care Program, University of Maryland School of Law; Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Nursing.
REGISTRATION
Visit http://www.law.umaryland.edu/mhecn (click on “conferences”) to register online or download a registration form.

Before June 15       After June 15
MHECN Member             $80                 $90
Non-member             $100               $110
Harbor Hospital Staff*                   $50               $60
   Full-time Student or         
   Resident             $50                 $60
*Harbor Hospital Ethics Committee Member    Free               $10

If you plan to attend the afternoon case consultation practicum, please indicate if you have a preference for ethics consultation case study:

   ___ End-of-life acute care
   ___ Long-term care
   ___ NICU/pediatrics
   ___ Obstetrics/reproductive medicine
   ___ Other (please notify us by June 1; e-mail MHECN@law.umaryland.edu)
   ___ No preference

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Please visit the MHECN website for updates about CMEs and CEUs available for this conference. http://www.law.umaryland.edu/mhecn.

DIRECTIONS
Directions from the south: Take I-95 north to exit 54 (Hanover Street). Go across the Hanover Street Bridge (Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge). Turn left at Cherry Hill Road or Reedbird Avenue.

Directions from the north: Take I-895 south and go through the Harbor Tunnel. Take the first exit (exit 8B -Hanover Street/Baltimore). Stay to the right. Turn right at the first light onto Hanover Street. Harbor Hospital will be on your right at 3001 South Hanover Street.

The Baum Conference Center is located on the first floor of the hospital, behind the main elevators.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this CME activity, please provide information about your requirements to Mary Barnes at 410-706-2088 (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice) at least five business days in advance of the activity.
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